

TENNESSEE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION



THEC

Library Leadership in Textbook and Course Material Affordability: Community College Perspectives



Community College Perspectives

Session Goals

- **Intro:** Statewide context for textbook affordability and OER
- **Libraries at Community Colleges:** Campus roles and services, featuring Nashville State Community College
- **Open Education at Community Colleges:** Program strategies and adoption models, featuring Walters State Community College
- **Open Education Resource Sample:** Open content in practice, featuring Jackson State Community College
- **Q&A**



Statewide Initiative

Joshua Nave

Director of Academic Affairs
Tennessee Higher Education Commission



Higher Education in Tennessee

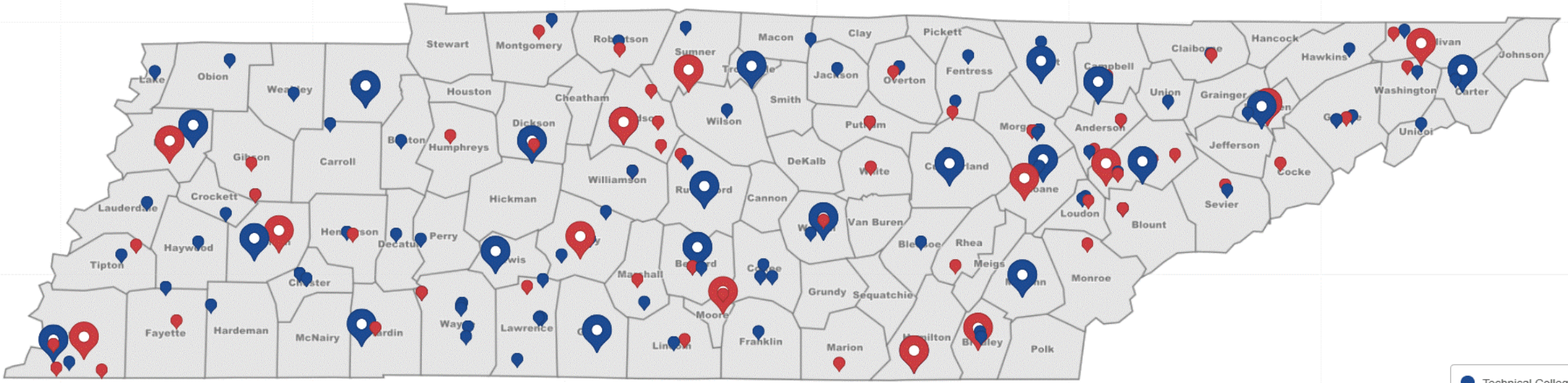
- **Tennessee Board of Regents System**
 - 13 community colleges
 - 24 Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology (TCAT).
- **Locally Governed Institutions (LGIs):**
 - 6 independent public universities
 - Austin Peay State University
 - East Tennessee State University
 - Tennessee State University
 - Tennessee Technological University
 - Middle Tennessee State University
 - University of Memphis
- **University of Tennessee System:**
 - Chattanooga
 - Health Sciences (Memphis)
 - Knoxville
 - Martin
 - Southern (Pulaski)
- **TICUA: Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities Association**
 - 34 private nonprofit colleges and universities.



Tennessee Board of Regents

Community Colleges and Colleges of Applied Technology

All Colleges Community Colleges Technical Colleges



● Technical College
● Community College



A Snapshot of Community Colleges in TN

Fall 2025 Enrollment Data (Statewide)

- 81,086 students
- 52.7% part-time students
- 30.1% first time at college
- 23% adults 25+
- 27.7% dual enrollment (high school) students
- 35.9% low income (Pell Grant recipients)



Tennessee Higher Education Commission

- THEC serves as the statewide coordinating body. Some aspects include:
 - **Student Aid** : HOPE scholarship, **Tennessee Promise**, **Tennessee Reconnect**, Tennessee Student Assistance Award, General Assembly Merit Scholarship, Wilder-Naifeh Technical Skills Grant (TCATs), **Dual Enrollment Grant**, **Middle College Scholarship**, Helping Heros Grant (Veterans)
 - **Access and Outreach**: programs that help Tennesseans prepare for and enter college including Advise TN, GEAR UP TN, Navigate Reconnect, Financial Aid Outreach
 - **Academic Affairs and Workforce Alignment**: Approves academic programs, supports **transfer pathways**, aligns programs with **workforce needs**, quality assurance funding, VETS Campus Initiative
 - **Compliance**: authorization of all post-secondary (private, public, non-profit, for-profit) institutions



Course Material Costs

A Statewide Perspective



Students report **delaying or skipping purchases**, which affects engagement and progress.



