• **Open Educational Resources** are teaching, learning, and research resources that reside in the public domain or have been released under an intellectual property license that permits their free use and repurposing by others.

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• Financial benefit to students and university.
  - January 2006 to July 2016, the Consumer Price Index for college tuition and fees increased 63 percent, compared with an increase of 21 percent for all items. Over that period, consumer prices for college textbooks increased 88 percent.
  - Students spend average of about $1200 annual for textbooks.
  - 65% of students said that they had decided against buying a textbook because it was too expensive.
  - 48% of students said that the cost of textbooks impacted how many/which classes they took each semester.

• Research shows open textbooks, compared to traditional texts, have equal or better student performance/learning outcomes and equal or improved student retention rates/graduation rates.
  - Open Ed Group, summary of 25 studies focused on efficacy, perceptions, or both efficacy and perception. “A general finding seems to be that roughly half of teachers and students find OER to be comparable to traditional resources, a sizeable minority believe they are superior, and a smaller minority find them inferior.”
  - Studies conducted at Virginia State University (Business) and Houston Community College (Psychology) found that students who used open textbooks tended to have higher grades and lower withdrawal rates than their peers who used traditional textbooks

(over for more)
• Open textbook collections, peer reviewed text books freely available for use in a class.
  o University of Minnesota Open Textbook Library\(^9\): over 300 open texts.
  o OpenStax\(^{10}\): collection of about 30 online texts with option to acquire print copies at low cost. These are customizable to institutional preferences in collaboration with OpenStax. Over 840 institutions worldwide are using OpenStax.

• Contact your WCSU librarian\(^{11}\) for more information.

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