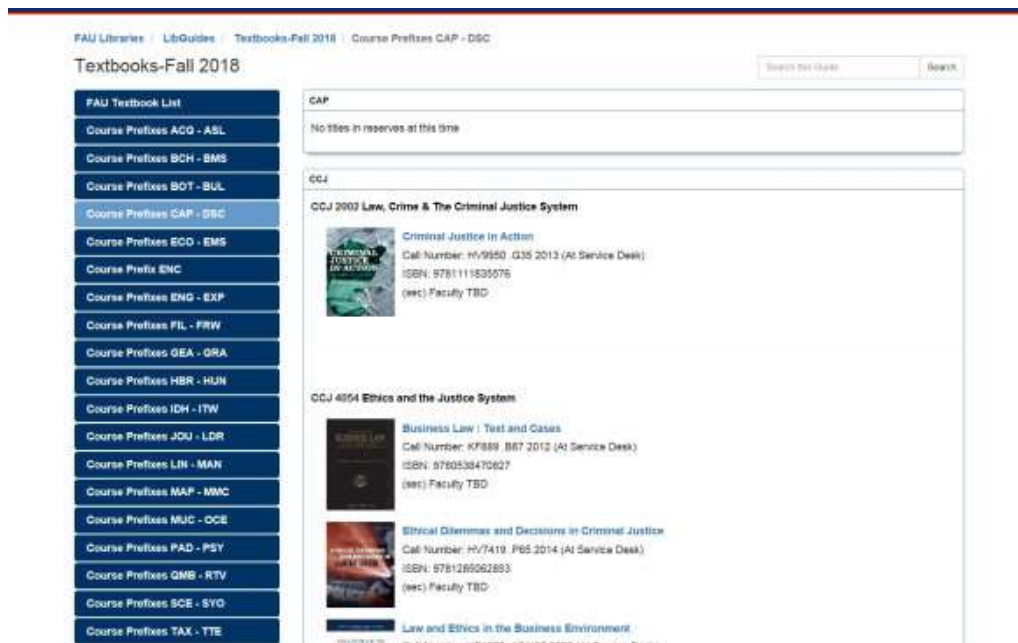


Reducing the Cost of Course Materials

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<https://faulibrarydean.wordpress.com/2018/08/13/reducing-the-cost-of-course-materials/>

Back in May 2018 in a post on [Textbook Affordability](#), I shared information about the costs that FAU students were bearing relating to course materials and how the costs were affecting their academic success. As part of the Libraries' efforts to help reduce the cost of the degree for students, specifically regarding the cost of textbooks and other required course materials, we are working to increase the number of printed textbooks available on Reserve. Because we have no funds for purchasing textbooks, we have been pulling print copies of required textbooks out of our open stacks and placing them on Reserve. We have also received donations or loans of textbooks from faculty to add to this collection. We are hoping that students will also start to donate their used textbooks to the library after they are finished with them in a [Pay It Forward](#) model. In addition to the print collection we are building, library faculty and staff have worked to identify electronic resources that are freely available or that the library already pays for and link those to courses for this fall. A working group has developed a user-friendly tool for checking by instructor or by course what course materials are available through the library, either in print or electronically.



This tool for checking the availability of course materials through the library is called [FAU Textbooks Fall 2018](#) and can also be found on the Libraries' home page at <https://library.fau.edu/>. Right now, it covers only the Boca campus but we hope to expand it over time if it proves useful.

We know that we need to have textbooks available for more courses and we also know that we need more copies of textbooks on Reserve for this to make a difference to more students. There is much more to be done but we hope that this start will provide some relief from the rising cost of textbooks. We will also be continuing to request more funding from the University to buy textbooks, soliciting more donations or loans of personal

copies, working with the Bookstore to help reduce costs, and partnering with the [Center for eLearning](#) to develop more course materials right here at FAU that would be free to FAU students. We are also getting ready to turn on a new collection of electronic textbooks that will soon be available through ProQuest. Let us know how things are working for you and we will strive for continuous improvement across the University to help our students get the course materials they need at the lowest possible cost.