



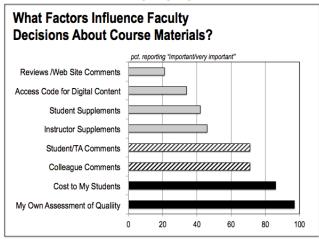
Independent College Bookstore Association

icbainc.com February 2016

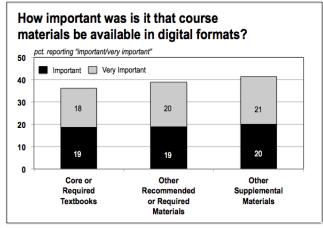
GOING DIGITAL

Faculty Perspectives on Digital and OER Course Materials

Quality and the cost of course materials for students emerge as the key factors that drive the decisions of college faculty about textbooks and other course materials. And although the movement to digital course content seems inevitable and a majority of the surveyed faculty express interest in adaptive technologies for their courses, it is also clear that college and university faculty have real concerns about some of the proclaimed instructional benefits of going digital.



These are the key findings from a fall 2015/winter 2016 survey of 2,902 college and university faculty at 29 two- and four-year colleges and universities sponsored by the Independent College Bookstore Association (ICBA).



Not surprisingly, faculty identified their own assessment of quality as the top issue in their selection of course materials (97 percent reporting as important/very important). Ranked second was the cost of course materials for students (86 percent), followed by the comments of students or teaching assistants and also

comments from colleagues (tied at 71 percent). In contrast, just over two-fifths of the survey participants indicated student or instructor supplements were important/very important in their decisions about course materials, and only a fifth said comments and reviews on public web sites had a major impact on their decisions about course materials.

The survey data reveal that "being digital," in and of itself, is not a key factor in faculty decisions about course materials. Less than two-fifths of the survey participants indicated that digital formats were important or very important for core texts or other required course materials.

Four-fifths (78 percent) of the survey participants acknowledged that "digital course materials generally cost less" for their students." Yet perhaps more important for digital advocates, college publishers, and for other digital content providers was that *less than half* of the surveyed faculty agreed/strongly agreed that:

- digital course materials provide significant added value content not available in print (45 percent);
- students prefer digital course materials over print (44 percent);
- they would be more likely to use digital curricular resources if they offered analytics and reports on class performance (44 percent);
- digital course materials provide for a richer and more effective learning experience than print (35 percent);
- digital course materials have a beneficial impact on student learning compared to print (27 percent);
 and
- digital course materials are higher quality than similar print materials (19 percent).

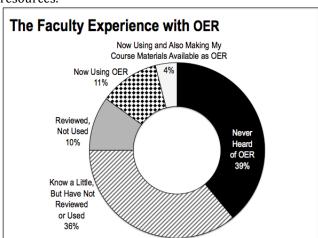
Digital Course Materials	% Agree/ Strongly Agree
generally cost less for my students	79
include significant added-value content not available in print	45
are as easy for me to use as similar print materials.	41
provide for richer and more effective learning experience than print	35
have a beneficial impact on student learning compared to print.	27
are higher quality than similar print materials	19

While the movement in course materials in colleges and universities is clearly from print towards digital, the survey data suggest it will be a slow process. Asked when they thought the majority of their course materials would be primarily digital, fully a fourth of the surveyed faculty indicated "never," while another 9 percent said by fall 2022, and 17 percent indicated by fall 2020. In contrast, fully a sixth (16 percent) reported that majority of their current course materials were digital as of fall 2015, and a third (34 percent) anticipated primarily digital course materials by fall 2018.

However, despite what appears to be faculty resistance to going digital for course materials, just over two-thirds (69 percent) of the survey participants agreed/strongly agreed that they have used or would like to use "curricular materials that make use of adaptive learning technologies."

