

# Textbook and Course Materials Survey Results

Prepared for Academic Senate  
meeting February 22, 2021

# Why OER? Why now?



Cost of a college education, including tuition, housing, transportation, and textbooks, is difficult or prohibitive for many students



Growing numbers of faculty creating and using OER, statewide and nationally



It's in our College Strategic Vision for Equity



Foothill College Advisory Council has been asking us for our recommendation around textbook costs

Please keep in  
mind!



Course materials are faculty purview. No one is challenging that.



This effort is faculty-driven.

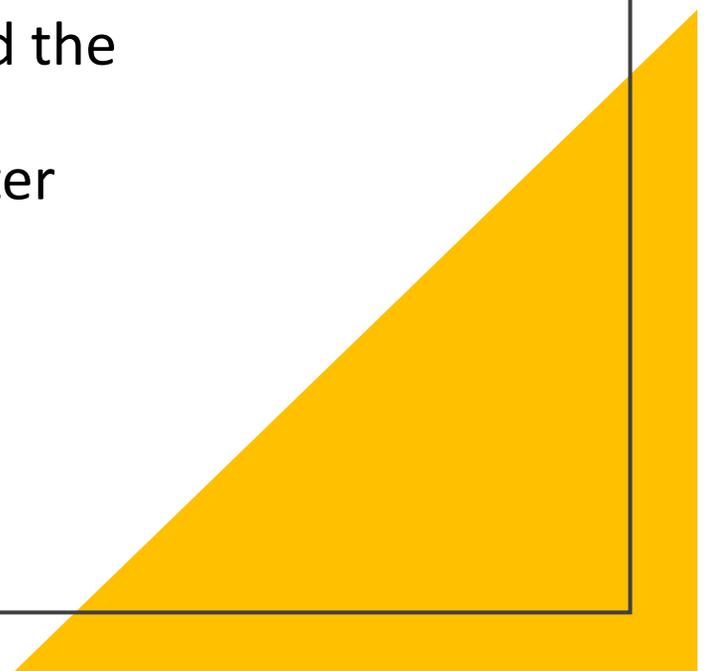


There is no moral value judgement implied

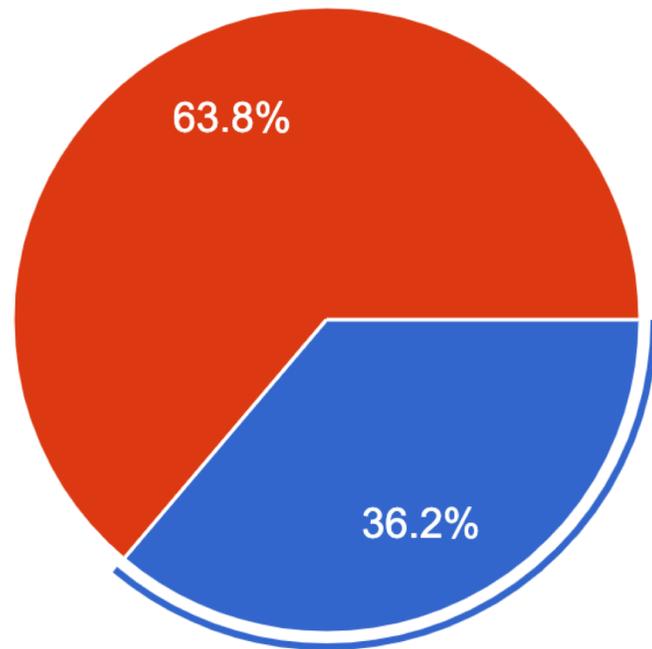
# Survey Instructions:

The Foothill College Academic Senate is interested in better understanding faculty considerations and concerns around the adoption of materials for their courses. Please take a few moments to complete the following survey to help us better understand Foothill faculty needs.

Your responses are completely anonymous.



