

Creative Commons is conducting a study of how textbooks are funded, produced and used at K-12 level. The study is part of a Creative Commons project "Open Educational Resources policy for Europe", which promotes policies for openly available educational content at European and national levels (<http://oerpolicy.eu>).

The goal of the study is to gather information on how textbooks - a key educational resource - are produced, in order to investigate possible ways of making them openly available - and at the same time produced and funded in a sustainable manner. We are particularly interested in digital textbooks that are being introduced in some European countries.

By mapping and comparing these models, we can better understand the context in which open educational policies could be introduced in different countries. The comparison will also provide an opportunity to present recommendations for best textbook procurement models, taking into account the goals of the open education movement.

We would like to analyze the situation in select countries beyond Europe and include these as case studies/points of reference. We are specifically interested in those countries where efforts to utilize digital textbooks or open education resources are already on their way.

The results of the study will be presented in mid-March, during the Open Education Week 2014. All the results of the study, including collected research data, will be made publicly available under a Creative Commons Attribution license.

Further information can be obtained directly from project coordinator, Alek Tarkowski (alek@creativecommons.pl).

Below please find a template we'd like to use to collect information about textbooks in a single country. You can help us with our project by either completing the form (fill out all the answers you are able) and sending it back to us, or by connecting us with people able to provide this information.

Country file template (please answer as many questions as possible, as fully as possible. We will appreciate both direct information and links to useful materials)

Name of the country:

Institution(s) formally responsible for textbook production, certification, or any other form of oversight of their use in the schooling system:

Relevant contact persons in educational institutions (name, institution, email / phone) - we are looking for public officers or experts (business or non-governmental) knowledgeable about how textbooks function in a given country:

Relevant links and webpages (Official sites dealing with the issue of textbooks from a policy perspective; digital textbook platforms or repositories; other relevant public sites with educational resources, etc.):

Relevant texts / studies / reports / analyses:

Research questions:

How are textbooks funded, who pays for textbooks (the school system - at centralized or regional / local level, parents, etc.)? If a country has a federal structure, how does this affect the textbooks system? If needed, please provide separate data for different regions / federated areas.

Is any financial data available about the value of the textbook market, value of public subsidies for textbooks, etc.?

What percentage of the overall national book market is comprised of school textbook publishing?

Who creates, prints and distributes textbooks? What is the role of commercial publishers? How varied is the market, how many different textbooks are available for a given subject and teaching level?

What are the prices of textbooks (or average price) - please provide for comparison an approximate value in Euro or Dollars.

Is there a market for used textbooks? Or do schools keep books and provide used ones to students (if yes, for how many years) ?

How are textbooks certified for use in classrooms? How is the content of textbooks regulated so that it fits within the curriculum?

Who decides about textbook content selection - state, local assemblies, school assemblies or individual teachers? Is approval prescriptive or recommended?

How are textbooks chosen for use in classrooms? (centrally? at a local / regional level? by individual teachers?)

How much freedom does the teacher have to choose textbooks? Is textbook use obligatory as a teaching material?

What is the importance of textbooks in relation to other types of educational materials? Is there a preference for a specific type of educational resource, either defined in official documents or established in practice?

Have digital textbooks been introduced or are being introduced? Is their production / funding / use model the same?

Have there been any significant policy debates around textbooks in the last several years - in particular, digital or open textbooks? If yes, what key actors have been involved (i.e. publishers, teachers, parents) and what was their approach towards the issue - please summarize the debate.

Do the textbooks have any specific copyright status? Who is the owner of the rights to the textbook?

Other comments