

# OPER INNOVATION AND EXPANSION WITH VIVA

Anne Osterman, VIVA Director

Genya O'Gara, VIVA Deputy Director

October 25, 2021



# WHAT IS VIVA?

- VIVA is the consortium of 71 academic libraries within the Commonwealth of Virginia.
- For more than 25 years, VIVA has created significant cost savings through cooperative purchasing, resource sharing, and open and affordable course content initiatives.



VIVA has demonstrated a cost avoidance of over  
**\$1,000,000,000**  
through group purchases  
since it began in 1994.



# VIVA'S SHARED COLLECTIONS

- VIVA provides shared access to high quality academic resources, leveling the academic playing field for Virginia's students.

**170**  
databases

**44,000**  
e-journals



**132,000**  
videos

**400,000**  
e-books

# VIVA'S OPEN AND AFFORDABLE COURSE CONTENT PROGRAM

- Following a 2016-2017 pilot of the Open Textbook Network, in 2018, the Virginia General Assembly awarded \$600,000 in annual funding to support a new Open and Affordable Course Content Program through VIVA.
- This program promotes OER in the interest of both student savings AND student success.



# VIRGINIA COURSE MATERIALS SURVEY

- VIVA's Virginia Course Materials Survey opened on Friday, October 1<sup>st</sup> and will close on Tuesday, November 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Overarching research questions:
  - What is the impact of course material costs on educational equity among Virginia students?
  - What course content materials do students find to be most beneficial to their learning?
- At this time, 43 VIVA institutions have signed up to participate by distributing surveys to a 20% random sample of their students or minimum of 100 students.



# EARLY SURVEY RESULTS

- 1,955 student responses from 27 different institutions have been received to date.
- Initial results include:
  - **17%** are “**Extremely Worried**” about meeting their course material costs for this semester.
  - **39%** have **taken fewer courses** and **32%** have **earned a poor grade** because of the cost of required course materials.
  - **16%** based their **choice of a major** and **34%** their **choice of an institution** at least in part on the cost of course materials.



# EARLY SURVEY RESULTS

The cost of materials has divided the student base into two separate economic standings.

I changed my bachelor's major to something that required less expensive and more accessible materials.

It has made it extremely hard to keep up in class because of my inability to pay for the textbooks.

I live paycheck to paycheck. I have no money left over for extra costs. The cost of books doesn't work into my budget.

I wanted to take an accounting course but the cost of the materials was a little extreme, so I chose a course that was less expensive.

# OPEN EDUCATION NETWORK

- An OEN System Membership enables VIVA to train library leaders to hold workshops for faculty and support them in making greater use of openly available educational materials.
- VIVA provides central funding for the \$200 stipends to faculty to review an open textbook.
- The total number of new adoptions through the OEN program in Virginia to date includes 195 open resources, benefiting 30,576 students with an estimated cost avoidance of \$3.6 million.



**Open Education  
Network**



# VIVA OPEN ADVANCING OPEN EDUCATIONAL PRACTICES WORKSHOP SERIES

- Created in partnership with ISKME, this series will successively explore topics in open education, including collaboration, curation, and authoring.
- Sessions will be held on Tuesdays from October 26 to November 16, 2021.
- Faculty, instructional designers, librarians, and others engaged in higher education efforts at VIVA member institutions are invited to participate.



# COURSE MAPPING PROJECT

- This project identifies OER that match with high enrollment courses in Virginia, starting with the Virginia Transfer program.
- Faculty sprint reviews have been completed for Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, English, History, Math & Statistics, Music, Physics, Political Science, and Sociology.
- A Course Mapping Curation Kit is available to help institutions with local tagging.



**Course Mapping Companion Kit**  
*Map Open Educational Resources (OER) to courses at your institution and tag them on VIVA Open to facilitate discovery.*

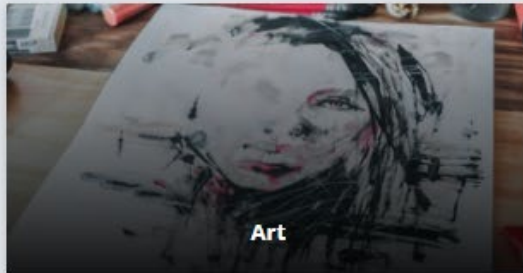
**Goal of the project**

Identification and discovery of OER is a significant barrier for faculty adoption. Mapping OER to courses is a strategy library professionals can adopt to ease the burden on faculty. The Course Mapping Companion Kit provides curation workflow steps that can be adapted to institutional needs. The companion kit also provides instructions on preparing curated OER with course alignment tags for inclusion on VIVA Open, an OER Commons hosted website. By tagging curated, course-aligned OER to VIVA Open, faculty may trace and locate OER suitable for their courses, as well as courses at other Virginia institutions of higher education.