"While the transition from print to digital course materials may be inevitable, these new data make two things clear," said Fred Weber, CEO of ICBA, the organization that sponsored the survey. "First is that the pace of change is much slower than anticipated by publishers, administrators, digital advocates, and campus IT professionals. And second, most faculty are not convinced that digital products have a positive impact on student learning outcomes."

The survey also provides new data that reveal faculty perspectives on the emerging Open Educational Resource (OER) movement for free or low-cost course materials. Two-fifths (39 percent) of the survey participants indicated that they had never heard of OER, while just over a third (36 percent) indicated that they knew a little about OER but had not used or reviewed OER materials. A tenth (10 percent) had reviewed but decided not to use OER materials for their classes, while another tenth (11 percent) were using OER materials and 4 percent were currently using OER in their classes and also making their own course materials available as OER. Finally, only a third of the survey participants agree that, at present, OER content "provides a viable alternative to traditional print/ commercial course resources."



Asked what might prompt them to adopt OER for their courses, quality (74 percent reporting important/very important) and cost (71 percent) were the top issues, just as they were for more traditional print or other digital course materials. Yet the option to

remix OER content without worrying about copyright issues or other restrictions was also attractive to many faculty (65 percent citing important/very important).

How Soon Before the Materials in Your Courses Will be Primarily Digital?	% Digital	% OER
NEVER	24	41
Now (Fall 2015)	16	5
Fall 2016	7	6
Fall 2018	27	21
Fall 2020	17	17
Fall 2022	9	10

And perhaps because most have had little exposure to or experience with OER, faculty expect the movement to primarily OER materials in their courses to be slower than the overall movement to digital. Fully two-fifths of the survey participants said their course materials would "never" be primarily digital (41 percent) compared to 24 percent responding "never" the migration to primarily digital course materials. And they view OER video and supplements are more useful than OER textbooks.

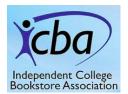
What Kinds of OER Materials Would Be Most Useful	% Agree/ Strongly Agree	
Video (from YouTube, Kahn Academy, etc.)	62	
Other supplemental course materials	53	
Other required course materials	49	
OER Textbooks as an alternative to commercial texts	47	

"The survey data reveal a core conundrum regarding cost and access to digital course materials, and especially OER materials," said Kenneth C. Green of The Campus Computing Project, who conducted the survey for ICBA. "Faculty overwhelmingly report that a major benefit of going digital is the lower cost of course materials. Yet many faculty, especially in community colleges, also report that their students don't own the tech platforms required access digital content. Consequently, many of the students who might benefit most from lower-cost digital and OER course materials are not able to do so."

Finally, the survey data affirm the role of college bookstores as a trusted resource and distribution channel for course materials. Almost a three-fourths (72 percent) of the survey participants agree/strongly agree that "my campus bookstore is a trustworthy and objective source for information about course materials." Concurrently, three-fifths (59 percent (report that their "campus bookstore can play an important role helping faculty select and effectively use digital curricular course materials" (59 percent).

Additional information about the ICBA Faculty Survey is available online:

www.campuscomputing.net/goingdigital2016

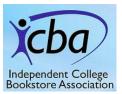


Faculty Perspectives on Digital and OER Course Materials

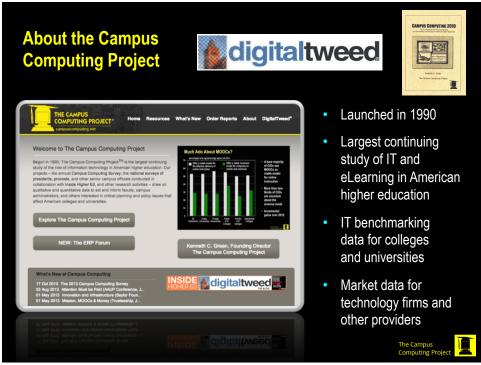




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Survey Goals • Key Questions



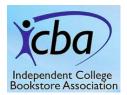
- What are the key factors that affect the choice of textbooks and other course materials?
- Does it matter if course materials are in print or digital formats?
- Are digital materials better than print, easier to use, and less expensive?
- Do digital course materials provide significant addedvalue over print course materials?

