

Students' Textbook Lending Project

(Formerly Textbook Cache)



Michigan
Technological
University

Recap

This is a way to better re-use and share books amongst the student body to reduce textbook costs.

We collect donated books, and enter in usable ones to the collection.

We are currently in a 1 semester pilot.

This is a student led initiative.

Inter Residence Housing Council (IRHC) and Inter Fraternity Council (IFC) are groups taking over the project for long term support.



How it works

Library 1st floor East wall, textbooks are available to just take off a shelf.

After use, textbooks are to be placed on a collection cart to the right.

IFC will come around daily to log used books, and weekly to check alphabetical ordering and for missing books.

If successful, there will be semesterly book collections, advertising, and cataloging.



What is done

A collection of 335 books at last count has been made available to students in the 1st floor library east wall.

A quick and easy metric for the value of that collection seems to be 1 foot of on shelf books are \$1,000.

IRHC is in the process of taking over the project logistics, and IFC will take on labor.



Next steps

According to the report, we are within our timeline except for distributing promotional materials. The following steps are not yet complete:

1. Promote the textbook cache across the campus community so that students in need of resources know that textbooks are available
2. Interview students about the value of maintaining a textbook cache on campus
3. Assess the use of the textbook cache by considering anecdotal evidence from interviews with students, staff cultural observations, and tallying “circulation” number marks from each book
4. Report out to the Senate Ad Hoc Committee on Textbooks.



Next steps

IRHC is ratifying changes they need in their bylaws to take over, and IFC will take on work as directed by IRHC for this project.

My office has been somewhat taken over by books that need to be entered. These will be used for mentoring a few IRHC students.

Figuring out some way to make loose leaf textbooks work.

Evaluate effectiveness -- we have every reason to believe this project will get more effective with time.

Promotional materials are being finalized.



Budget

In reviewing the original proposal, the recurring budget will likely drop to \$60.00 - \$100.00 for the stamp and tattle tape.

This may be revised upwards later to reflect costs of printing ~200 posters.



Impact

Some students have started taking notice of the available textbooks.

As promotional materials get distributed, and reputation of the project grows we have every reason to believe that its effects will spread.

With greater reputation, we expect a greater number of donated books, furthering the use of this project.

Expect impact to grow over time.

We may eventually garner the attention of larger donors (Oshkosh, Dow) to add to the collection once it proves stable.

Metrics recording practices are in the full report.

