



2022

Open Education Exploration Grant: Leigh Moon

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Ames Library OER Exploration Grant Final Report

Getting Started

When I first started researching OER materials, I was quite overwhelmed. I primarily utilized the search engines and repositories on the Ames Library's OER website. I was surprised by the amount of materials available for financial accounting. Some of the materials (mostly ancillary materials) appeared to be older – published 15 years ago – but many of the resources (such as textbooks) had been published within the last five years. I had a hard time keeping track of the materials that I had already reviewed when switching between search engines. I noticed that a couple previous grant recipients had utilized a spreadsheet to track their materials so I adopted this procedure. By comparing the materials side by side, I could really begin to evaluate the resources. I chose to focus on materials for use in ACC 112, Accounting for Decision Making. This course is the first accounting class for all majors in business, accounting, finance and entrepreneurship. Additionally, students across many other majors take the course. For example, nearly half the students enrolled in ACC 112 in Spring 2022 were majoring in something outside of State Farm Hall. The course focuses on financial accounting, which is the preparation of financial information for users outside the organization. While I have only been at IWU for a year, I know that most instructors rely on a standard textbook from one of the main publishers for this course. Therefore, I started my research by looking for an OER textbook I could use to replace the current textbook.

Textbooks

I identified four OER textbooks (see the attached spreadsheet for details) as a possible replacement for the current textbook. Two of the books are viable options for adoption in ACC 112. The first book, *Principles of Accounting, Volume 1: Financial Accounting*, is available through OpenStax. The book was originally published in 2019 with updates in March 2022. The book is available online, as a PDF and in print. This textbook covers all the topics I include in ACC 112. The authors use real world examples which helps students connect to the material. Exercises and problem sets are available for each chapter, which is important because I believe the students understand the accounting concepts best through practice. I regularly assign exercises. Supplemental materials (PowerPoints and solutions manual) are also available. The one disadvantage of this textbook is that it contains links to third party sites. Sometimes, the link does not take the reader to the intended location because the third party website has changed.

The second book, *Financial Accounting*, is available through Lumen Learning. I could not find a publishing date but the materials appear up to date. An EPUB of the textbook is available but it is inferior to the online version. The online book has interactive exercises embedded

throughout the chapters for students to practice as they read. This book also has a chapter on personal accounting which helps students make a connection to how they already use accounting in their daily lives. Other advantages of this book are the ancillary materials (PowerPoints, discussions, assignments) provided. Disadvantages to this book include a lack of exercises at the end of each chapter and no solutions manual, unless the instructor adopts the course with paid support.

While the other two textbooks did not meet my qualifications for adoption, there are parts of each (e.g. links to various YouTube videos) that could be mixed into my course. I hope to adopt one of the two textbooks discussed above for Fall 2023.

Additionally, I identified an OER textbook that could be utilized to supplement the current or future primary textbook. This textbook, *Beginning Excel 2019*, is available through the Open Textbook Library. The book was originally published in 2017 with updates in 2019. Using Microsoft's Excel is a fundamental skill that all business, finance and accounting majors need before they graduate. At IWU, we do not have a specific course that teaches Excel fundamentals. The anticipation is students will learn Excel throughout various courses. This textbook could be utilized to introduce students to some of the basics of Excel while in ACC 112. For example, students could build and format financial statements in Excel, which flows nicely with the accounting concepts introduced in the course. I would only use the first couple of chapters but the later chapters could be used in other advanced accounting courses to continue to build students' skills. One advantage of the book is it has instructions for both Windows and Mac users. I plan to start using this book in Fall 2022.

Videos

I identified two YouTube channels that could be utilized in my course. The first channel, *Mr. Ford's Class*, has a series of Microsoft Excel tutorial videos. As I discussed earlier, Excel skills are a requirement for any student graduating with a major in State Farm Hall. These videos go from beginner to advanced and are presented in an easy to follow manner. However, there are no practice exercises for students to complete once they learn the material. Therefore, I will utilize these videos in conjunction with the *Beginning Excel 2019* textbook discussed above. Students can watch the tutorials and then complete an assignment to reinforce the material.

The second channel, *Professor Dave Allredge*, is a series of videos explaining various financial accounting concepts. Most of the videos are under five minutes so they can be utilized by students as supplemental materials to any concepts they may have trouble understanding. I will probably provide links to specific videos, but students will be free to utilize any video they may find helpful.

Other Ancillary Materials

In addition to the materials discussed above, I identified several other sources of OER or free resources that can be used in ACC 112 (see attached spreadsheet). Most of these resources are

exercises, case studies and assignments that can be mixed into the course. All of these materials can be implemented rather quickly, and I will be utilizing some of them in Fall 2022. One of the resources, *Financial Accounting Workbook*, is a book of exercises with video solutions. I already utilize this concept in my class in that I assign problems and post the video solutions. This resource will be another avenue for students who want more practice.

