

Affordable Content in Legal Education

By Connie Lenz. 12 Law Libr. J. 327 (2020).

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Reviewer's Summary:

In this article, Lenz discusses the use of free, open-access, and/or more affordable educational resources in undergraduate education, and suggests that legal educators and law librarians should anticipate that law students will increasingly expect such resources to be incorporated into legal curricula. Since affordable educational materials are most typically provided in digital formats, Lenz acknowledges that their adoption in law courses, for which students read large volumes of dense material that requires deep engagement, presents certain drawbacks, citing studies finding "screen inferiority." She discusses several affordable content options for law schools, including: negotiating "inclusive access" institutional licenses with publishers; seeking or publishing low-cost or open access casebook alternatives (describing several existing affordable casebook resources); and better leveraging content already available in the library (via electronic access, utilizing reserves) or that can be distributed by the institution in course packs. She then discusses benefits and limitations of these approaches.

Summarized by: Meredith Capps, Vanderbilt University Law Library, in 2021.