# VCCS Transfer Course Collections

Find curated OER for Virginia Community College System transfer courses.



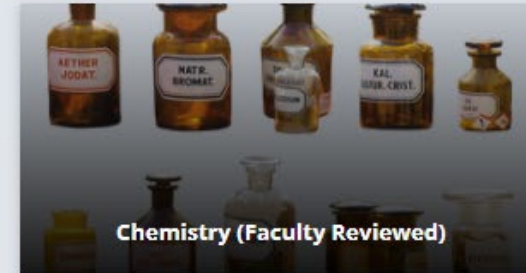
**Art**

49 Resources



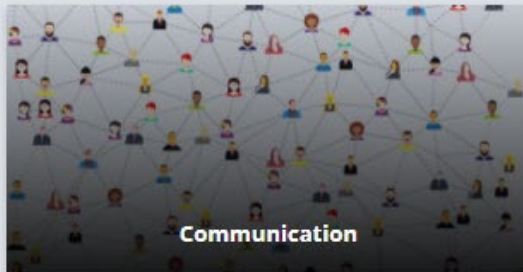
**Biology (Faculty Reviewed)**

28 Resources



**Chemistry (Faculty Reviewed)**

15 Resources



**Communication**

28 Resources



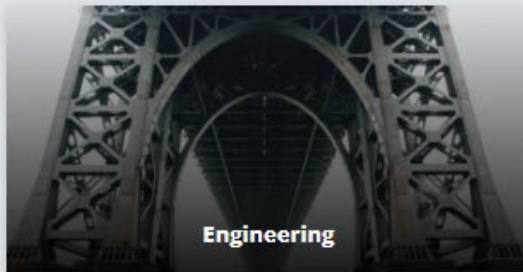
**Economics**

23 Resources



**Computer Science (Faculty Reviewed)**

16 Resources



**Engineering**

4 Resources



**English (Faculty Reviewed)**

63 Resources



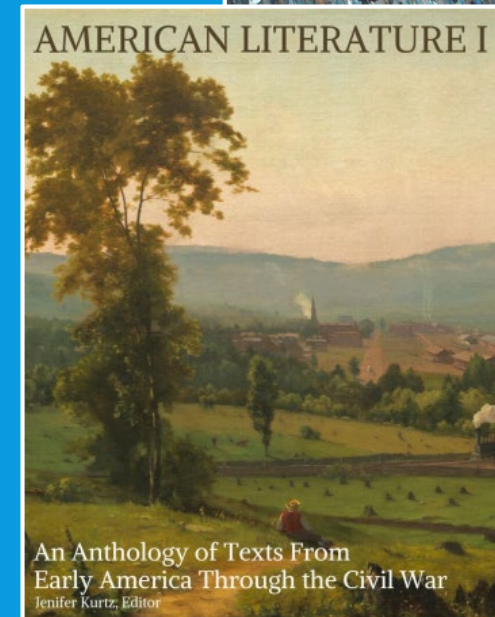
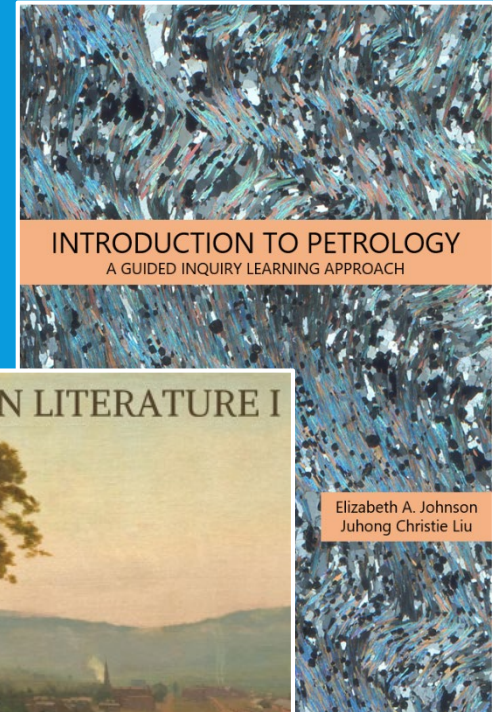
**Foreign Language**

75 Resources

The results of the Course Mapping Project are housed within VIVA Open (<https://vivaopen.oercommons.org/>).

# VIVA OPEN GRANTS

- VIVA provides two grant opportunities that provide funding for instructors to adopt, adapt, and create course content that can be made available to students for no or very little cost.
- **Open Adopt Grants** have a summer/fall cycle and standard awards of \$2,000.
- **Open Course Grants** have a winter/spring cycle and awards that range from \$2,000 to \$30,000.



# GRANTS TO DATE

## Funding Requests

Received over \$2,500,000 in funding requests.

## Awards

Awarded \$748,000 in grants across a variety of disciplines and institutions.

