

Open Educational Resources

the high cost of textbooks

The increasingly detrimental cost of educational content must be addressed. (20mm)

- One in four students fails to complete postsecondary education; and among those students, 60% cite the cost of “textbooks and fees beyond tuition” as a factor in their decision to withdraw.
- Between 1986 and 2004 textbook prices rose 186% in the United States, double the rate of inflation.
- Five conglomerates control 80% of textbook production in the U.S.
- It is so bad that at community colleges, textbooks comprise up to 75% of the total cost of school for students.

<http://20mm.org/infographic-open-source-impact.html>

- The typical California college undergrad will spend more than \$1,600 on textbooks (2 semesters)
- The Bureau of State Audits completed an audit in 2008 concerning the affordability of colleges textbooks and concluded that increases in textbook prices have significantly outpaced median household income.

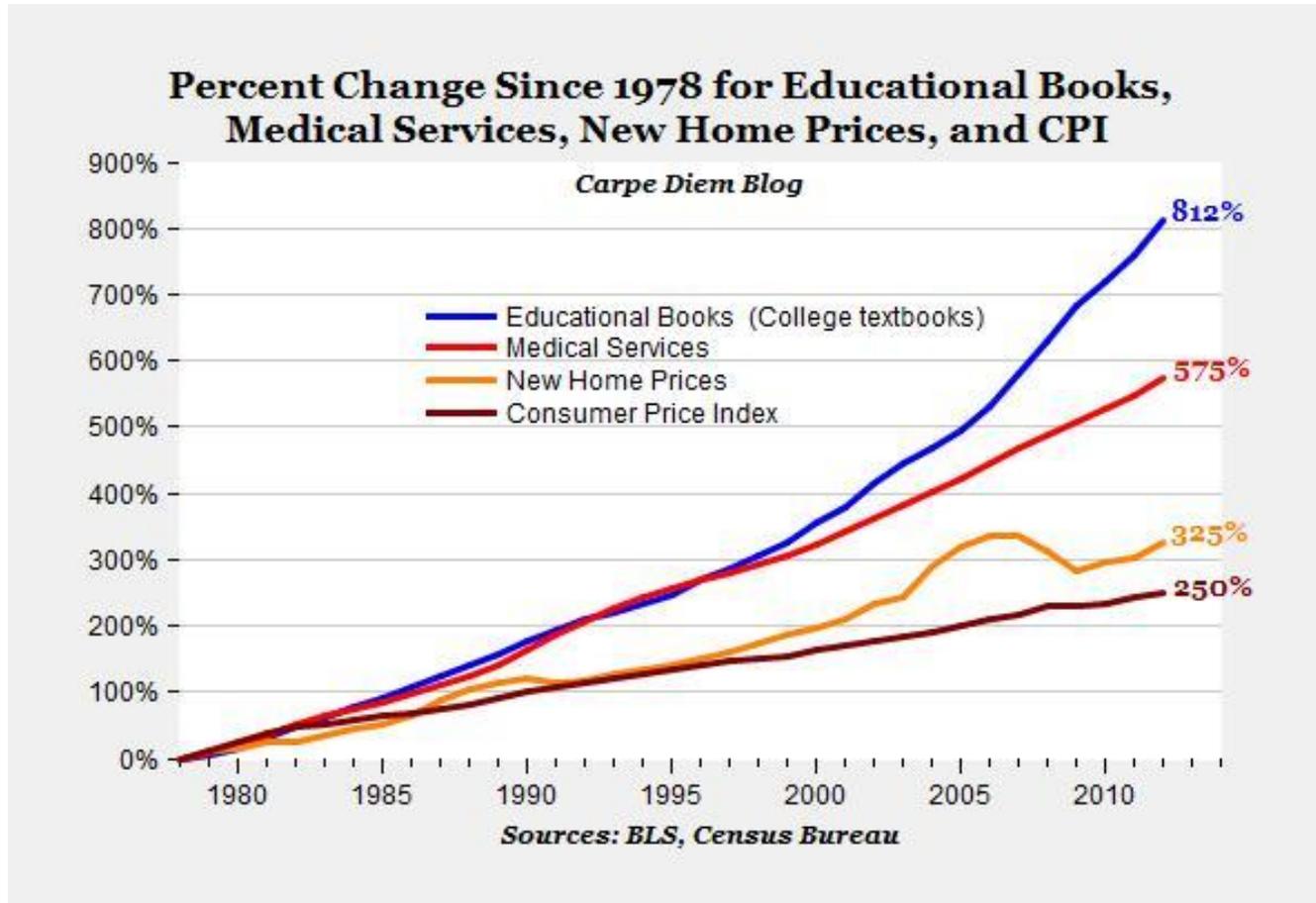
<http://www.bsa.ca.gov/pdfs/reports/2008-701.pdf>

“Textbook prices have increased at a rate significantly outpacing that of the median household income, and the financial burden imposed on students because of these rising prices, combined with escalating student fees, increase the likelihood that some students will forgo or delay pursuing a postsecondary education.”

The increase in the publishers' invoice prices, or the prices that publishers charge retailers, is driving the rise in campus bookstores' retail prices, which leads to increasing textbook costs for students. Another factor inflating the cost of textbooks are the markups that campus bookstores add to the prices of the textbooks they buy from publishers.

Mark Perry from the American Enterprise Institute

<http://goo.gl/PB6ai>



So, what can we do?

What about OER?

What is Open Source, Open Educational Resources and the Open Source Initiative?

“Generically, open source refers to a program in which the source code is available to the general public for use and/or modification from its original design free of charge, i.e., open. Open source code is typically created as a collaborative effort in which programmers improve upon the code and share the changes within the community. Open source sprouted in the technological community as a response to proprietary software owned by corporations” <http://www.opensource.org/about>

Solutions

The governor signed:

- SB 1052 (would create a faculty run council called the California Open Education Resources Council to select and develop a library of free digital textbooks)
- SB1053 (would create an open source library to house the digital textbooks)

At Peralta:

- Many possibilities including the use of a Web 2.0 platform, for example Connexions <http://cnx.org>
- <http://eberkeley.org/resources/>
- <http://web.peralta.edu/or/>

Opening Up Education, by Toru Iiyoshi and
M. S. Vijay Kumar / The MIT Press, 2008

“Today, a confluence of events is creating the perfect storm for significantly advancing education. With a growing inventory of openly available educational tools and resources, and with an increasingly engaged and connected community, transformative opportunities for education abound. We see a proliferation of new initiatives, many with the potential to radically change the ecology and the economics of education.

However, to date, many innovative educational endeavors still remain in isolated and closed domains, rarely shared across classrooms, disciplines, or institutions. Thus, educators find it difficult to advance their pedagogical practice and knowledge as a community.”