- Do faculty believe that digital course materials have a beneficial impact on student learning?
- What do faculty know about OER? Why might faculty select OER for their courses?
- How long before most course materials are digital?
- What's the role of the college bookstore in the transition to digital course content?

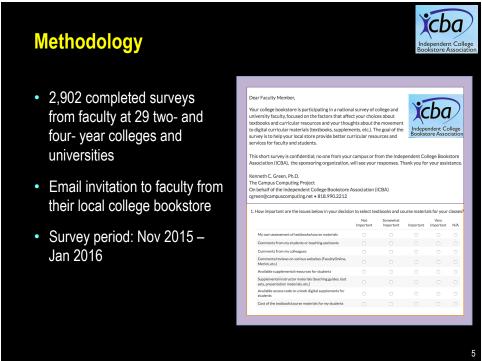
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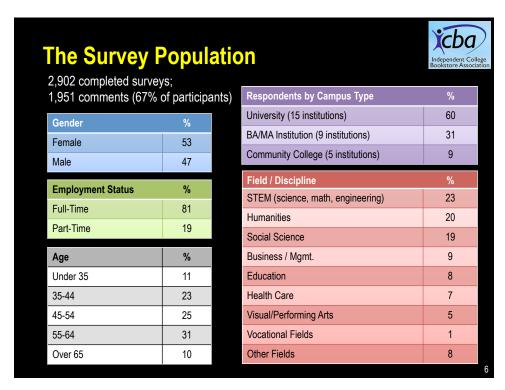
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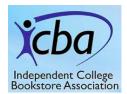




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Faculty Perspectives on Digital and OER Course Materials

Key Findings

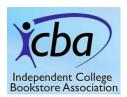


- Quality and cost to students are the key drivers of faculty decisions about course materials.
- Lower cost is cited as the major benefit of digital materials.
- Faculty <u>do not</u> view "being digital" as essential.
- Over a fourth (27%) of survey participants report their students do not have easy access to tech resources that would allow them to make full use of digital content.
- Survey participants are <u>skeptical</u> about the "added-value" and instructional impact of digital content.
- Few faculty have direct experience with OER.
- College bookstores are trusted resource partners and distribution channels for all types of course materials.

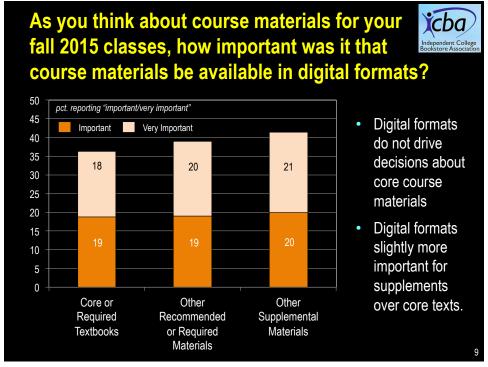
What Factors Influence Faculty Decisions About Course Materials? pct. reporting "important/very important" Reviews /Web Site Comments Important Quality and Very Important cost are the key Access Code for Digital Content decision factors **Student Supplements** Majority report Instructor Supplements that student and faculty Student/TA Comments course Colleague Comments supplements are not Cost to My Students important "My Own Assessment" of Quality Not common to have more 20 40 60 80 100 0 "very important than important

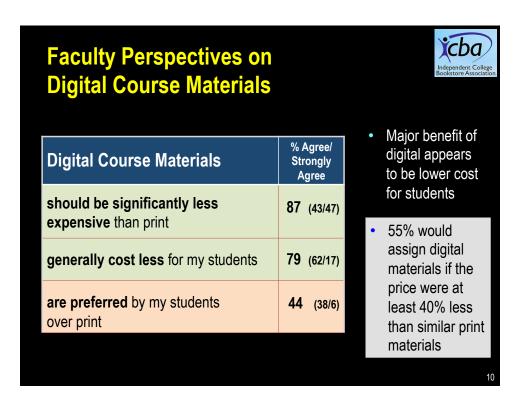
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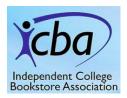




