



National Association  
of College Stores

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National Association of College Stores  
500 E. Lorain St.  
Oberlin, OH 44074

Phone: (440) 775-7777 • Fax: (440) 775-4769 • [www.nacs.org](http://www.nacs.org)

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# NACS Position: Open Educational Resources (Open Access Course Materials)

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The National Association of College Stores (NACS) supports the expansion of research, development, use, and evaluation of Open Educational Resources (OER), including open access course materials that may be combined with, or supplement, copyrighted course materials. This position is consistent with that of the Association of College and Research Libraries, EDUCAUSE, and the U.S. Public Interest Research Group (PIRG). Open Educational Resources have the potential to expand the knowledge market and contribute to increased affordability of course materials for higher education. NACS believes college stores are well positioned to play an active role in helping with the acquisition of open educational resources on behalf of faculty who choose to use them in the classroom, as well as the multiple-format distribution of such materials to students.

NACS asserts that the utilization of open access course materials (OER) as a course materials affordability initiative, should fully account for all direct and indirect costs and should take into consideration any potential reduction of college store revenue that may otherwise be used by an institution to fund financial aid, student life activities, or other necessary campus functions. Furthermore, Open Educational Resource initiatives should recognize that economic barriers, limited technical aptitude, restricted access, various disabilities, and differences in learning styles, among other reasons will prevent many students from being able to access, use, or fully benefit from digitally formatted and Internet-only accessible content. Open Educational Resources should only be considered after careful and complete evaluation, and full analysis of the intended classroom use. NACS believes the evaluative process, by any institution, should include representation by the college store as subject matter experts in the course materials area.

NACS further emphasizes that the private and non-profit sectors are best positioned to fund, create, and sustain the development and deployment of Open Educational Resources. Such development and deployment should include a commercial component in order to equitably recover costs, establish a sustainable model for the continued use of open educational resources, and to ensure a competitive and broad marketplace of ideas, information, and choices. The role of government best contributes to supporting research, evaluation, and the dissemination of information related to the use and potential effectiveness of Open Educational Resources.