

Hi folks,

Here's a summary to my question about required textbook policies.

There were 20 responses, in total, including my College.

of institutions that do not buy assigned textbooks: **9**

of institutions that routinely purchase of assigned textbooks: **3**

of institutions that purchase a limited purchase of textbooks: **8**

REPLIES

DO NOT BUY ASSIGNED TEXTBOOKS

1. Capilano U

"Textbooks will be collected only if there is no other appropriate source for a subject. Textbooks assigned for courses at the University will not be bought by the Library but will be accepted as gifts. CapU library does not purchase textbooks.

2. JIBC

We have many course texts on reserve, but they are purchased out of the educational department's budget, and not from the Library's budget.

3. North Island College

We don't purchase required textbooks for a number of reasons, including having limited collections monies and wanting to avoid a library of textbooks as they become superseded with newer editions. Having said that, we do put textbooks on reserve if they are provided by the instructor/department and return them at the end of the semester.

4. Northern Lights College

We don't purchase textbooks. If we have them, they were/are donations. We do offer instructors the option to place textbooks on reserve

5. Nicola Valley Institute of Technology

NVIT does not purchase textbooks. I ask instructors to put a book on reserve if they want students to have access to it, either for a four hour period or overnight check out.

However, when instructors give us their desk copies or make donations of their textbooks, we may add these to the collection. I will be monitoring the responses as I have not felt comfortable adding desk copies to our collection and do not think I should be doing this.

Purchasing textbooks also conflicts with our bookstore sales.

6. Okanagan College

Textbooks: Okanagan College course textbooks are not purchased by the Library; however, textbooks that are recognized as important in their field or which are the only source of information on a subject may be purchased. Faculty and instructor copies of required course textbooks may be placed on reserve in the Library.

7. Thompson Rivers University

TRU does not buy textbooks either and for similar reasons as Mary Anne states – limited collections money and you simply cannot keep up with the editions. Beyond that our collection philosophy is to build a quality, if small, university library collection for research and teaching and most textbooks do not fit the quality criteria for such a collection.

We do put textbooks on reserves if the instructor/department provides them for us then we return them to the department at the end of the semester. We are trying to encourage use of open educational resources (OER) such as open textbooks and open access journals but that will take some time to catch on.

8. Trinity Western University

we do not purchase textbooks. In the past we accepted donations but have severely limited these as well.

9. University of Victoria

We don't buy textbooks although what constitutes a textbook can be a bit blurry and we've probably bought a few borderline books. Sometimes a selector goes off the rails and orders one and we sometimes receive them as gifts and, after consideration may add them to the collection. Like all you I'm sure, we have a lot of sympathy for students coping with the astonishing price tags on these things. Generally though we try to not purchase or accept them as gifts.

All the reasons others have given seem very valid to me. You could end up with a building full of junked out superseded copies of textbooks and fewer and fewer books of serious value for research and learning.

ROUTINE PURCHASE OF ASSIGNED TEXTBOOKS

1. Douglas College

"Douglas purchases copies of the textbooks for the most popular courses. We may or may not put them on reserve, and we would also consider faculty requests for putting textbooks on reserve."

2. Quest University

We buy 1 copy of each book ordered by the Bookstore, if we don't have it already, for Reserves. No textbooks unless specifically requested by the instructor, nor study guides (anything students will write all over).

3. **Royal Roads**

RRU buys one copy of on-campus course texts for Reserve. Reserve items of all stripes circulate well here, particularly with undergrads

PURCHASE A LIMITED NUMBER OF TEXTBOOKS – FOR RESERVES OR STACKS

1. **Camosun College**

We purchase textbooks upon request and where there is demonstrable demand. We don't buy every textbook.

2. **CNC**

Hi Dawna, we buy one copy for reserve - but only if the instructor requests one. They have to initiate the request.

You're right about donations, we sometimes get textbooks that way, and add them to our collection if they are current.

3. **Langara College**

Much is the same as other answers (accept donations from instructors), don't carry all textbooks, limited funds and edition issue.

That being said, we do purchase a few.

Typically for Nursing (same book used for a variety of courses or over cohort and other reasons that do not typically come to mind). If a high-use item gets "lost" we follow up with instructor and may purchase a copy if deemed necessary.

4. **Northwest Community College**

We don't typically do this unless an instructor specifically makes a request and a case for the purchase. They are just too expensive and date too quickly.

5. **Selkirk College**

We occasionally will buy a textbook for reserve if requested, but usually we first ask if the instructor has a copy. It would only be 1 or 2 textbooks a year that we buy.

There is a lot of demand from international students for library copies of textbooks, but I don't have the budget or space. I have taken this as an opportunity to talk up open source textbooks to faculty, but that is about as successful as asking children to choose celery sticks over cookies for snack.

6. **Simon Fraser University**

SFU's policy is the same as CNC's below: no routine purchase, only on request of the instructor for reserves.

7. **University of the Fraser Valley**

"Textbooks are not purchased unless the requester can show evidence that the requested item will have an on-going value." We add some textbooks that we have received by donation, and faculty are welcome to place textbooks on reserve.

The cost of textbooks has become a key issue for our Student Union Society. We are working with SUS and with faculty in promoting the development and use of open textbooks and open educational resources, and reminding faculty of all the licensed resources that are available to their students through the library

8. University of British Columbia

We don't purchase except for reserves