Looking Ahead

I am excited to implement the materials I identified through this grant. I have not previously utilized OER materials and have relied heavily on costly textbooks. I had not considered that a free textbook would be available for my course. Looking forward, I am interested in identifying OER materials for other accounting courses I teach. While some accounting courses, such as ACC 112, experience little change in concepts from year to year, other areas of accounting are more susceptible to changes (e.g. new accounting standards, tax law changes, etc.). However, learning about OER has taught me that I need to think less about how everything for a course can be contained in one textbook. I need to think more about how I can combine the best resources for the students at the best cost for them.

Based on the resources I reviewed, it appears that OER movement will continue to grow. I think the biggest problem on furthering OER adoption is the lack of knowledge by instructors about OER materials. A panel discussion by Ames Library in Fall 2021 is where I first learned about OER and how to find resources. The second biggest problem is time. Identifying OER materials for ACC 112 took a significant amount of time. However, I hope that process has made me more attuned to locating and identifying viable OER for all of my courses. While I may not be able to completely eliminate materials with a cost, I will strive to minimize those costs with adoption of OER.

OER Materials Review
Leigh Moon

									OER Evaluation Checklist		
Name	Source	Material Type	Link	Comments	License Type	Course	Pros	Cons	Quality	Appropriate	Technical
Principles of Accounting, Volume 1, Financial Accounting	Open Stax https://openstax.org/details/books/principles-financial-accounting	Textbook (Primary)	https://openstax.org/books/principles-financial-accounting/pages/preface	Includes PowerPoints and an instructor's solutions manual. Available online or as a PDF. Some of the chapters are very long. Web version of the text last updated March 2022 (originally published 2019). Students could order a print copy of the book if they choose.	CC BY NC SA	ACC 112	Graphics in the text are clear, even in the PDF version. Real life examples used throughout the chapter.	Some links to third party websites are no longer valid or don't take the reader to the intended material.	YES	YES	YES
Financial Accounting - Lumen Learning	Lumen Learning	Textbook (Primary)	https://courses.lumenlearning.com/wm-financialaccounting/	Online textbook (including links to supplemental materials such as PowerPoints, assignments, discussions, etc.). Textbook has a chapter on personal accounting and why it's important before introducing financial accounting. Offline version of the textbook is an EPUB, which I could not open because I wasn't able to download an EPUB reader on my IWU computer without administrative access. Some of the chapters have subtopics that I wouldn't cover in ACC 112.	CC BY	ACC 112	The online book has embedded practice questions where students click on the answers and get immediate results. EPUB available offline but considered inferior to online content per the publisher. The supplemental materials could be used for assignments and class discussions.	No answer keys.	YES	YES	YES
Financial Accounting	SUNY OER Services https://oer.suny.edu/	Textbook (Primary)	https://courses.lumenlearning.com/suny-finaccounting/	Online textbook with end of chapter exercises but no answer keys unless the instructor has a paid account. Many of the graphics and embedded practice questions would not load. However, it has links to several YouTube videos that could be utilized with other materials. The PDF version had all graphics and links to the YouTube videos. Interactive questions not included in the PDF.	CC BY	ACC 112	The YouTube videos have potential to be utilized to further students' understanding of various topics.	No answer keys. No additional supplemental materials.	Not much info available about author or peer review process.	YES	Graphics aren't the greatest, but licensed to remix and share.
Principles of Financial Accounting	Open Textbook Library - University of Minnesota	Textbook (Primary)	https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/textbooks/principles-of-financial-accounting	Online textbook (PDF) only. The information is not presented in the order that I would but it can be remixed. The text and examples are clear to understand but the chapters are extremely long. Ancillary materials are available on request from the author (did not request). Book was published in 2017 with no indication that updates have been made. No examples utilizing real world companies	CC BY SA	ACC 112	Graphics are easy to read.	No problem sets in the book.	Says it was peer reviewed before publishing. Cannot view.	No sources cited in text and no learning outcomes identified.	YES

