

Where Do You Find Free and Open Source Textbooks for Students and Teachers?

There are now a variety of websites that provide free and open digital alternatives to textbooks. Below is a list of potential resources.

BioQUEST Curriculum Consortium (<http://bioquest.org>)

Geared to high school and college students studying biology, this site supports students by posing and solving problems, and engaging in peer review.

cK-12 Foundation (<http://ck12.org/flexr/>)

Using an open-content web-based collaborative model, CK-12 allows users to create customized "FlexBooks" that take the place of traditional textbook. They focus on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

California Learning Resource Network (<http://www.clrn.org/fdti/>)

The CLRN has a wide range of digitized textbook on their website. They are aligned to California standards and many of them are available to all users. They also have links to online sites that support textbooks put out by publishers such as Glencoe/McGraw Hill. Without log-in information you will not be able to access these sites.

Connexions (<http://cnx.org/>)

"Connexions is a dynamic digital educational ecosystem consisting of an educational content repository and a content management system optimized for the delivery of educational content. Connexions is one of the most popular open education sites in the world...Its content services the educational needs of learners of all ages, in nearly every discipline, from math and science to history and English to psychology and sociology. Connexions delivers content for free over the Internet for schools, educators, students, and parents to access 24/7/365."

Curriki (<http://www.curriki.org>)

Quoting from the website:

Curriki is a not-for-profit organization where all of us -- our community of educators, parents and students -- can work together to develop interesting, creative and effective educational materials that the global educational community can use for free.

Our goal is to:

- Develop curriculum through community contributors
- Deliver the curriculum globally
- Determine the impact by project and by individual

The initial focus is on K-12 curricula in the areas of mathematics, science, technology, reading and language arts, and languages.

Flat World Knowledge (<http://www.flatworldknowledge.com/>)

Flat World Knowledge defines itself as “world's largest publisher of free and open college textbooks.” Their current catalogue includes business and economics, humanities and social science, science, professional and applied sciences and mathematics.

FreeReading (<http://freereading.net>)

FreeReading is an open source early literacy program with free research-based lessons from a variety of sources. It is geared to Grade preK – 6.

Hippocampus (www.hippocampus.org)

Hippocampus is an open education project from the Monterey Institute for Technology and Education, offering multimedia lessons and course materials to high school and college students free of charge.

OER (Open Educational Resources) Common (<http://www.oercommons.org/>)

This is a site to find and share open educational resources. They state “OER Commons gathers relevant materials about teaching, technology, research, and more, and encourages you to add links to materials, projects, or news related to the emerging field of Open Education.”

The Math Open Reference (<http://www.mathopenref.com/>)

The mission of the Math Open Reference is “to provide a free interactive math textbook on the web.” Their plan was to start with geometry (plane, coordinate and solid). It appears they have moved beyond geometry and also have Trigonometry as well as a graphing calculator and science/math calculator.

Wikibooks (http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Main_Page)

Wikibooks is a wikimedia community for creating free education textbooks.