FREE & LOW-COST TEXTBOOK RESOURCES

OFF CAMPUS AND ON CAMPUS TIPS

- REQUEST FROM FLI PARTNERSHIP COLLECTION
- CHECK WITH YOUR PROFESSOR
- CHECK WITH YOUR PEERS
- LOOK AT E-RESOURCES
- USE BOOKS IN COURSE RESERVES
- REQUEST SCANS THROUGH THE INTERLIBRARY LOAN (ILL) SERVICE
- USE YOUR LOCAL PUBLIC LIBRARY
- OTHER RESOURCES

columbiaflipartnership@library.columbia.edu
USE THE FLI PARTNERSHIP COLLECTIONS

- Students who identify as a first generation and/or low-income (FLI) Columbia undergraduate students, in a typical semester, can check out textbooks and/or course books from our FLI Partnership Lending Libraries: Barnard’s Library, Milstein (4th floor) and Columbia’s Library, Butler (4th floor).
  - FLI students who wish to check out our books, **must** first sign up through this [online, private form](mailto:).
  - To see if the collections have your course book, you can **search CLIO for “flip library”** (we are currently working on updating this search to “FLI Partnership Library”). This method helps FLI students search for books, but currently all books in our collection are hardcover books.
    - The Butler FLI Partnership is assessing FLI student needs and students may request books through our online form, and may be eligible to receive their items by mail. Since receiving items our [Course and Materials Request Form](mailto:) is not guaranteed, we highly encourage students to look at other options available in this document.

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  - FLI students who wish to check out our books, must first sign up through this online, private form.
  - To see if the collections have your course book, you can search CLIO for “flip library” (we are currently working on updating this search to “FLI Partnership Library”).
  - FLI students who have access to campus, may use a secure pick-up and check-out service to collect their materials. Use clio.columbia.edu for online access or to request a book for pick-up.
CHECK WITH YOUR PROFESSOR

- Students can check in and ask their professor if they have an extra copy of their textbook and/or course book. Although there is no guarantee that they will have an extra copy that they can lend to students, it does not hurt to ask!
- Older textbook editions might be more accessible to students, and you can check in with your professor and ask if an older textbook edition would work.

CHECK WITH YOUR PEERS

- Ask peers if they have taken the course before. They might have an e-book copy they can send to you or a physical copy of the book they can hand down to you.
- Join the Buy/Sell student Facebook groups for Barnard and Columbia. See if any Columbia students are selling low-cost copies of the book(s) you need.
- Reach out to other FLI students for tips. Seek guidance from the creators of the lending library, the Columbia First-generation Low Income Partnership!

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LOOK AT E-RESOURCES

- Please look at the Columbia E-Resources page for information about and links to available electronic resources.
- Currently, some e-resources allow only a limited number of simultaneous users, so you should try again later. If this happens frequently, please fill out the Libraries E-Resource Problem Report Form to report your problem.
- An E-Resource we encourage students to use, outside of Columbia University E-Resources, is Redshelf. Shop for affordable e-books through their website.

BOOKS IN COURSE RESERVES

- Columbia University Libraries provides Course Reserves in order to support instructional requirements for specific courses. Items placed on Course Reserves can be in many formats, including books, journal articles, videorecordings, compact discs, and DVDs.
- In order to assure availability, Course Reserves collections have short loan periods which vary by individual library location. Please check with an individual library to view their Reserve Policies.
- Course Reserves items can be accessed through the Course Reserves search on CLIO, or through CourseWorks.
- To view which books are specifically available to you, please visit the Reserve Lists webpage.

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REQUEST SCANS THROUGH THE INTERLIBRARY LOAN (ILL) SERVICE

- Interlibrary Loan (ILL) enables eligible Columbia University affiliates to borrow material from other libraries or obtain copies of articles or book chapters from titles that are not owned or available at Columbia University Libraries.
- If Columbia Libraries does not have the materials you are looking for, you can request a scan of a chapter of a book or journal article through ILL. For more information, please visit the Interlibrary Loan services webpage to learn more about policies and renewals.
- More information about using other collections is available on our Access to Other Libraries page.

USE YOUR LOCAL PUBLIC LIBRARY

- Check your local public library to see if they might have the materials you are looking for.
- Apply for a NYC Public Library card to access E-Book Central which has thousands of free e-books.
- New York Public Library's Morningside Heights branch is on Broadway & 113, which is the closest one to campus, and offers cards to all New Yorkers. Here are the instructions to apply for a library card.

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OTHER RESOURCES

Please note that the Butler FLI Partnership Library has not reviewed these suggested services.

- Check if the books are available on Google Books or through other online platforms.
- Rent textbooks online rather than buying hard copies. Course materials can be rented through services like Chegg and Amazon Rentals.
- Access Project Gutenberg that has over 59,000 free ebooks.
- Check and see if an audiobook version of your materials is available!
- Trade your books via mail with Bookmooch. You can mail books to others for points which you then use to “buy” books.
- Check for free online textbooks at Bartleby.
- Library Genesis