In a 2019 survey, **nearly half** of Tennessee community college students spent more than \$300 in a single semester on materials, and **one in five** spent over \$500 dollars.



Lowering costs improves **day one readiness** and supports persistence, retention, and graduation.



This includes, **low-cost course materials, no-cost materials, open access resources, and open education resources.**

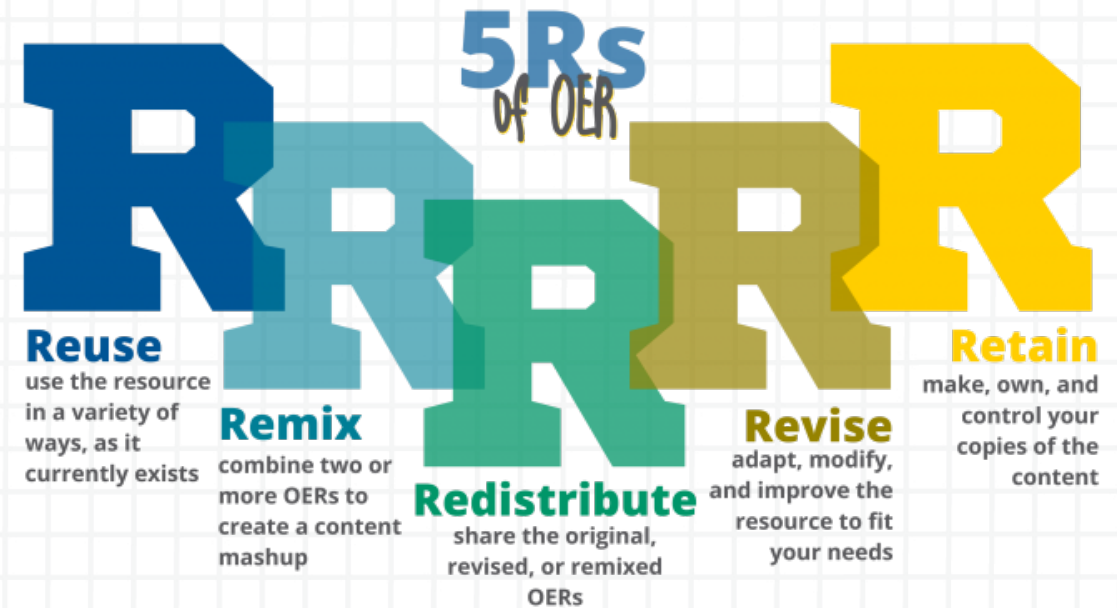


What Is OER?

Free to Use, Adapt, and Share

- **Open Educational Resources** are:

- Free
- Openly licensed materials
- Allow the 5R permissions
- Include textbooks, modules, multimedia, assessments, and full course shells.



Attribution (BY)



ShareAlike (SA)



NonCommercial (NC)

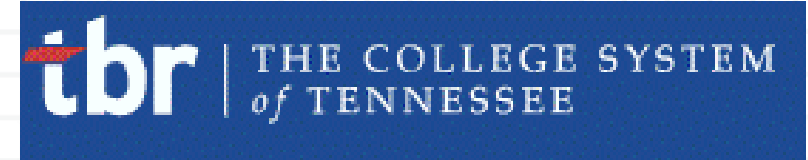


NoDerivatives (ND)



Statewide Momentum

Statewide Grants, Surveys, Reports



- Over five years (2020-2025), TBR awarded nearly 80 OER grants across 18 institutions.
- **Community colleges reported the strongest use.**
 - OER adoption in high enrollment general education courses, which maximizes savings and access.
 - Practical partnerships between librarians and faculty
- Public universities reported limited spread, often led by individual champions.
- TCATs reported early-stage use