									OER Evaluation Checklist		
Name	Source	Material Type	Link	Comments	License Type	Course	Pros	Cons	Quality	Appropriate	Technical
Beginning Excel 2019	Open Textbook Library - University of Minnesota	Textbook (Secondary)	https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/textbooks/beginning-excel	Textbooks in this library must be in use at multiple higher education institutions, or affiliated with a higher education institution, scholarly society, or professional organization. Book can be viewed online or downloaded. Assessments with data sets appear at the end of each chapter, but no answer keys. Probably would only utilize a couple chapters in ACC 112.	CC BY	ACC 112 ACC 212	Instructions for both Windows and Mac users. Can be used in conjunction with Mr. Ford's Excel videos.	No answer key.	YES	YES	YES
Mr. Ford's Class - Microsoft Excel Tutorial	YouTube	Videos	https://www.youtube.com/c/mrfordsclass	Tutorials on how to utilize Excel. Covers a wide variety of topics - more than I would cover in an accounting class. Using Office 365 to demonstrate. Videos are about 1-2 years old and are still relevant. SoBE needs to start developing students' Excel skills and I use Excel in ACC 112.	YouTube videos	ACC 112	The videos are well laid out and easy to follow. Can choose which videos would be most relevant to students.	Some of the topics are too advanced for my purposes but students should know these before leaving IWU. No practice problems to go along with videos.	High quality videos - will only be sharing links to videos on YouTube	YES	High technical quality - will only be sharing links to videos on YouTube
Prof Alldredge - Survey of Financial Accounting	YouTube	Videos	https://www.youtube.com/c/ProfAlldredge	Videos on various financial accounting concepts. Videos are broken into playlists that can align with chapters of textbook. Could be utilized to breakdown more complex topics for students.	YouTube videos - author requests videos not be altered	ACC 112	Most videos are short - under 5 minutes.	None	High quality videos - will only be sharing links to videos on YouTube	YES	High technical quality - will only be sharing links to videos on YouTube
Financial Accounting Workbook	https://www.accountingworkbooks.com/	Exercises	https://www.accountingworkbook.com/	Exercises for essentially all chapters of an intro financial accounting book. Could be used for student practice, quizzes, exams, etc.	Not noted.	ACC 112	Each problem comes with a solution video.	No answer key for instructors. Solutions are provided through videos; however, some videos are only available to the YouTube channel subscriber (which is free).	No peer review. The workbook is only a set of exercises.	YES	Author indicates works can be shared or revised most be attributed to him.
Accounting is Analytics	OER Commons https://www.oercommons.org/	Assignments/case studies	https://www.oercommons.org/courses/accounting-is-analytics-teaching-materials-for-introductory-accounting/view#	Small projects utilizing analytics. The website seems to be at the beginning stages. At this point, I'm not sure there is anything I would want to use in ACC 112. I will check back with the website to see if more relevant materials have posted. Solutions and data sets must be requested.	Standard copyright - authors state the materials are free to be used by other instructors in their classrooms.	N/A	Analytics projects utilizing various software - Excel, Google, Power BI and Tableau.	Not sure how I would adapt for ACC 112.	YES	YES	Can only be used for teaching as is in the classroom setting.

									OER Evaluation Checklist		
Name	Source	Material Type	Link	Comments	License Type	Course	Pros	Cons	Quality	Appropriate	Technical
Accounting in the Headlines	https://accountingintheheadlines.com/	Assignments/case studies	https://accountingintheheadlines.com/	This blog is maintained by a professor at Kent State University. She posts articles to be used for mini case studies, along with other assignments she has developed for intro accounting classes. The blog is current and is associated with the Accounting is Analytics website listed above. Some assignments are completed within 20 minutes and other assignments are longer (90+ min). Some solutions may need to be requested from the instructor.	Standard copyright	ACC 112 ACC 212	Quick assignments that give students experience with real world scenarios happening with real companies.	None	YES	YES	Can only be used for teaching as is in the classroom setting.
AICPA - This Way to the CPA - Faculty Resources	AICPA	Assignments/case studies	https://www.thiswayto CPA.com/academicresourcehub/	The AICPA provides a database of academic resources which include case studies and other small projects on a variety of accounting topics. Can choose from beginner to advanced topics. May be able to utilize one of these during the semester to strengthen accounting understanding and technology skills (i.e. Excel). Each activity has different authors. Solutions may not be available.	Not listed - website states the materials are free to be used by instructors in the classroom.	ACC 112 (info for other accting classes too)	Allows students to practice accounting concepts in a real world scenario.	None. Some of the materials are older.	Varies.	YES	Cannot remix. Must use as is in the classroom setting.
Depreciation Exercise	SERC - Carleton College https://serc.carleton.edu/index.html	In-class activity	https://serc.carleton.edu/sp/library/cpr/examples/48554.html	Activity to calculate depreciation utilizing different methods.	CC BY SA NC	ACC 112	In class practice to deepen understanding of depreciation.	None	No peer review. Single exercise.	YES	YES
Inventory Costing Methods	SERC - Carleton College https://serc.carleton.edu/index.html	In-class activity	https://serc.carleton.edu/sp/library/coached_problems/examples/48520.html	Activity to calculate ending inventory and cost of goods sold utilizing different inventory methods.	CC BY SA NC	ACC 112	In class practice to deepen understanding of inventory methods.	None	No peer review. Single exercise.	YES	YES

Note: Utilized the OER Evaluation Checklist (https://guides.library.illinois.edu/ld.php?content_id=9830689) to evaluate the quality, appropriateness and technical aspects of the materials.