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# **MOVING BEYOND OER AWARENESS:**

A FELLOWSHIP APPROACH TO  
SUPPORTING FACULTY WHO ARE READY  
TO ADOPT OR AUTHOR OER

May 23rd, 2024

Heather Walter, Tocker Open Education Librarian, UT Austin

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# ABOUT ME



**Heather Walter**

- Tocker Open Education Librarian at the University of Texas at Austin

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**WHY OER?**

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\$724

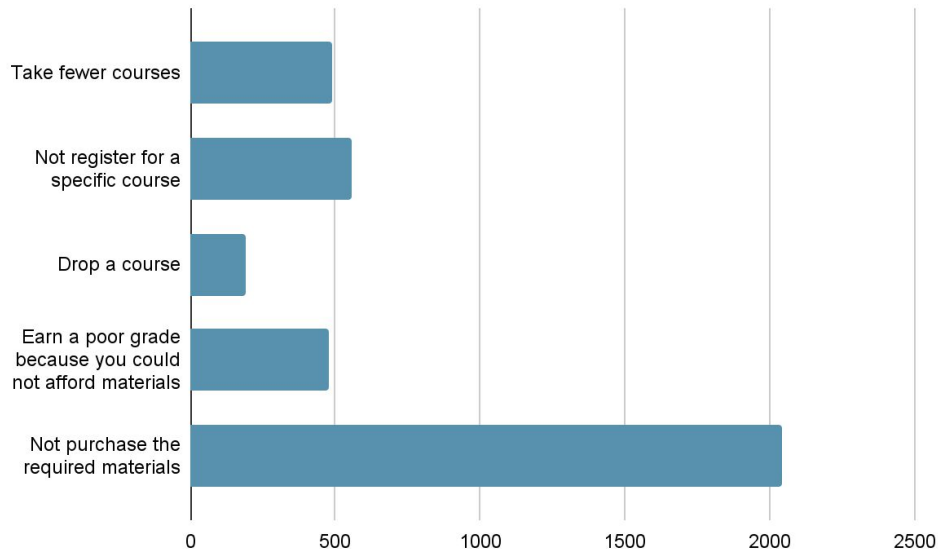
Average annual cost of books and materials  
for undergraduate students at UT

# UT STUDENTS SHARE IMPACT OF COURSE MATERIALS COST

During their academic career, the cost of course materials has caused them to:

**35%**

Students who reported *often, frequently or always* being prevented from accessing course materials due to cost



# WHAT OUR STUDENTS ARE SAYING:

\*QUOTES COMPILED FROM ANONYMOUS STUDENT  
FEEDBACK SURVEYS

“[I had to] reduce my  
grocery budget to buy  
the material.”

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# WHAT OUR STUDENTS ARE SAYING:

\*QUOTES COMPILED FROM ANONYMOUS STUDENT  
FEEDBACK SURVEYS

“I dropped a class  
because the price of the  
two textbooks made it  
no longer worth it to  
take the class . . .”

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# WHAT OUR STUDENTS ARE SAYING:

\*QUOTES COMPILED FROM ANONYMOUS STUDENT  
FEEDBACK SURVEYS

“Go into temporary  
credit card debt to buy  
course materials while I  
wait for financial  
aid/scholarships a  
**MONTH** into the school  
year...”

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# WHAT FACULTY ARE SAYING . . .

\*QUOTES COMPILED FROM ANONYMOUS FACULTY  
FEEDBACK SURVEYS

“I teach the material in a different order / approach than the textbook.”

“A new edition comes out every year, but the information is dated and the price continues to increase.”

“New editions don’t come out frequently enough to cover recent updates.”

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# WHAT FACULTY ARE SAYING

\*QUOTES COMPILED FROM ANONYMOUS FACULTY  
FEEDBACK SURVEYS

“The examples or cases don’t feel relevant to my students.”

“There isn’t really a single textbook or resource that addresses my course content.”

“I didn’t have a choice about what textbook to assign.”