## Cost Avoidance

Estimate at least \$18,000,000 in student cost avoidance over the next five years.

# FUNDED PROJECT EXAMPLES



## Microscopy Textbook for Petrology

Textbook for use in geoscience courses that includes a guide for student learning activities.



## Interactive Differential Equations Text

Text focuses on modeling to demonstrate the utility of equations.



## Introduction to Special Education

Multi-institution creation of a needed introductory text with the support of the VDOE.



## Open Music Theory

Multi-institutional partnership to create a music theory textbook.



## Python Jubilee Project

Adapts available OER into a single resource for an introductory course in Python.

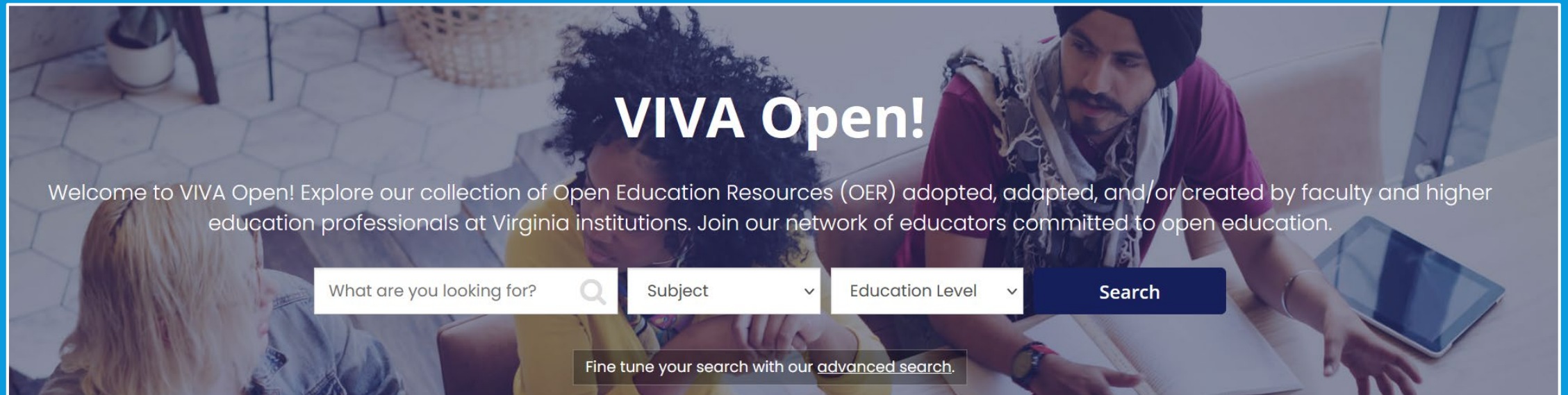


## World Languages Collaboratory

Student-driven OER in French, Spanish, German, and ASL that includes instructor manuals.

# PUBLISHING INFRASTRUCTURE NOW

- VIVA licenses OER Commons, branded as VIVA Open – a place to hold open content.
- VIVA also provides PressBooks, an ebook authoring tool.



**VIVA Open!**

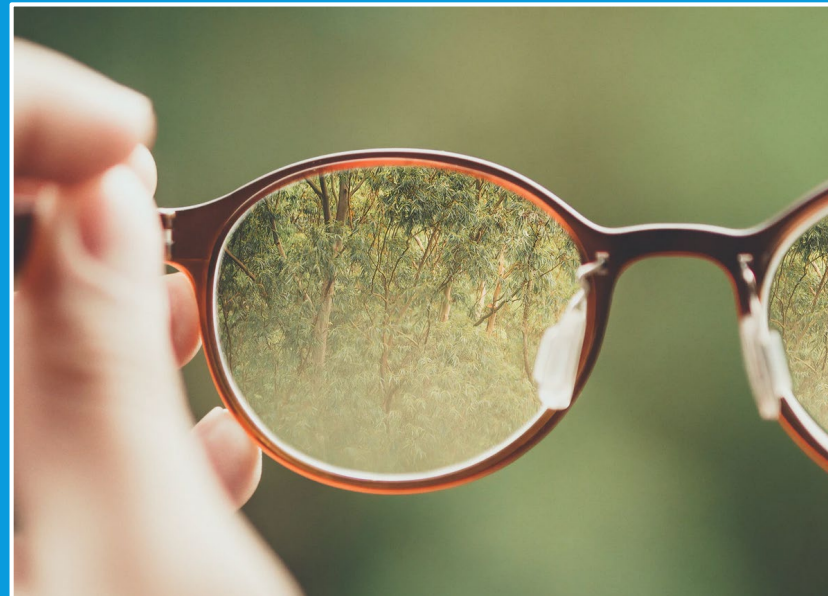
Welcome to VIVA Open! Explore our collection of Open Education Resources (OER) adopted, adapted, and/or created by faculty and higher education professionals at Virginia institutions. Join our network of educators committed to open education.

