

# LIBRARY LINKS

A LINK TO LIFELONG LEARNING

EDITION 7 VOLUME 3



active learning. active life.

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# Trailblazer Reads

By: Carlie Foutz

Every year, the library hosts a program called “Trailblazer Reads.” Students have the opportunity to check out books that have been read and recommended by students and faculty to receive an entry for the chance to win \$70 towards the purchase of a textbook at the University Bookstore and lunch with the Library Dean. There is sure to be a worthy book for every interest.

<https://utahtech.libguides.com/trailblazer-reads>

There is no limit to the number of entries a student can have; to enter, you simply return a “Trailblazer Reads” slip to the circulation desk after you return a book. If a book has been selected for the Trailblazer Reads program, it will have the slip somewhere inside the book. Drawings take place in the Spring semester, but students can submit entries all year long and are highly encouraged to do so!

This current Spring semester, staff will choose one winner from 37 entries. This program continues to grow in popularity and relevance as the need for expensive textbooks is one that will not go away any time soon. Let’s get to reading!

# Library Free Resources

By: Carlie Foutz

The Utah Tech Library is full of free resources available to all students at any time. Let's look at a few!

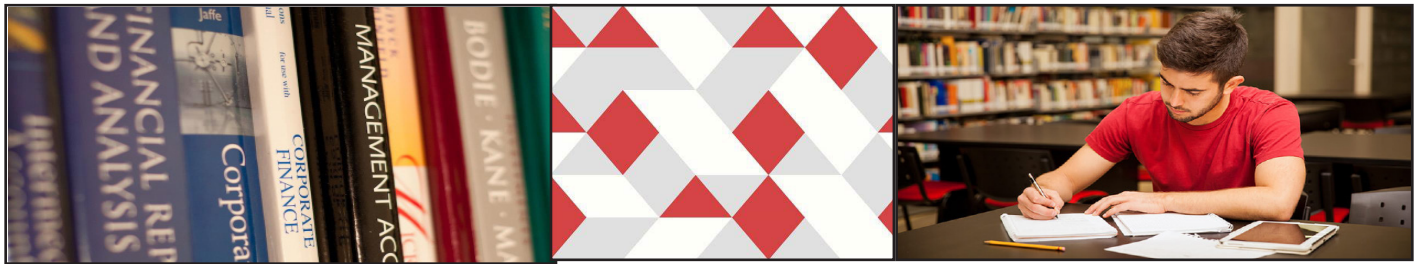
- Posters/Maps—
- Microfilm: Historical newspapers dating back to 1800's—
- Study Rooms—
- Inter-library loan of periodicals and books—
- Resources to help learn modern languages—
- Ebooks—
- Articles—
- Historical things in the Archives—

For questions about what may be available, you can call the Library. Students are welcome to visit in person to explore all it has to offer! The library can also be reached by phone or chat.

Not a student? No problem! Residents of Washington County can still use the library to check out materials if they purchase a community patron card. Also, any person who comes to the library can receive a guest login at the IT Desk and use any of our databases on the public computers located by the Circulation Desk for up to two hours for free.

# Unlocking the Potential of Open Educational Resources [OER]

Open Educational Resources (OER) is a very underutilized resource Utah Tech University offers. With the increasing costs of traditional textbooks, educators are encouraged to adopt OER. This program provides free and open textbooks, lesson plans, tests, quizzes, and activities to replace expensive course materials. These open-license textbooks can be shared, edited, and copied as often as needed, giving our faculty members more freedom in course design. OER can be challenging and time-consuming to adopt. However, Emma Lanners can help teachers adopt and transition to OER.



Utah Tech University has seen great success with implementing OER. For example, a biology lab eliminated a \$50 lab manual cost by creating its own manual using OER. As a result, they could redesign the course and restructure their assignments to coincide perfectly with the material from the textbook. This resulted in an increasing amount of students receiving A grades. Another success story is the Accounting department, which eliminated the cost of a \$100 textbook by using a free textbook on OpenStax. Additionally, the nursing department is working on creating its own OER textbook to eliminate the cost of a traditional textbook.

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The introduction of OER to Utah Tech University in 2020 makes this program relatively new. Expanding this program lies with professors, but it holds great significance for the students. Utah Tech is recognized as the most affordable university in Utah, and if the professors embrace OER, it will eliminate the extra expenses associated with courses. Several professors tend to mandate the purchase of textbooks, which may lead to students' complaints of only having to use them sparingly. This situation can be particularly vexing, especially when textbooks can cost hundreds of dollars.

