

Implementing OER resources to  
lower course material costs

# EASIER THAN YOU THINK!

**Student affordability initiatives continue to gain momentum and OER (Open Educational Resource) materials are a significant part of these efforts.**

OER resources are free open educational resources. Because OER are by definition 'open', instructors are free to adapt the content in any way they choose.

However, for many faculty, the work involved with transitioning to this, or any new content can seem daunting. The team at XanEdu are experts in OER, read on for some quick tips on how to make the transition process easy while providing affordable, accessible content for your students.



OER lowers the  
cost of textbooks:

**83% of professors agree that  
textbooks are too expensive.**

Recent studies confirm that students will often make important choices around which courses to take (or even how many to take) based on the cost of textbooks. Making the switch to OER can keep learning accessible to all students.



There are challenges with OER

## How to find quality content? How to make the needed adaptations for your campus?

The choices can be daunting! 'Not enough relevant content' and 'too much work to implement' are often cited as the biggest barriers to adopting OER.

### OER can be a great resource - here are a few tips to get you started:



#### Use an OER provider with a strong reputation:

There are many high quality providers of OER content. Do some research to understand the support behind them, it could be a respected university system, or funding from philanthropic organizations such as the Gates Foundation as is the case with OpenStax, one of the larger OER content providers. Make sure the content is peer reviewed for academic rigor, quality and accuracy.



#### Think about customization:

There are many providers, including XanEdu, who can take your requirements and build a customized set of materials directly aligned to your course goals. When these materials are based on OER resources, the costs will remain low. Leveraging an outside resource can significantly diminish the time needed to implement a new text and many, including XanEdu, do not charge for these editorial and publishing services.



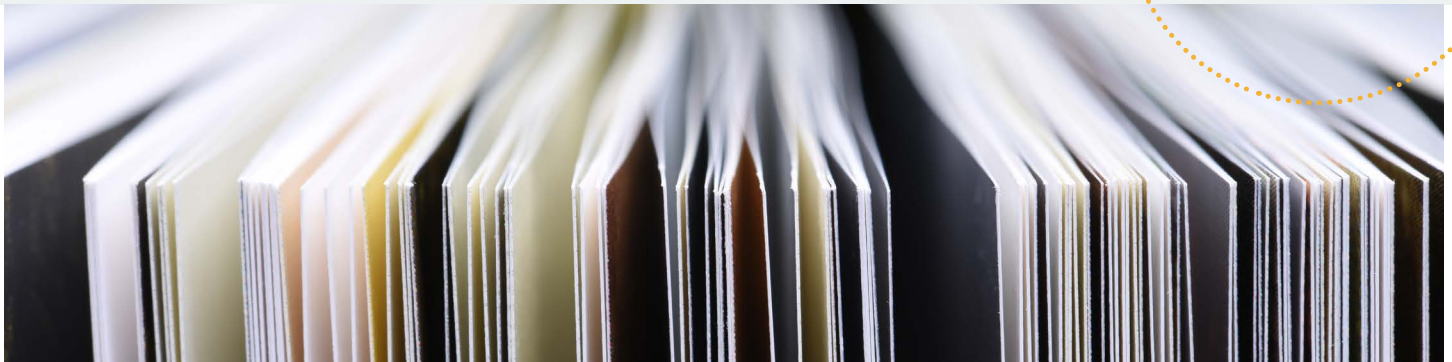
#### Consider Courseware:

Courseware has been around for a long time and the variety of functionality and price points is significant. Seek out affordable courseware that is based on OER content. Some solutions provide instructors with a true 'course in a box' solution that includes all of the items needed to manage the transition including lecture slides, assignments and assessments, student study aids and supplemental content such as video and additional materials.



#### Don't forget about print:

68% of students report that they prefer a printed text for their courses. Digital is important, but there is still demand for hard copies and starting with free, OER content helps to keep costs down, even when students buy a physical text.





## Implementing high quality OER content can be a great solution for your campus.

Seek a partner resource who can assist with the transition workload through customization, courseware or other support. XanEdu is publisher neutral so we can source and compile a variety of content. Simply tell us what you need, we will source it, compile it, deliver it (digitally or in print) and ensure copyrights are taken care of. Additionally, we offer a complete course in a box solution, XanEdu FlexEd, that includes all instructor materials as well as a comprehensive set of content that will enhance OER content for students.



Our team of experts will work with you to make the transition easy and efficient!

Simple and affordable – XanEdu has you covered.

To learn more visit our website or schedule a conversation with one of our experts.

For more information about XanEdu, please contact us  
**800-218-5971 | [xanedu.com](http://xanedu.com)**