

Ryerson's Open Textbook Authoring Guide

Open Educational Resources (OER)

"Open Educational Resources are teaching and learning materials that you may freely use and reuse, without charge. OER often have a Creative Commons or GNU license that state specifically how the material may be used, reused, adapted, and shared." – OER Commons

The 5Rs of Openness

- ❖ **Retain** – the right to make, own, and control copies of the content
- ❖ **Reuse** – the right to use the content in a wide range of ways (e.g., in a class, in a study group, on a website, in a video)
- ❖ **Revise** – the right to adapt, adjust, modify, or alter the content itself (e.g., translate the content into another language)
- ❖ **Remix** – the right to combine the original or revised content with other open content to create something new (e.g., incorporate the content into a mashup)
- ❖ **Redistribute** – the right to share copies of the original content, your revisions, or your remixes with others (e.g., give a copy of the content to a friend)

From "The Access Compromise and the 5th R," David Wiley, [Iterating Toward Openness](https://opencontent.org/blog/archives/3221)
<https://opencontent.org/blog/archives/3221>



Why an Open Textbook Guide?

In the summer of 2016, the Ryerson University Library & Archives (RULA) decided to promote open textbook development at Ryerson by adopting the Pressbooks platform, an open textbook authoring platform used by the BCcampus Open Textbook project.

To provide assistance to members of the Ryerson community interested in using open textbooks, RULA partnered with the Learning & Teaching Office (LTO) to develop a training program. The first step was creating a support tool in Pressbooks to guide Ryerson authors as well as provide an example of the potential of the platform to create textbooks. This tool became the *Ryerson University Open Textbook Authoring Guide*.

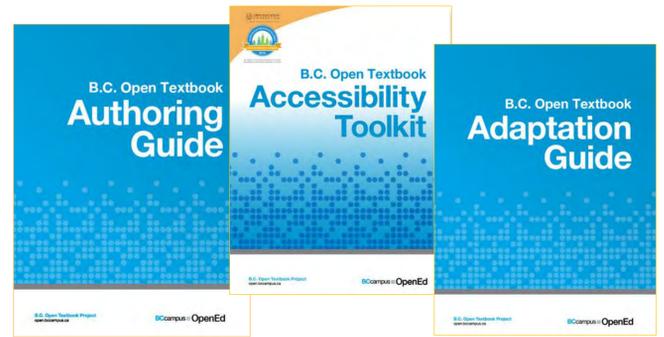
In December 2016, Ryerson University received two grants from eCampus Ontario to support open textbook development. Both projects will use Pressbooks to produce their books. The *Ryerson University Open Textbook Authoring Guide* will act as a reference tool for these pilot projects.



Don't Remake the Wheel: Adapt and Remix

One of the cornerstones of OER development is that the licences should allow users to borrow and adapt as long as they attribute the original source.

Rather than starting from scratch, we adapted our guide from the [B.C. Open Textbook Authoring Guide](#) created by [BCcampus](#). We added some material from two other BCcampus open books, the [BC Open Textbook Adaptation Guide](#) and the [BC Open Textbook Accessibility Toolkit](#). We also added some original content and changed some content to be Ryerson specific as necessary. Like the BCcampus books, we licensed our book with a [CC-BY 4.0](#) license



Book Creation Software



The software used for this project is Pressbooks, a simple book production software which is based on WordPress. Pressbooks can be hosted on pressbooks.com or downloaded and installed locally. At Ryerson, we elected to host our own installation of Pressbooks.
<https://pressbooks.library.ryerson.ca/>

Since the Pressbooks plugin is open source, it can be taken and further modified. BCcampus has done this by adding enhancements for textbook authoring. These enhancements include: a textbook theme, development of a remix ecosystem, creation of textbook functionality, CC licensing options, etc.
<https://github.com/pressbooks/pressbooks/>

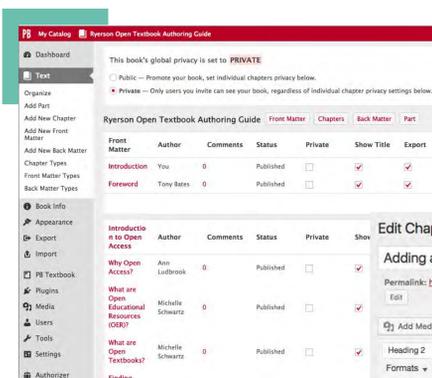
Both software packages are licensed under a GNU General Public License Version 2.0 which allows for modifications.

Who Uses Pressbooks?