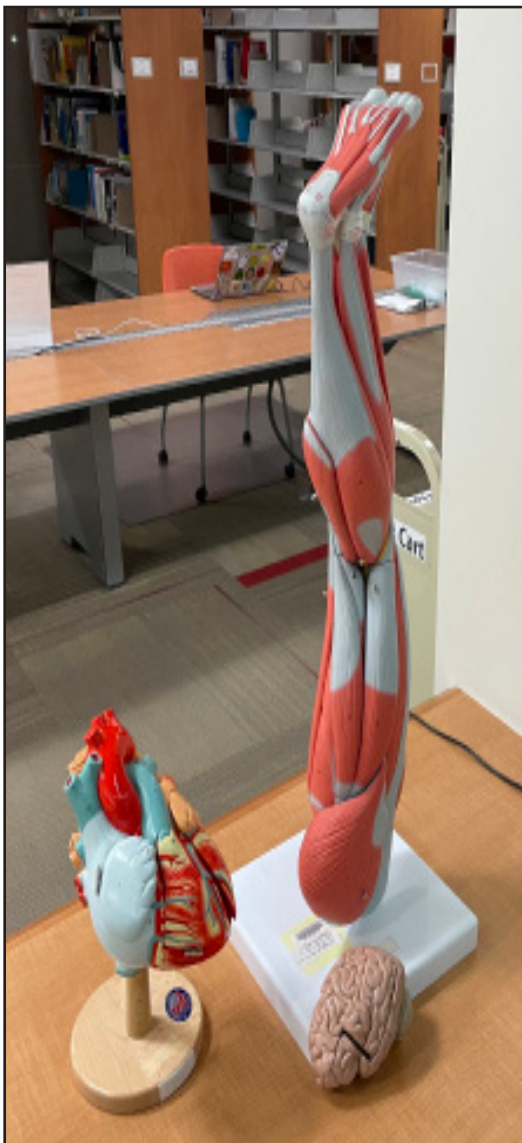
By adopting OER, professors are reducing the financial barriers for students and increasing the flexibility and customization of courses. With OER, faculty members can create and update course content relevant to their students, resulting in better engagement, retention, and success rates. OER resources are accessible through [oer.utahtech.edu](http://oer.utahtech.edu). Implementing OER will help to reduce financial barriers for our students and increase student success.

Reach out to Emma Lanners at [Emma.Lanners@utahtech.edu](mailto:Emma.Lanners@utahtech.edu) with any further questions.

By: Jagger Bell

# Anatomy Models and other Course Reserves

By: Rebecca Ostler



There are some hidden gems that the library at Utah Tech has to offer! The library offers an array of course reserves and anatomy models that can be checked out for limited use at the library. They have multiple anatomy models of things like the arm, the brain, the sinus and the heart. Since Anatomy classes use models to test your knowledge, it is incredibly beneficial to come to the library and spend about an hour every week going over the models. Bring a classmate with you and help each other by quizzing your knowledge on the models. You can even take photos or videos to take home with you for some extra study time. Different course reserve materials they have available are things like class textbooks, past class exams, or study diagrams. All these items can be checked out at the circulation desk for 1-3 hours at time.

# Tutoring & Writing Help is Free

The library offers exclusive one-on-one tutoring and writing help with experienced students for free! The Writing Center's mission is to create better writers, not just better papers. The tutors can help students with outlining ideas, checking papers for mechanical and formatting errors, and understanding their paper's purpose. The Academic Performance Center helps students by increasing the knowledge of their coursework and supplies them with important skills to help them excel in managing their schoolwork. They offer a wide variety of subjects ranging from biology, to Spanish, to economics. The tutors take a very hands on approach to help students succeed and are even required to take a tutor training course so they are better equipped to helping students succeed. Students who attend tutoring have been shown to receive higher grades than those who don't seek tutoring. Students can visit the APC even if they don't think they need tutoring, the study hall has plenty of space available to do schoolwork. In this case, the students are able to have a tutor on hand if they find themselves needing some assistance while doing their work.

Need help with understanding concepts for an upcoming class quiz, and would like to schedule tutoring? To schedule an appointment for the Writing Center or tutoring, go to the Navigate app. Click on the "Appointments" icon and select the blue "Make an Appointment" bar. Choose Tutoring and Writing Help. Pick a service under the Academic Performance Center options. It is located on the 4th floor of the Holland Building.

By: Rebecca Ostler



# **CREDITS**

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