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# OER SUPPORT PROGRAMS

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# CURRENT UTL OER SUPPORT PROGRAMS

- Open Education Services
  - Course review
  - OER Librarian consult
- **Partnerships:**
  - Senate of College Councils
  - Natural Sciences Council
  - OER Working Group
- Affordable Education Champions
  - Students nominate instructors who prioritize free and low cost course materials

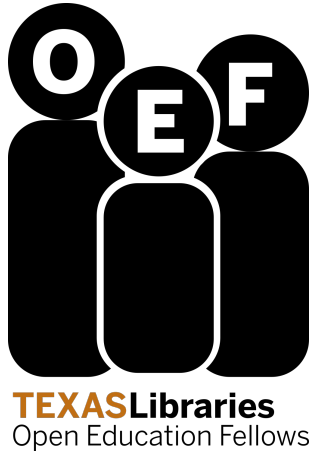
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# **OPEN EDUCATION FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM**

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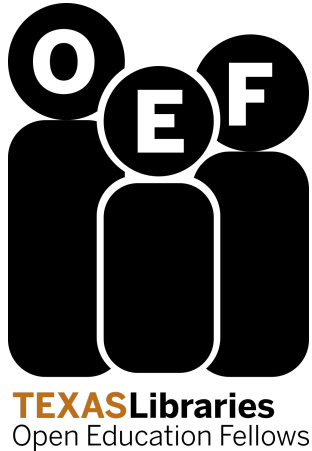
# OPEN EDUCATION FELLOWSHIP



- OVERVIEW
  - Beginning in 2021, UT Libraries established the [Open Education Fellowship](#) to help support faculty in adopting or creating OER
    - Library-sponsored, stipend supported program
    - Funds were secured via direct proposal to our Vice Provost/Director

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# OPEN EDUCATION FELLOWSHIP



- OVERVIEW
  - Faculty apply to either adopt or create Open Educational Resources for an existing course
  - Applications are reviewed by a committee consisting of librarians and faculty
  - Selected faculty are awarded stipends and receive professional development to complete projects

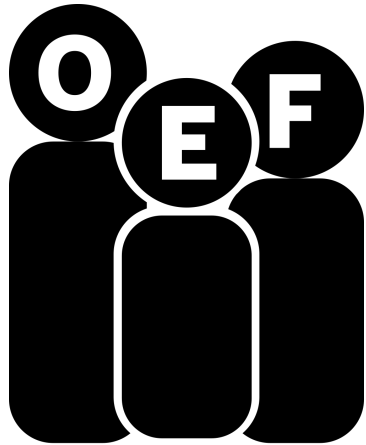
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# OPEN EDUCATION FELLOWSHIP

## STARTUP TIMELINE

- **2019:** Tocker Open Education Librarian Position established
  - **2021:** OE Fellowship proposed directly to Vice Provost
  - **2022:** First call for applicants
  - **2022-2023:** Inaugural Fellows complete projects 2022-2023
  - **2024:** Currently in our 3rd cohort of fellows (authorship)
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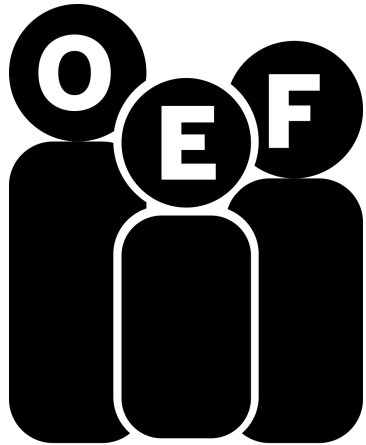


**TEXAS**Libraries  
Open Education Fellows

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# FELLOWSHIP REQUIREMENTS

- Faculty must replace existing paid course materials with OER
- At completion of Fellowship, course must be rendered no-cost to students
- Course must be offered by UT
- Completed project must carry [Creative Commons License](#) (or equivalent)
- Faculty must report course as being an OER course to university Co-op



