

Affordable Learning Georgia Textbook Transformation Grants: Hosting Your Work



Affordable Learning Georgia Textbook Transformation Grants are intended to lower the cost of college for students and contribute to their retention, progression, and graduation.

To make these grant projects have a **lasting effect** throughout the USG, Affordable Learning Georgia wants works created through the grants to be **freely-accessible to the public**, preferably through an **open license**.

To explain what we want, we need to distinguish three terms as they relate to these projects:

Open, Shared, and Freely-Accessible

Open:

- Free to access + **legal permission**
 - **Creative Commons** = understandable, easy licenses giving these permissions

Freely-Accessible:

- Free to access, includes both open and all-rights-reserved copyright
 - Example: PBS-supplied YouTube video

Low-Cost:

- Affordable alternative to an expensive text/homework system

For your final report:

1) Newly-created content: **Freely-Accessible required**

Open Licenses highly preferred!

2) Free collection of links for the course: **Required**

Campus website, LibGuides, MERLOT Content Builder, etc.

Organized like the course highly preferred!

3) Evaluations: **Freely-Accessible optional**

In the final report, this content will be shared with us in the form of links to the collection and content.

Your created content must be **freely-accessible**:

- Textbooks or short-form works
- Supplementary materials
- Photos or videos

Sharing your created content with ALG means:

- Either you are making it **freely-accessible** and giving us a link in the Final Report, or we are facilitating the process of making it freely-accessible.
- This content should be under an **open license** issued by you in order for the work to be further reused, remixed, and redistributed.

Using Creative Commons Licenses

- Before applying a license to your work, check out the Before Licensing section of the CC Wiki:
[https://wiki.creativecommons.org/Before Licensing](https://wiki.creativecommons.org/Before_Licensing)
- Make sure you are not including copyrighted works within the material (including media such as images and music).
- Go to <http://creativecommons.org/choose/>
- Through answering a few questions, you will get the icon, language, and links for your license.
- If you have a webpage, you can copy the embed code and paste it in the site. If not, copy the image and text.

- Preferred license: Attribution 4.0 International (CC-BY)
 - Most open (and least confusing) license outside of CC0 (Public Domain), only requires an attribution to the original creator
 - Allows for derivative works (new editions, remixes, accessible versions, etc.)
 - Allows for commercial use

Created content will be shared by **links** to all content that is accessible on the Web through the Final Report.

We may ask you to or facilitate putting these links into a partner site, such as CNX, MERLOT, or a USG-provided solution (to be determined) for the Final Report.

Platforms and Hosting Page:

[http://www.affordablelearninggeorgia.org
/open_resources/platforms](http://www.affordablelearninggeorgia.org/open_resources/platforms)

Digital Repositories

Some USG institutions have preservation and access-centered digital repositories (often using DSpace or Bepress Commons). You can host files (.doc, .pdf, etc.) in a digital repository and get a permanent link to the work. This is a **great** way to host your materials.

OpenStax CNX

OpenStax CNX is a web-based hosting platform for OER.

An update will soon enable authors to edit their works in CNX without code/markup, and will allow others to create derivative works through the site.

OER Commons OpenAuthor

OpenAuthor is a new OER development tool from OER Commons. Upload file size limits are high, and the content editor functions like a blog platform (WYSIWYG).

MERLOT Content Builder

MERLOT is a partner site and a resource that **links** to created works. The MERLOT searchable index does not host files – for your files to be included in MERLOT, they need to be hosted elsewhere with a link, or you can use their **MERLOT Content Builder** for hosting and creation.

MERLOT is a way to make your created works more **discoverable**, and can be used with links to hosted work in CNX, repositories, public SoftChalk works, etc.

Freely-Accessible Content (required)

	Shareable with Students	Freely-Accessible
CNX, MERLOT Content Builder	Yes	Yes
OER Commons OpenAuthor	Yes	Yes
Digital Repositories	Yes	Yes

A link in MERLOT can make these accessible resources more discoverable.

Sharing your **evaluations** with anyone other than your own students is optional:

- Tests and Quizzes
- Paper assignments

Successful sharers of these tests and quizzes often have a vetting system in place to distribute them to faculty only.

Brightspace (D2L) is NOT open

Brightspace D2L is a USG-subscribed Learning Management System (LMS) which allows instructors to share a closed online course with their students.

If you want to make your D2L course freely-available, you will have to present your material in an another platform, perhaps as a “copy” of what you create in D2L.

LibGuides

LibGuides is a resource used by libraries to create organized guides to research easily. LibGuides can also be used to organize a publicly-available course. All USG libraries have access to LibGuides.

For LibGuides assistance and facilitation, contact your library coordinator:

http://www.affordablelearninggeorgia.org/about/champions_coordinators

Campus Websites

Many USG institutions allow faculty to create personal webpages. These are usually freely-available and viewable on nearly every device due to the format. Be sure that your pictures and tables are in an accessible format:

<http://webaim.org/articles/>

Check for sustainability – your campus’ retention policy during a site migration or redesign may change or erase your work. Have a backup copy of your course’s organization elsewhere.

Freely-Accessible Courses

	Shareable with Students	Freely-Accessible
Desire2Learn (Brightspace D2L)	Yes	No
LibGuides	Yes	Yes
Campus Websites	Yes	Yes

For more hosting assistance, contact your
Center for Teaching and Learning:

<http://www.usg.edu/facultyresources/centers/directory>

You can also contact me:

jeff.gallant@usg.edu

To ask the Grantees Listserv:

ALGGRANTEES-L@usg.edu