Tennessee Open Education Initiative

- Developed from the **Tennessee Textbook Affordability Task Force**
- Guided by a three-pillar framework focused on:
 - **Leadership and Collaboration**
 - Cross-sector steering committee
 - Shared benchmarking, task forces, mission alignment
 - **Data and Definitions**
 - Common terms: OER, low-cost, no-cost
 - Course marking and statewide data collection
 - **Engagement and Support**
 - Webinars, faculty training, regional workshops
 - Celebrations during Open Education Week
 - Promote scalable models and resources



Course Material Affordability and the Role of Community College Libraries

Peter Lyon

Librarian

Nashville State Community College



Nashville State Community College

- Total headcount: 8,213
 - Seven campuses across four counties
 - Clarksville (Montgomery)
 - Dickson (Dickson)
 - East Davidson (Davidson)
 - Humphreys (Humphreys)
 - North Davidson (Davidson)
 - Southeast (Davidson)
 - White Bridge (Davidson)
 - 3,033 Low-Income Students
 - 37% of enrollment
 - 2,888 Adult (25+) Students
 - 35% of enrollment
 - 2,542 First Time at College
 - 31% of enrollment
 - 1,624 Dual Enrollment Students
 - 20% of enrollment
- (Fall 2025 enrollment data)

Nashville State
Community College



Role of Community Colleges within Higher Education

- Improve equity of access to higher education
- Lessen the financial burden (debt, loans) on students
- Provide pathways to transfer and workforce opportunities

"Increasing prices at community college significantly reduce the chances that a recent high school graduate will attend college at all" (Delaney 520).



Role of Libraries within Community Colleges

- Connect students to quality information
 - Academic
 - Institution/Campus
- Serve as safe and reliable learning and leisure spaces for students, faculty, staff, and public
- Provide engaging programs and workshops to build skills and strengthen belonging
- Foster lifelong learning



Library Materials and Services

- **Collections**

- Open Access and Open Education Resources
- Textbook Reserves
- Database subscriptions

- **Study Aids**

- Anatomy & Physiology Models
- Math and Science Labs

- **Technology**

- Calculators
- Headphones
- Laptops, tablets
- Virtual Reality (VR) headsets

- **Physical Space**

- Study rooms

- **Programming**

- **Reference and Research Assistance**

- Instruction
- Research appointments

- **Resource Sharing**

- Interlibrary Loan

- **Technical Support**

- Learning Management System navigation
- Printing, scanning, copying



Supporting Affordability Initiatives

Open Educational Resources

One of the ways libraries support work related to affordability of course materials is through the development, organization, and promotion of Open Educational Resources (OER). By collaborating with faculty to provide materials at no cost to students, library staff can continue to close the affordability gap within higher education.



OERs and Librarian Collaboration Across the Community College

Julie Lewis

Emerging Technologies and Reference Librarian
Walters State Community College



Walters State Community College

- Serve 10 counties in central East Tennessee
 - 4 campuses, 1 center
 - Main campus: Morristown, TN
- **6060 Students**
 - 55% Part-time students
 - 27.6% First time at college
 - 15.4% Adults 25+
 - 39.1% Dual Enrollment (high school students)
 - 31% Low income (Pell Grant recipients)



WALTERS STATE

COMMUNITY COLLEGE



My "Why" as a Librarian

- **Access**

- OER textbooks cut non-tuition costs and allow immediate use of textbooks, **decreasing access issues** across all student populations, including underserved, low income, and first-generation student populations (Jenkins et al, 2020).

- **Collaboration and Open Pedagogy**

- More stakeholders can be involved in creating educational experiences (LeMire, 2025)