**TEXASLibraries**  
Open Education Fellows

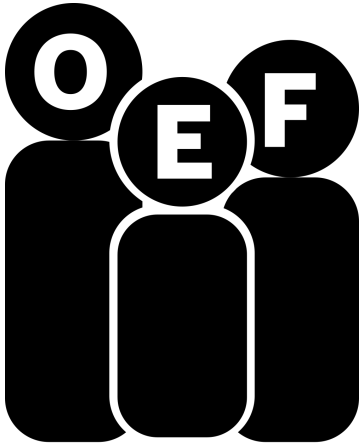
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# SUPPORT FOR OE FELLOWS

- **Five (5) total stipends are awarded to Fellows:**
  - Adoption stipend: \$2,000
    - Awarded in a single payment
  - Authorship stipend: \$5,000
    - Awarded in halves
- **Professional development**
  - Guidance on CC licensing
  - Accessibility training
  - Limited technical support
  - Regular project check-in meetings

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# OE FELLOWSHIP: NUTS AND BOLTS

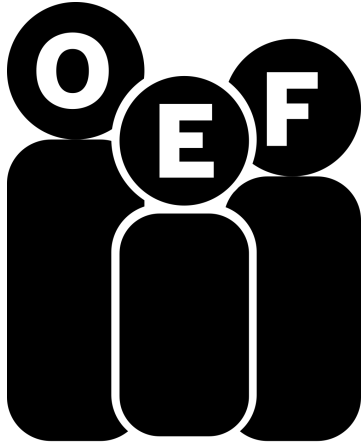


**TEXAS**Libraries  
Open Education Fellows

- **FUNDING**
  - Internal library funds
  - Fundraising
- **OUTREACH**
  - Partnerships with liaison librarians
  - Internal newsletters
  - Social media
  - Targeted outreach to past applicants
- **ORGANIZATION**
  - Canvas course for program materials
  - Semesterly check-ins with fellows

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# OE FELLOWSHIP: NUTS AND BOLTS



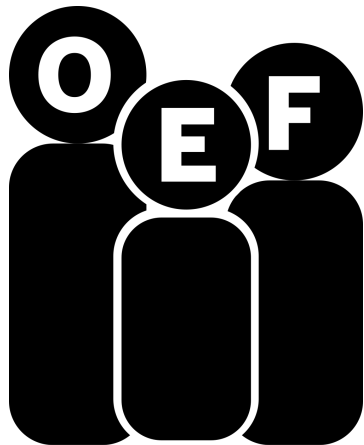
**TEXAS**Libraries  
Open Education Fellows

- **LIBRARY-PROVIDED SUPPORT**
  - On-demand, dedicated librarian consultations
  - Cross-departmental training
- **DEADLINES**
  - Initially allowed two semesters to complete work, but that has been revised to three semesters.
  - Project timeline can be extended so long as faculty continue with UT Austin

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# OE FELLOWSHIP: SAMPLE TIMELINE

## PROGRAM SET-UP:

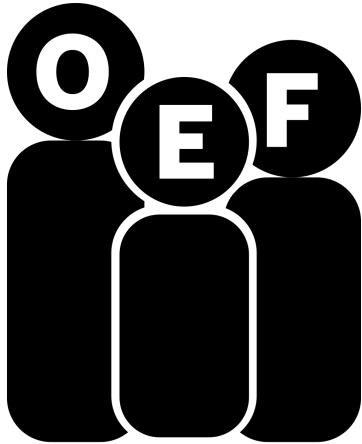


**TEXAS**Libraries  
Open Education Fellows

- **OCTOBER 3-27, 2023:** Call for applications open
- **OCTOBER 30 - NOVEMBER 15, 2023:** Application review period
- **NOVEMBER 29 - DECEMBER 15, 2023:** Selected fellows notified.
- **DECEMBER 25, 2023:** Signed fellowship agreements due.

