

# Textbooks: Questions to Consider

When considering a review of your existing textbook or choosing a new one, please consider the following:

1. **Was the textbook you're using inherited from a previous instructor?** If so, have you considered an alternative that may be more appropriate?
2. **Is the author** with appropriate education, experience and well-respected within their field?
3. **Does the textbook offer different perspectives other** than your own, non-Western, Indigenous etc.? Consider a textbook offering diverse perspectives.
4. **Is the current textbook at an appropriate reading level?** Many books for the post-secondary market are written at reading levels 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> year post-secondary education. Contact the Centre for Teaching and Learning Innovation to learn how to find a textbook's reading level.
5. **Does the current edition include recent data** or examples, references to updated legislation, current events, or technology?
6. **Are you using enough of this textbook to justify its purchase?** (i.e., if you are using one or two chapters of a 15-chapter book, you may want to consider other learning materials or work with the publisher to create a custom version of the book with just the chapters you require).
7. If you are teaching a course that relies on references to Canadian laws, research, geography, banking, health care systems, or culture, **are you using a Canadian publication?** If not, is one available?
8. **Do you need a textbook?** Often, alternative resources are a great substitute for a textbook especially web-based interactive resources, open education resources (OERS) etc.
9. Is there an open-source book available? There are currently **nearly 400 open textbooks available through BCcampus.ca** <https://open.bccampus.ca/browse-our-collection/find-open-textbooks/>
10. Does the **library have access to the book or related resources** that may be more suitable for students to access freely as a NIC student?
11. There are some books available only in **e-book format**. Consider how long students have access to an e-book to decide if that is suitable for their learning (access to e-books is typically 6 months, 12 months, or lifetime).
12. If you are using a book that is not available as an e-book, **is there an alternative available in e-book format?** Again, ask the library if there are resources in our database collections that might be more suitable and accessible.
13. **The bookstore may have preferential pricing agreements** in place with commercial publishers. Choosing an appropriate title in their inventory may provide savings for students.