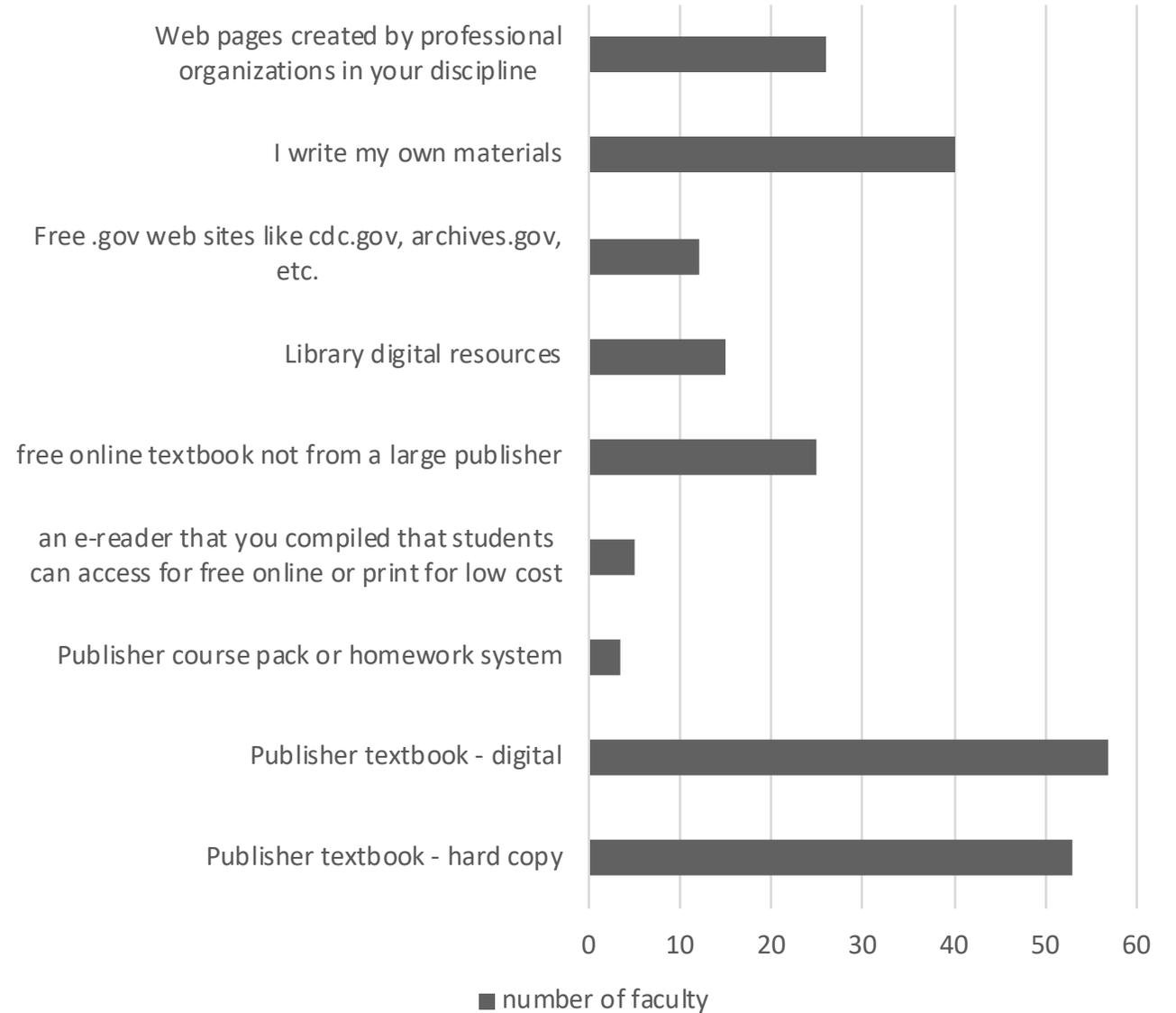
# Which of the following is most true for you?



- I think the cost of the textbooks and other materials for my courses is too high for students
- I think the cost of textbooks and other materials for my course materials is about right for students

N = 94

Please indicate which of the following resources you currently use in your classes (choose all that apply)



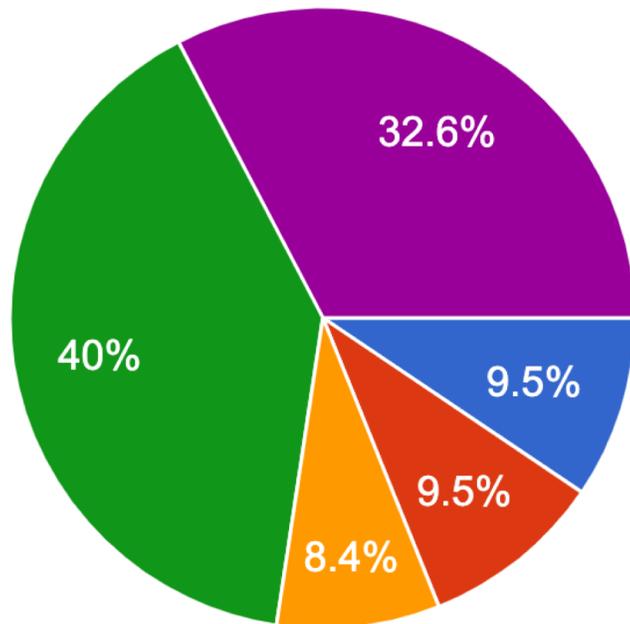
N = 94

Write in  
responses  
re:  
resources  
used

- Reader that isn't free or cheap but limited to assigned reading to reduce cost
- Open Stax
- Subscription content site
- Trade books, not textbooks, from a publisher
- Novels that students can purchase used
- Small, low cost, content-specific books
- E-copies of other textbooks
- Curated blog entries written by professionals in my field
- OER – materials with a Creative Commons license
- educator-created interactive demos and short videos