What are you looking for?   Subject   Education Level

Fine tune your search with our [advanced search.](#)

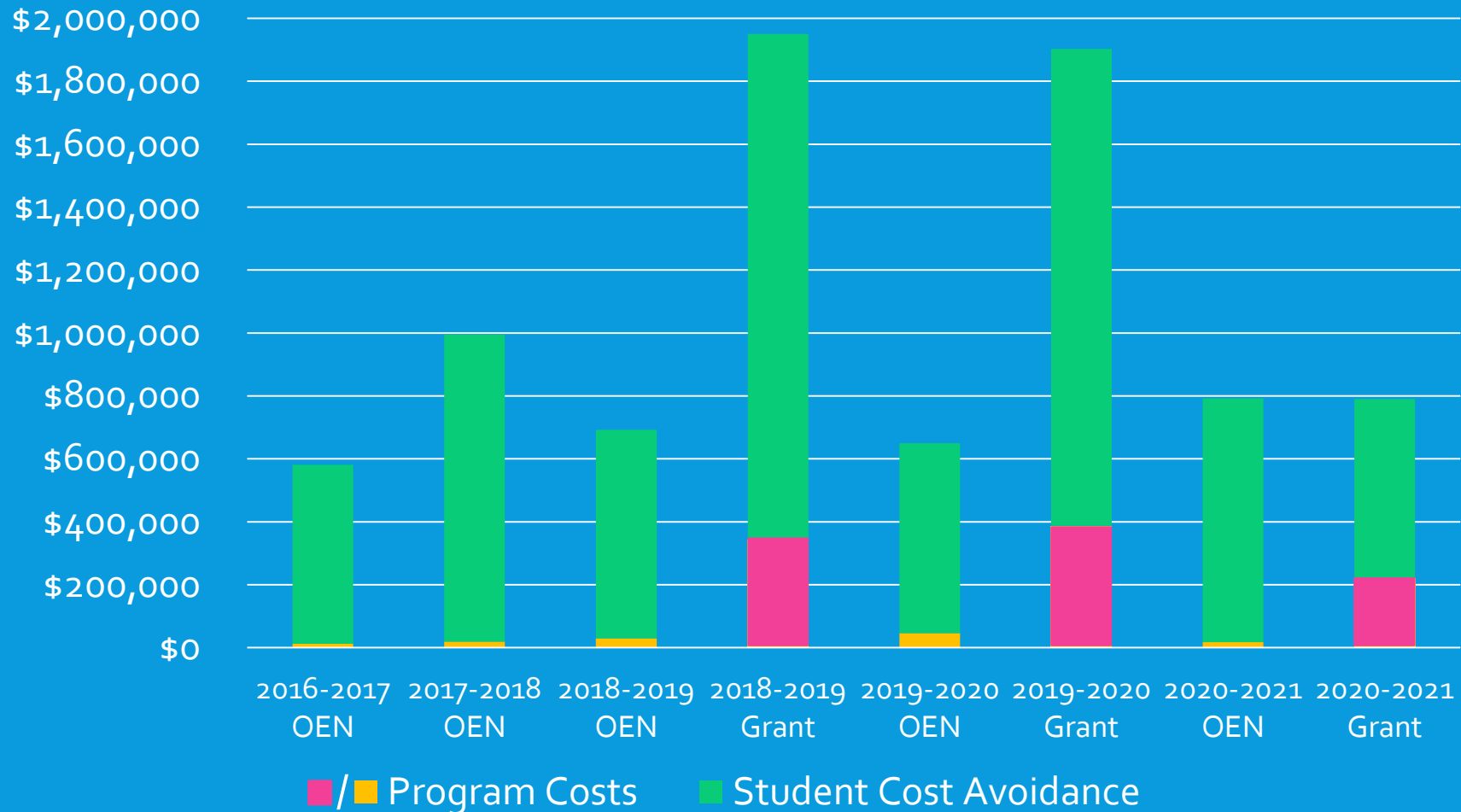
# PUBLISHING INFRASTRUCTURE PLANS

- We are exploring ways to provide a publishing infrastructure that would allow instructors to focus on the content creation while moving the instructional design, accessibility review, technical support, and book publishing work to VIVA.
- This includes consideration of rapid content development services to get books to students faster.





# RETURN ON INVESTMENT



# THE BIG PICTURE

- The parts of the program are interconnected and support organic growth.
- Purchased library content is also important to VIVA's program, as there is not OER available for all subjects and levels.
- VIVA's program has shown real savings for students now, but also included are initiatives that are setting the stage for broader, structural change.





"I think the fact that it is free and accessible online is phenomenal!"

– Student using a VIVA Open Grant textbook.

We know this program is making a difference right now for students and faculty, but we also know that we can do so much more.