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# OE FELLOWSHIP: SAMPLE TIMELINE



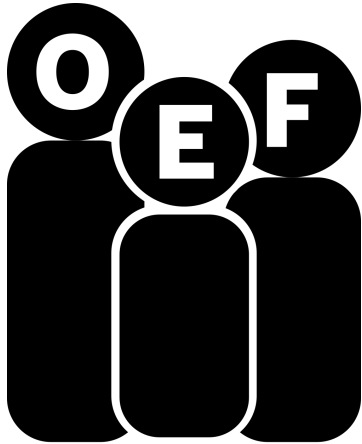
**TEXAS** Libraries  
Open Education Fellows

## FIRST SEMESTER

- **SPRING 2024:** Professional development and consultation opportunities provided to fellows. Topics may include:
  - Disability and Access
  - Open pedagogy
  - Copyright/CC Licensing

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# OE FELLOWSHIP: SAMPLE TIMELINE



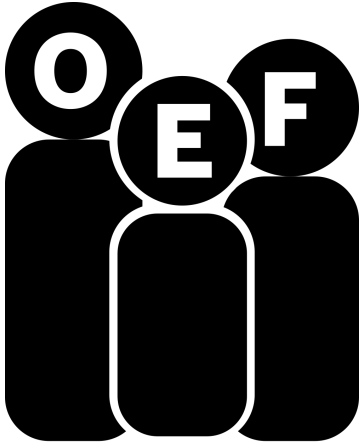
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Open Education Fellows

## ADDITIONAL SEMESTERS

- **SUMMER 2024:** Independent work time, some continued training, and fellow consults
- **FALL 2024 - SPRING 2025:** Independent work time and fellow consults. Fellows may choose to implement OER into their courses and finish projects early

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# OE FELLOWSHIP: SAMPLE TIMELINE

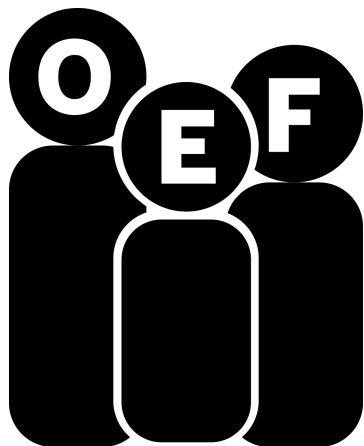


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Open Education Fellows

## FINAL SEMESTERS

- **SUMMER- FALL 2025:** Fellows complete projects and implement OER into their coursework
- **PROJECT COMPLETION:**
  - Project needs to carry a [Creative Commons license](#).
  - Project needs to be housed within an OER repository.
  - Course needs to be ready to be taught, cost-free.
  - Course needs to be reported to the Co-op as an OER course.



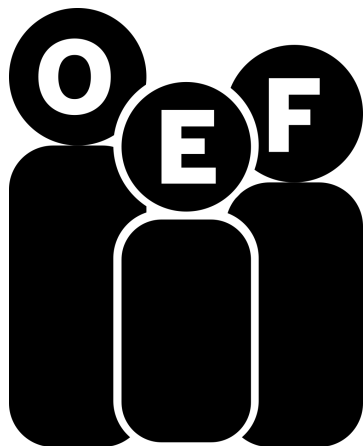


**TEXAS**Libraries  
Open Education Fellows

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# OE FELLOWSHIP: SAMPLE WORK

- **Business and Hispanic Life and Culture**
  - Fellows: [Mina Ogando-Lavín](#) and [Dr. Joshua Frank](#)
  - A Spanish course for intermediate high speakers with materials to support gains in language learning and business world knowledge.
  
- **Giornate italiane**
  - Fellows: [Dr. Amanda Bush](#) and [Silvia Luongo](#)
  - Beginner/intermediate Italian language and culture textbook.



**TEXASLibraries**  
Open Education Fellows

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# OE FELLOWSHIP: SAMPLE WORK

- Foundations of Psychological Data Science I
  - Fellow: [Dr. Franco Pestilli](#)
  - Coding course which lays the foundation for data science education targeting psychological and brain science students.

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# LESSONS LEARNED

- **Approach faculty with patience and understanding**
    - Have an established plan for how long to extend deadlines, etc.
  - **Search for creative ways to continue funding**
    - Or have a plan if funding ends
  - **Find meaningful partners for outreach**
    - Decide what will be done if applicant pool is too small.
  - **Celebrate faculty as they complete the fellowship**
    - Keep a list of ways in which faculty have been highlighted
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# Questions

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