# How aware are you of Open Educational Resources (OER)?

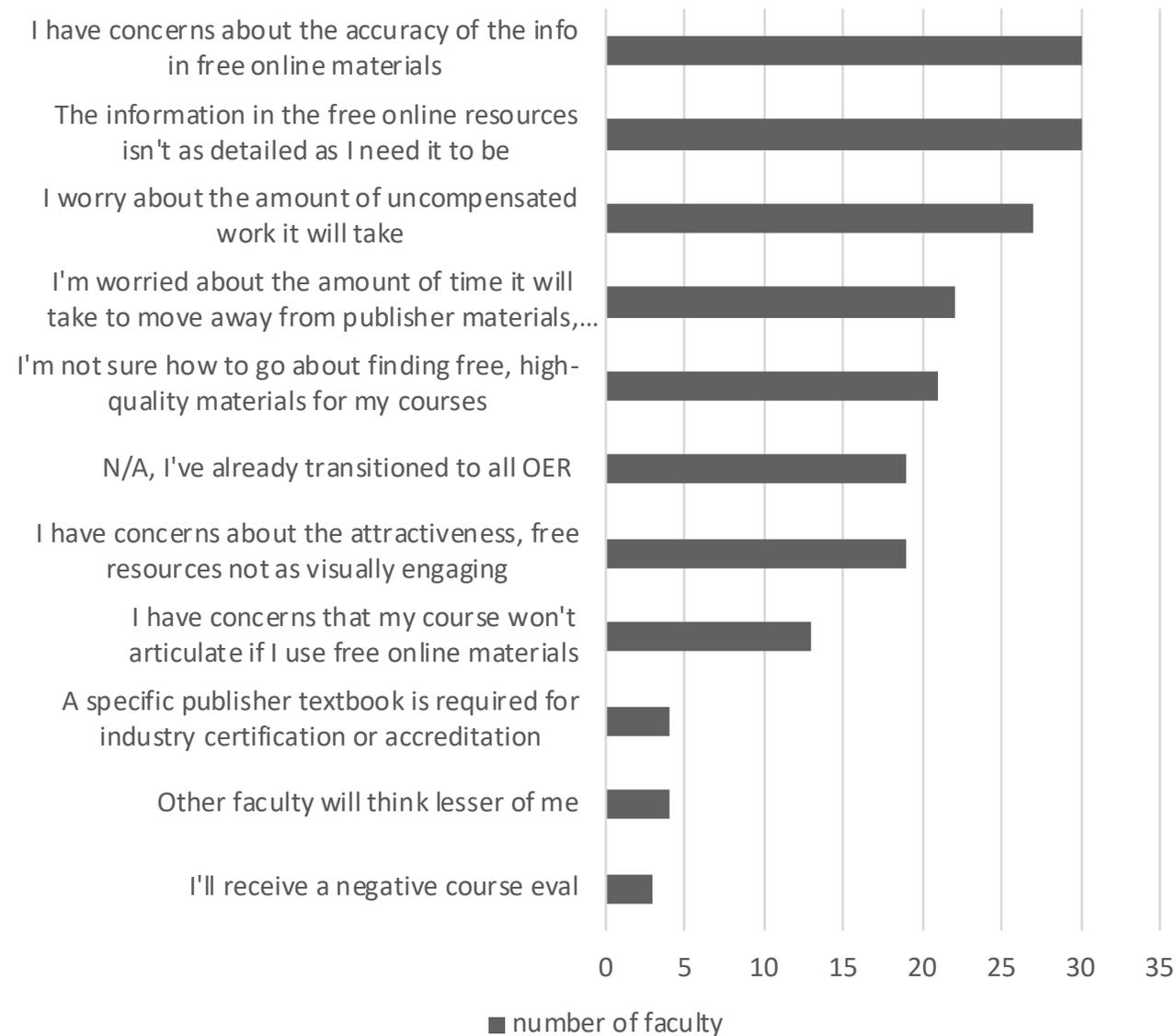
- OER is defined as "teaching, learning, and research resources that reside in the public domain or have been released under an intellectual property license that permits their free use and repurposing by others." Unlike traditionally copyrighted material, these resources are available for "open" use, which means users can edit, modify, customize, and share them.



- I'm not aware of OER
- I've heard of OER but don't know much about them
- I'm somewhat aware of OER but I'm not sure how they can be used
- I'm aware of OER and some of their uses
- I'm very aware of OER and how they can be used in the classroom

N = 94

If you'd like to move towards eliminating materials costs for students in your classes but haven't yet done so, which of these are reasons that are holding you back?



If you'd like to move towards eliminating materials costs for students in your classes but haven't yet done so, which of these are reasons that are holding you back? Write in responses:

- Limited OER for my discipline
- OERs don't cover the material as well (?)
- I believe in some cases it is appropriate to encourage participation in book culture--which includes awareness of supporting artists and writers-- through the purchase of text
- Free translations are inferior for my field of study. Good translations that are academically viable tend to be expensive
- Website course material changes frequently. I am concerned that OER resources will be outdated.
- I believe quality materials are valuable, and I do not understand why there is an attitude that books should be free. An expert spent time to write them, after years of training to become an expert in the first place. Is that person's work worthless?
- Worried about accessibility issues with OER
- OERs don't have equivalent instructor resources



Thoughts?  
Reactions?

---



# Possible next steps

- Some of the barriers were relatively easy to eliminate i.e. not sure how to find OERs. Tackle these first?