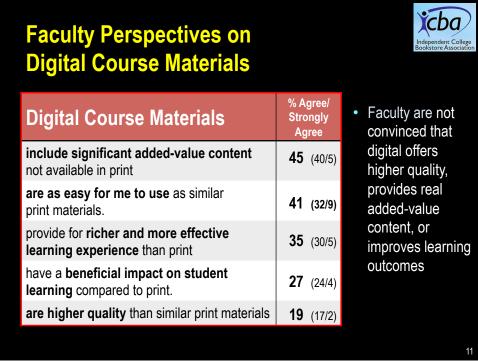
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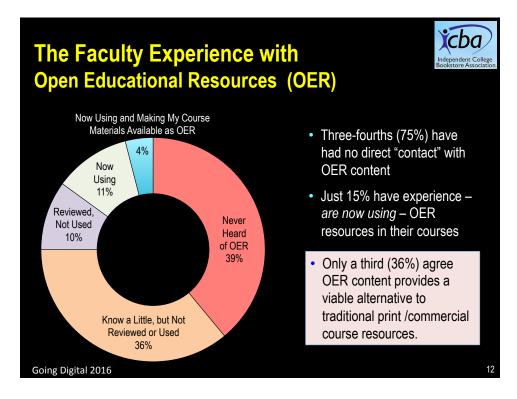
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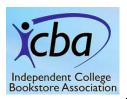


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What Kinds of OER Materials Would Be Most Useful to You?



% Useful/ Very Useful N/A Video (from YouTube, 12 62 (27/35) Khan Academy, etc.) Other supplemental **53** (31/22) 17 course materials Other required 49 (29/20) 19 course materials OER Textbooks as an alternative to 18 47 (25/22) commercial texts

 Faculty interest in OER focuses more on video and supplements than core texts and required course materials

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Why Might You Decide to Select OER Materials for Your Classes?



	% Important/ Very Important	% N/A
High quality of OER materials	74	16
Low cost of OER for My Students	71	12
Option to remix OER materials	65	13
OER materials are easy to find online	57	19
OER materials are generally digital	52	18
Recommendation of colleagues	47	14
Bookstore support for OER	42	14
Web site comments/reviews	19	15

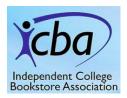
 Quality, cost, and control are the top reasons faculty might select OER for their courses.

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How Soon Before the Materials in Your Courses Will be Primarily Digital?



	% Digital	% OER
Now (Fall 2015)	16	5
Fall 2016	7	6
Fall 2018	27	21
Fall 2020	17	17
Fall 2022	9	10
NEVER	24	41

- Inflection point for digital – 50% – may arrive in fall 2018.
- Significant minority <u>do not</u> see a future for primarily digital content or OER in their courses

Bookstores are a Trusted Resource and Distribution Channel

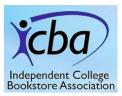
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	% Agr Strongly	
My campus bookstore is a trustworthy and objective source for information about course materials.	72	(55/17)
My campus bookstore can play an important role helping faculty select and effectively use digital curricular course materials.	59	(48/11)
My campus bookstore should offer the option of digital course materials whenever they are available.	89	(64/25)
BUT NO PROTECTED STATUS FOR THE COLLEGE BOOKSTORE Regardless of the format (print, digital, OER, etc.), college stores should be the primary distribution channel for textbooks and course materials.		(35/10)