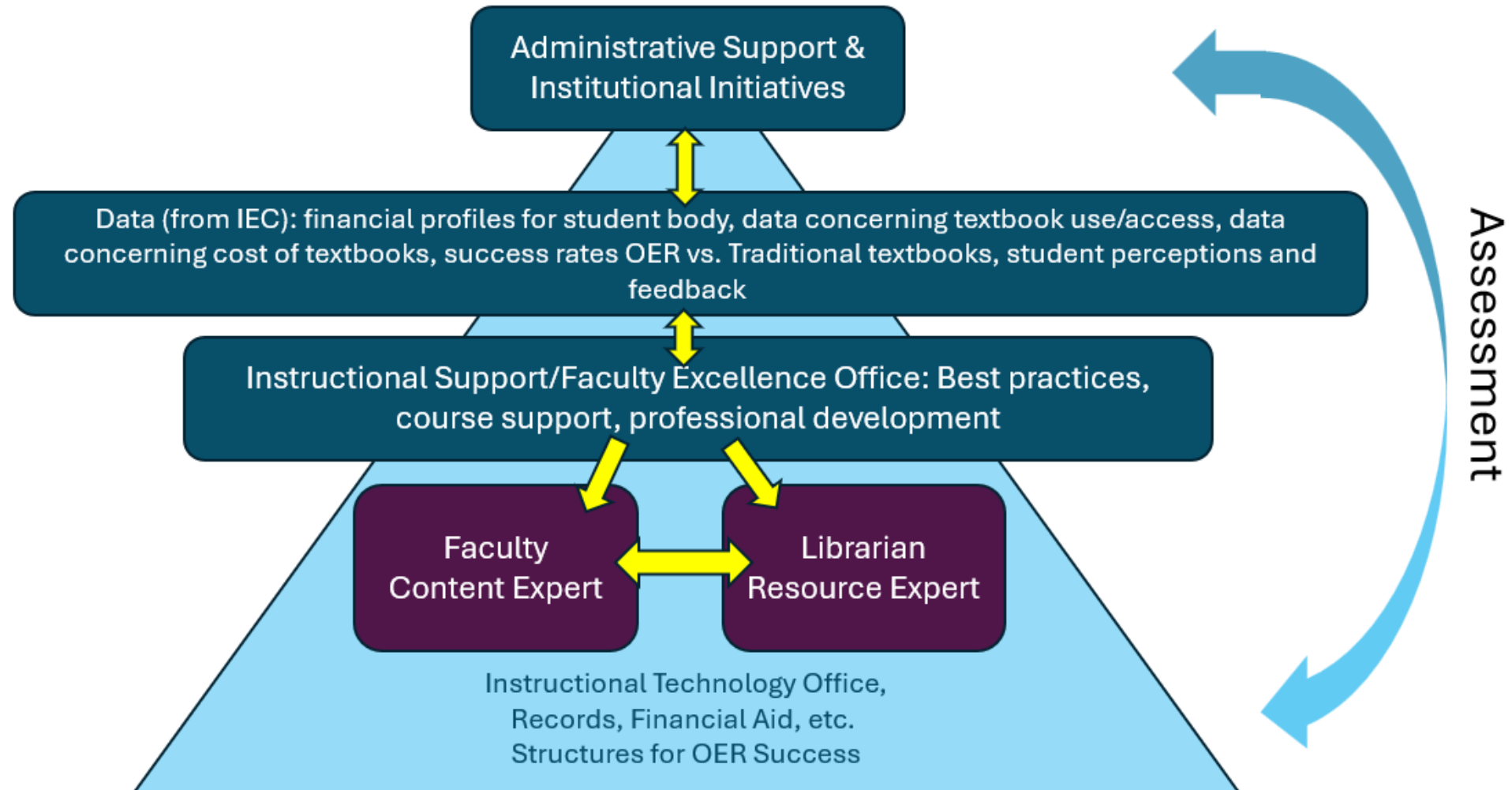


Librarians and OER Collaboration

- Library staff lead and support OER initiatives in collaboration with instructional committees and institutional effectiveness offices (Jimes et al., 2024)
- Librarians' tasks consist of OER discovery, grant maintenance, OER development, and committee work (LeMire, 2025)
- Faculty value librarians most in resource-related roles, such as discovery, information literacy, advocacy, and curation, but less in professional development mentorship or policy creation (Braddlee & VanScoy, 2019)



OER Collaboration Across the Community College



Using Data and OER:

Not All About the \$\$

- 25% courses at WSCC were marked as no-cost or low-cost textbooks (possibility some courses were not marked)
- In general, courses marked with no-cost and low-cost textbooks correlate with better course outcomes than those with traditional textbooks.
- No-cost textbooks were particularly effective across Dual-Enrollment courses.
- Some courses marked no-cost/low-cost did worse than traditional textbook courses: Pre-calculus Algebra, Anatomy/Physiology, Introduction to Psychology. (WSCC IEC, data from Spring 2025 & Fall 2025 semesters)
- Which courses and disciplines are most appropriate for OER?
- How did the specific resources or OERs affect success, student experience, and professor experience?



