What is Inclusive Access?

The cost of college textbooks has increased sharply over the last several decades, creating challenges for students and faculty. Inclusive Access is a textbook sales model that adds the cost of digital course content into students’ tuition and fees. While the adoption of this model addresses some challenges, it is also creating many new ones. Higher education institutions should fully examine the facts and implications of automatic textbook billing.

What questions should faculty ask?

1. Is it my choice whether to adopt inclusive access materials for my course?
2. If inclusive access doesn’t work for my students, will I have the option to stop using it in my course?
3. Will I be informed about the exact price of inclusive access materials at the time I am deciding what to assign?
4. Will my students be asked for consent before being automatically charged for inclusive access materials?
5. What agreements are in place to ensure that the price of my materials does not increase for my students in the future?
6. If students opt out of inclusive access, will they be able to purchase all of their materials on the general market?
7. What support mechanisms are in place for students who cannot afford inclusive access materials?
8. How long do students have access to inclusive access materials? How much do they need to pay to keep access?
9. What data do inclusive access vendors collect on me and my students, and how is it used?
10. Has inclusive access been formally consulted with the student government and faculty senate?

Where can you get more information?

InclusiveAccess.org is a community-driven initiative to raise awareness of the facts about automatic textbook billing. Visit our website for more information and resources.