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Textbook Affordability Report : Summer 2018 to Spring 2019

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USF St. Petersburg: Textbook Affordability 2018/2019

Compiled by Jenny Tolbert, Zoghanno Richardson, and Kaya van Beynen

We are proud to state that the USFSP Library saved students an estimated **\$528,495** in textbook costs during the 2018/19 year. This amount represents a **26%** increase in savings from the 2017/18 year, and is due to the dedicated efforts of the USFSP librarians, Faculty and staff that work together in support of our students.

Textbooks on Reserve Collection and Student Use

The textbook on reserve collection continues to grow in size thanks to additional library purchases, faculty donations, and the “pay it forward” program that allows students to donate their used books to the library for use by future students.

	Summer 2018	Fall 2018	Spring 2019
Number of Courses	56	183	226
Number of print titles on Reserve	117	675	592
Total Number of Checkouts 2018/19	107	2014	1629

The number of titles available on reserve has dramatically increased in the past year, as has the number of check outs. In the 2017/18 year, students checked out library textbooks a total of 2,441 times compared to 3,750 check outs in this past 2018/19 year. This represents a 54% on-year increase in student use of the Textbooks on Reserve program.

Potential Savings to Students

The impact of the dramatic increase in student use is also reflected in the rise of potential student savings. Potential savings were calculated using the lowest bookstore price multiplied by the number of checkouts. In the 2018/19 year, the NPML Textbooks on Reserve program saved students an estimated \$351,556.20; an amazing 46% increase in savings from the previous year.

	Summer 2018	Fall 2018	Spring 2019	Total
General Course Reserves	\$498.01	\$43,477.98	\$60,773.65	\$104,749.64
Instructor Reserves	\$26,915.23	\$195,722.10	\$24,169.24	\$246,806.57
			Total	\$351,556.20

Ebooks For the Classroom

The USF Libraries provides access to ebooks that can be adopted as course textbooks at no cost to the students. More and more USFSP instructors are using the Ebooks for the Classroom program as it provides a cost savings and efficient way for all students in a class to gain access to their required readings.

Semester	Library Cost	Student Enrollment	Cost Benefit
Fall 2018	\$3,191.41	1,533	\$97,728.09
Spring 2019	\$3,083.91	1,860	\$79,211.05
Total	\$6,275.32	3,393	\$176,939.14

Textbook Library Guide

The library also prepares a guide to textbooks that is highlighted on the library home page. This guide allows easy access to information on the print and electronic titles that are available to students:

lib.usfsp.edu/Textbooks.

We are able to clearly see in the LibGuides statistics that students primarily look to see what textbooks the library has available a 2 weeks before the start of the semester and for the first month of the class. Thus we know that the library's Textbooks on Reserve program is extremely important to the students and may determine whether they purchase the materials or save money by just borrowing them from the library.

	Summer 2018	Fall 2018	Spring 2019
Textbook LibGuide Views	500	1,664	1,642

Enhance Marketing and Outreach to USFSP Faculty

Although most teaching faculty are aware of student concerns over textbook costs, informing faculty on the many ways that they could reduce cost is a continual effort of the liaison librarians. Many faculty are not aware of various ways that they can reduce costs while still maintaining the quality of their course.

In support of such efforts, the library held 6 textbook workshops during critical times of the year of when the faculty were required to select their course materials for the upcoming semester. Liaison librarians also reached out individually to USFSP instructors, to further raise awareness of textbook affordability options and help faculty. These workshops, direct emails, and one-on-one consultations were to:

- 1) Gently remind USFSP Faculty about the approaching textbook compliance deadline
- 2) Provide supporting material on how to enter their information into the Follett Discover System
- 3) Help find lower cost alternative textbooks or format
- 4) Guide faculty to Open Educational Resources and the USF Libraries ebooks for the Classroom program.
- 5) During the summer, for the Fall 2019 semester, the liaison librarians distributed the individualized course textbooks suggestions to faculty provided by the USF Libraries system.

Additionally, as part of this effort, College of Education Faculty member Dr. AnnMarie Gunn worked with R&I librarian Kaya van Beynen to completely revamp the online Children's Literature course to ensure sufficient access to children's books in both ebooks and print formats through the USF Libraries system and at the USFSP library reserve collection. This course requires students to read a large number of children's books and is one of USFSP's largest courses in terms of student credit hours. Since it recently received General Education status, its popularity and enrollment is only expected to increase in the 2019/20 academic year. Two sections of this course are offered each semester with a cap of 100 students per section; with Gen. Ed. Status, the enrollment for this course is anticipated to rise to 400 students per semester. Thus, ensuring access to affordable print and electronic copies of the children's books was a deeply important undertaking.