Collaboration In-Action: OER Professional Development

OER – Where to Start and how to go Beyond the Basics? **In-Person**



Are you interested in moving a class to an Open Educational Resource (OER) but don't know where to begin or just wanting to learn more about what an OER is? This two-day WORKING session is designed to show you the process of converting class resources to an OER. We will go over copyright, popular OER resources, how to choose or build an OER, and create a class with course outcome alignment utilizing OERs. The event will also showcase WSCC OER courses to give attendees examples of OERs in action. This training applies to all course delivery modes including traditional face-to-face, online, hybrid, virtual, and dual enrollment.

Training will be held on June 22-23 via Teams and in CCEN 243. Virtual participants will receive a link via WS email to the session prior to the event. You will need a computer with an internet connection to attend virtually. Please only register for one day of the event. Registration is linked. Registering for one day will register you for the entire event.

Only faculty who have taught Fall 2025, Spring 2026 or are currently teaching may receive pay for this training. Faculty members who have completed this training before must receive permission to be compensated for it from the Executive Director of IDEAS: Candace Justice (candace.justice@ws.edu). Faculty members who attend and complete an assessment of the training will receive extra compensation of \$150.00 (pre-tax) paid according to payroll's established deadlines. If you have questions about the training, please contact Julie Lewis (julie.lewis@ws.edu) or Jessica Mills (jessica.mills@ws.edu).

Dates & Times: 9:00am - 3:00pm, Monday, June 22, 2026
9:00am - 3:00pm, Tuesday, June 23, 2026
Time Zone: Eastern Time - US & Canada ([change](#))
Location: Instructional Design Training Room (CCEN 243), Online
Campus: Main Campus
Categories:  [Training](#)

Monday, June 22nd

9:00 AM – 9:15 AM	Introductions/Welcome
9:15 AM – 10:00 AM	Intro to OER
10:15 AM – 11:00 AM	Instructor Side of OER
11:00 AM – 12:30 PM	Lunch
12:30 PM – 1:00 PM	How to Research OER
1:00 PM – 1:05 PM	Instructions for afternoon
1:05 PM – 2:30 PM	Work Time
2:30 PM – 3:00 PM	Idea sharing/feedback of final presentations

Tuesday, June 23rd

9:00 AM – 9:15 AM	Introduction/Welcome
9:15 AM – 10:00 AM	Guest Speaker
10:00 AM – 10:30 AM	Intellectual Rights
10:30 AM – 11:00 AM	Course Mapping
11:00 AM – 11:30 AM	Speaker
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM	Lunch
1:00 PM – 1:05 PM	Instructions for afternoon
1:05 PM – 2:30 PM	Work Time
2:30 PM – 3:00 PM	Final Presentations



Continued Support for Faculty / Staff



File Home Insert Draw History Review View

OER Summer Training Noteb... Resources +

Search for OERs

Thursday, April 28, 2022 2:09 PM

Large Repositories or MetaSearches

Mason OER Finder Search 22 OER repositories at once.	https://oer.deepwebaccess.com/oer/desktop/en/search.html
Digital Public Library of America Search through many libraries, museums, and online repositories. Great primary source set.	https://dp.la/
Oasis Search through 114 different sites at once, including digital presses, MOOCs, and Digital Open Access Journals (DOAJ). (This one searches some of the same as Mason, but also different ones.)	https://oasis.geneseo.edu/index.php
Advanced Google Search	https://www.google.com/advanced_search

Textbooks / Books

Open Textbook Library	https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/
LibreText All Libretexts libraries are accessible to everyone via the internet, completely free.	https://libretexts.org/
OpenStax	https://openstax.org/
Wikibooks Not all textbooks.	https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Main_Page
Project Gutenberg 60,000 free books across all subjects	https://www.gutenberg.org/
Directory of Open Access Books 51,000+ peer-reviewed academic books. Some suitable for use as textbooks or supplementary material. Multiple languages.	https://www.doabooks.org/en
BC Campus Open Textbooks Almost 400 Open Textbooks – all disciplines.	https://open.bccampus.ca/browse-our-collection/find-open-textbooks/
HathiTrust Includes PD books	https://www.hathitrust.org/

Other

Free to use themed sets (eg. Civil War, disability issues, baseball, etc.)	https://www.loc.gov/free-to-use/
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OER/No-Cost Support for Students: Libguides



Walters State / R. Jack Fishman Library / Self & Values / History of Philosophy Libguide / Home

Self & Values / History of Philosophy Libguide: Home

Search this Guide Search

Princess Elizabeth of Bohemia

A royal philosopher who studied under Descartes yet was a perceptive early challenger of his work on the soul, emotion, and virtue.