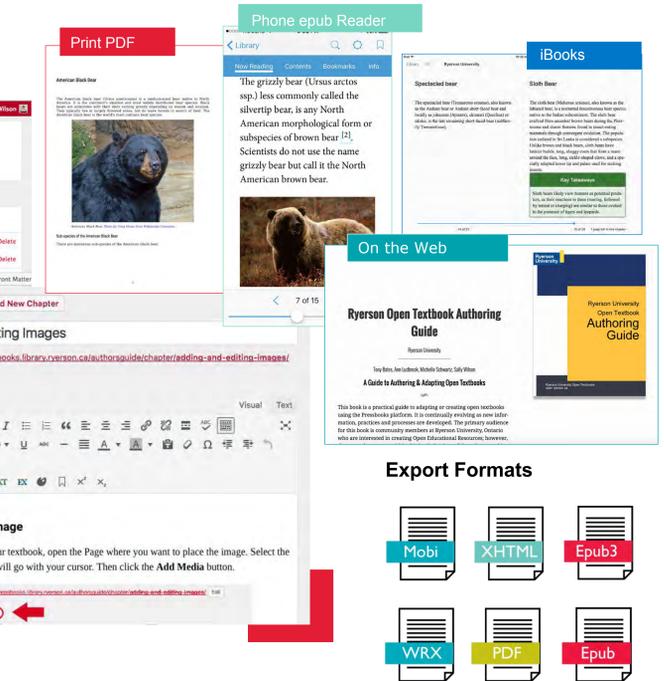
- ❖ BCcampus <https://open.bccampus.ca/find-open-textbooks/>
- ❖ Michigan Publishing, University of Michigan <https://www.publishing.umich.edu/>
- ❖ Tufts School of Medicine <http://medicine.tufts.edu/>
- ❖ University of Minnesota Press <http://www.upress.umn.edu/>
- ❖ University of Saskatchewan <http://openpress.usask.ca/>

Using Pressbooks to Create and Edit

Import

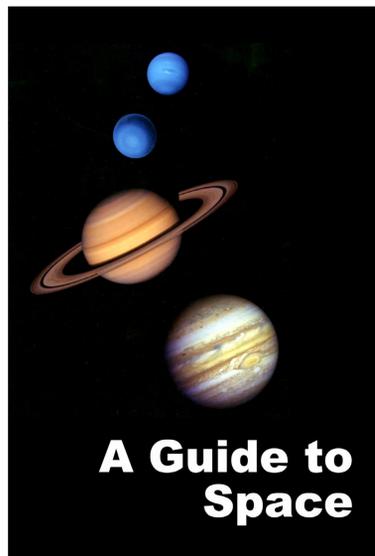
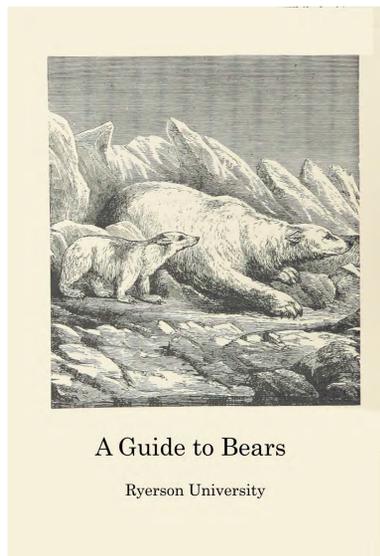


Pressbooks dashboard allows you to organize content by dragging and dropping chapters. Book metadata can be added in the Book Info section. The full-featured editor lets you easily enter and customize your content. The editor has been enhanced to include textbook specific options include boxes for Learning Objectives, Key Terms and Exercises.

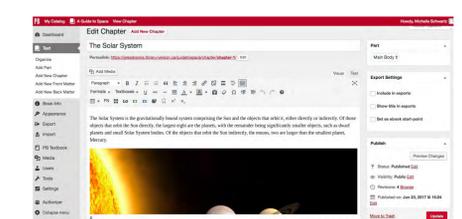
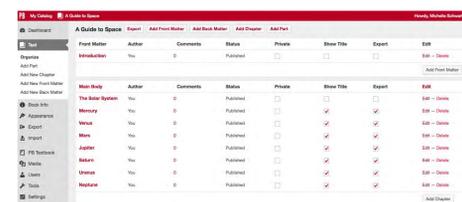


Pressbooks Training

We provide faculty with the opportunity to practice using Pressbooks in a fun, non-intimidating hands-on workshop. Participants are broken up into groups of two or three and assigned chapters from one of two sample textbooks to work on together.



We get participants to practice editing text, uploading images, and embedding animations, tables and links.

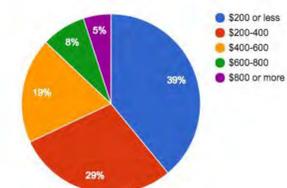


Engaging Faculty with Open Textbooks

To get faculty buy-in, we approach the topic of open textbooks from both the student perspective (increased access to education) and the faculty perspective (flexibility, customization, improvement in course grades). Some statistics we share in our workshop:

Student Perspective

How much students in Canada say they spend on textbooks
<http://higheredstrategy.com/data-on-textbook-costs/>



Faculty Perspective

Why educators use open course materials
<https://ocw.mit.edu/about/site-statistics/>

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| Improve personal knowledge | 31% |
| Learn new teaching methods | 23% |
| Incorporate OCW into a course | 20% |
| Find reference materials for students | 15% |
| Develop curriculum | 8% |