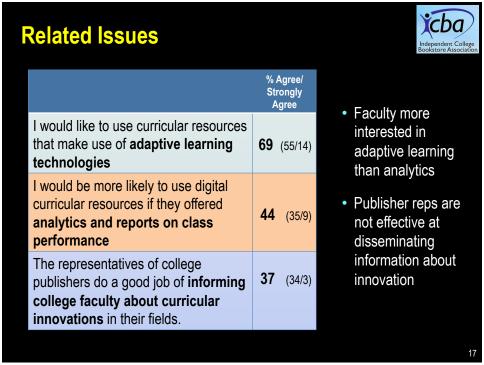
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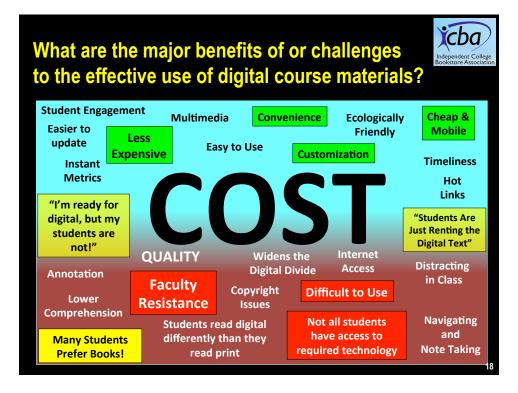
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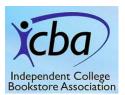
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Major Differences by Sector



Universities

- Higher levels of student ownership of computers and digital platforms
- Least interested in reviews on the web
- More skeptical about the benefits of digital
- Lowest levels of familiarity with OER
- Least favorable opinion of reps as a resource for information about innovation

BA-MA Institutions

 Truly the "middle child"

 often in between the numbers for universities and community colleges

Community Colleges

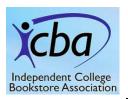
- Many students do not own computers or have access to tech platforms for doing digital
- Somewhat more positive about the benefits of digital than their peers in other segments
- Very interested in video course supplements
- More favorable opinion of reps as a resource for information about innovation

Surprises in the Data



- Faculty are skeptical about the added value and instructional benefits of digital content.
- Very high interest in adaptive learning (68%).
- Low ratings for the value of published reviews of course materials.
- No consistent pattern of major differences by age.
- College stores are viewed as a trustworthy source for information about course materials.

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Faculty Perspectives on Digital and OER Course Materials

The Cost vs. Access Conundrum



- Faculty overwhelming report that a major benefit of digital and OER is the lower cost of course materials.
- Faculty also report that many of their students do not own the enabling tech platforms to go digital (highest in community colleges)

IMPACT

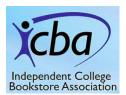
 The students who might experience the greatest financial benefits from going digital cannot do so.

Compare and Contrast			
ICBA Fac	ICBA Faculty Survey Other Sources		ources
44%	My students prefer digital over print	50%	Faculty: Students prefer print over digital (2015 BSIG Survey)
28%	Digital has a beneficial impact on student learning compared to print	91%	Faculty: Digital media in lectures improves learning outcomes (VideoBlocks Survey)
35%	Digital provides for a richer and more effective learning experience than print	86%	C/Os: Digital curricular resources make learning more efficient and effective (2015 Campus Computing Survey)
68%	I would like to use curricular materials that make use of adaptive technology	96%	CIOs: Adaptive learning technology makes learning more efficient and effective (2015 Campus Computing Survey)
86%	Cost is an important issue in the selection of course materials	2%	Faculty: Cost is a top issue in their selection of course materials (OER in ND and The Nation 2015 • Babson Survey Group)
36% 49%	 OER materials in my field provide a viable alternative to print resources. Expect their course materials to be primarily OER in 5 years 	94%	CIOs: OER textbooks will be an important source for instructional resources in five years (2015 Campus Computing Survey)

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Going Forward



- Quality and cost will remain major concerns
- Publishers & other course content providers will have to manage expectations about:
 - how much money "going digital" will save students.
 - > the added value and educational benefits of digital content.
- Clear need for **compelling evidence** about the educational benefits and learning outcomes of digital course materials.



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