- [Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy on Elizabeth of Bohemia](#) The primary online encyclopedia's summary of her life and work.
- [As Rational As You: Elisabeth of Bohemia](#) The first of three short lectures on Elizabeth from the excellent History of Philosophy Without Any Gaps podcast. Link is to the web site, but you can find this on most podcast players as well.
- [States of the Union: Descartes on the Passions](#) Second podcast episode, this one focusing on the passions.
- [Ariane Schneck on Elisabeth and Descartes](#) Interview concluding the podcast episodes on Elizabeth.
- [Elizabeth's Correspondance with Descartes](#)

Moses ben Maimon (Maimonides)

The most famous Jewish philosopher developed ideas about God, humanity, the Bible, and how to live.

- [Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy on Maimonides](#) The primary online philosophy encyclopedia's summary of his life and work.
- [Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy on Maimonides](#) Another overview of his life with somewhat different emphases. Recommended as a supplement to the Stanford page.

John Rawls

Maybe no 20th century English-speaking philosopher is more likely to still be read in 200 years. Rawls is most known for his work defending the idea of a "liberal" government that supports people from many religious and philosophical perspectives while endorsing no view.

Bertrand Russell

Bertrand Russell was a wide-ranging early 20th century philosopher who is known for his creative wrestling with all manner of philosophical questions.

- [An Overview of Bertrand Russell's Analytic Philosophy](#) From the Bertrand Russell Society page, this general overview outlines Russell's major contributions in logic, mathematical philosophy, and analytic philosophy.



Logicomix by Apostolos Doxiadis, Christos Papadimitriou
ISBN: 9781596914520

Publication Date: 2009-10-05

Publisher's description: This exceptional graphic novel recounts the spiritual odyssey of philosopher Bertrand Russell.

In his agonized search for absolute truth, Russell crosses paths with legendary thinkers like Gottlob Frege, David Hilbert, and Kurt Gödel, and finds a passionate student in the great Ludwig Wittgenstein. But his most ambitious goal-to



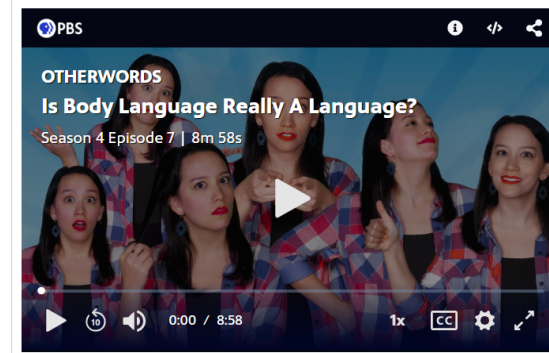
Walters State / R. Jack Fishman Library / COMM2025 / NonVerbal Communication

COMM2025: NonVerbal Communication

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- Culture and Communication
- Communication in Workplace
- Mass Communication
- Language
- Romantic Relationships
- Gender and Communication
- Appalachia Articles for COMM 2025

Is Body Language Really a Language?



NonVerbal Communication Websites and Articles

- [Is Nonverbal Communication a Numbers Game?](#)

Podcasts - NonVerbal Communication

- [Speaking of Psychology: Nonverbal communication speaks volumes, with David Matsumoto, PhD](#) If you think reading people is not a science, think again. Understanding expressions that only appear on someone's face for tenths of a second can mean a lot to those who know what to look for. In this episode, psychologist and nonverbal communication expert David Matsumoto, PhD, talks about why nonverbal communication is so important in everything from police investigations to intercultural exchanges.

Body Language Tips in an Interview



Examining Gravestones as Markers of Death and Culture in Early America:

A Collaborative Effort
Between the Library and English 2110 Faculty

Sylvia Rowe

Catalog and Reference Librarian
Jackson State Community College



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Thank You!

April 22, 2026