

Open Textbooks Open API Resources

Textbooks

GET /opentextbooks/textbooks

Endpoints

- All textbooks: /opentextbooks/textbooks
- Reviewed textbooks: /opentextbooks/textbooks/reviewed
- In development textbooks: /opentextbooks/textbooks/in_development

Formats

- html
- json
- csv
- rss
- atom

Parameters

- term: search term
- language: limit results to textbooks written in the provided 3-letter ISO-639 language code
- license: limit results to textbooks using the specified license(s). Multiple selections permitted, capitalization sensitive.
 - 'Attribution' (CC BY)
 - 'Attribution-ShareAlike' (CC BY-SA)
 - 'Attribution-NoDerivs' (CC BY-ND)
 - 'Attribution-NonCommercial' (CC BY-NC)
 - 'Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike' (CC BY-NC-SA)
 - 'Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs' (CC BY-NC-ND)
 - 'No Rights Reserved' (CC0)
 - 'Free Documentation License (GNU)'
- format: limit results to textbooks with available links to specified format(s). Multiple selections permitted, capitalization sensitive.
 - 'Hardcopy'
 - 'eBook'
 - 'Online'
 - 'PDF'

- 'Google Doc'
- 'MS Word'
- 'LaTeX'
- 'XML'
- 'ODF'
- order_by: order results by (defaults to publication_date)
 - 'publication_date' (date book added to the Open Textbook Library)
 - 'rating'
 - 'copyright_year'
- page: results are paginated (defaults to page 1)

Returns

- Visible textbook records matching parameters

GET /opentextbooks/textbooks/:id

Formats

- html
- json
- marc

Parameters

None.

Returns

- Textbook record with provided :id

Textbook Subjects

GET /opentextbooks/subjects/:id

Formats

- html
- json
- csv
- rss
- atom

Parameters

- term: search term
- language: limit results to textbooks written in the provided 3-letter ISO-639 language code
- license: limit results to textbooks using the specified license(s). Multiple selections permitted, capitalization sensitive.
 - 'Attribution' (CC BY)
 - 'Attribution-ShareAlike' (CC BY-SA)
 - 'Attribution-NoDerivs' (CC BY-ND)
 - 'Attribution-NonCommercial' (CC BY-NC)
 - 'Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike' (CC BY-NC-SA)
 - 'Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs' (CC BY-NC-ND)
 - 'No Rights Reserved' (CC0)
 - 'Free Documentation License (GNU)'
- format: limit results to textbooks with available links to specified format(s). Multiple selections permitted, capitalization sensitive.
 - 'Hardcopy'
 - 'eBook'
 - 'Online'
 - 'PDF'
 - 'Google Doc'
 - 'MS Word'
 - 'LaTeX'
 - 'XML'
 - 'ODF'
- order_by: order results by (defaults to publication_date)
 - 'publication_date' (date book added to the Open Textbook Library)
 - 'rating'
 - 'copyright_year'
- page: results are paginated (defaults to page 1)

Returns

- Textbook records belonging to the provided subject

Example JSON request

```
https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/textbooks.json?
term=financial+strategy&language=eng&licenses%5B%5D=Attribution&licenses%5B%5D=No+Rights+Reserved&formats%5B%5D=PDF&formats%5B%5D=LaTeX&order_by=copyright_year
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Example JSON textbook record

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    "edition_statement":null,
    "volume":null,
    "copyright_year":2016,
    "ISBN10":null,
    "ISBN13":null,
    "license":"Attribution",
    "language":"eng",
    "description":"Financial Strategy for Public Managers is a new
generation textbook for financial management in the public sector. It
offers a thorough, applied, and concise introduction to the essential
financial concepts and analytical tools that today's effective public
servants need to know. It starts "at the beginning" and assumes no prior
knowledge or experience in financial management. Throughout the text, Kioko
and Marlowe emphasize how financial information can and should inform every
aspect of public sector strategy, from routine procurement decisions to
budget preparation to program design to major new policy initiatives. They
draw upon dozens of real-world examples, cases, and applied problems to
bring that relationship between information and strategy to life. Unlike
other public financial management texts, the authors also integrate
foundational principles across the government, non-profit, and "hybrid/for-
benefit" sectors. Coverage includes basic principles of accounting and
financial reporting, preparing and analyzing financial statements, cost
analysis, and the process and politics of budget preparation. The text also
includes several large case studies appropriate for class discussion and/or
graded assignments.",
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        "primary":true,
        "corporate":false,
        "title":null,
        "first_name":"Sharon",
        "middle_name":null,
        "last_name":"Kioko",
        "location":"University of Washington",
        "background_text":"Sharon N. Kioko is Associate Professor at
the Daniel J. Evans School of Public Policy and Governance at the
University of Washington."
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        "first_name":"Justin",
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    "last_name":"Marlowe",
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Public Finance and Civic Engagement at the Daniel J. Evans School of Public
Policy and Governance at the University of Washington."
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"position":"Visiting Instructor",
"institution_name":"University of South Florida",
"comprehensiveness_rating":4,
"comprehensiveness_review":"Each chapter is impressive and comprehensive. The authors do recognize that the textbook might not be used in itself entirety in any given course because they comment that Chapter 2 and 3 would be appropriate for courses on government accounting, debt management, credit analysis, or non-profit financial management, whereas Chapters 4 and 5 work well for an applied course on public or non-profit budgeting. The textbook seems most appropriate for graduate students but Chapter 1 and Chapter 6 could definitely be incorporate into an undergraduate public financial administration course. There is no index or glossary. ",
"accuracy_rating":4,
"accuracy_review":"I did not notice any inaccuracies; however, there is no reference list anywhere in the textbook (at the end of each chapter or at the end of the textbook). ",
"relevance_rating":5,
"relevance_review":"The text is up-to-date but the data is a few years old but that's to be expected. The text is written in a way that necessary updates will be relatively easy and straightforward to implement because only Chapter 1 would probably need to be updated. ",
"clarity_rating":4,
"clarity_review":"The text is loaded with accounting terms which are in bold but there needs to be an index. I was looking for an undergraduate public administration textbook but this textbook is more appropriate for undergraduate accounting majors who are interested in working in the public sector or public administration graduate students.",
"consistency_rating":4,
"consistency_review":"Each chapter is unique so it's difficult to judge whether there is consistency from one chapter to the next. The one consistency from chapter to chapter is that the authors provide a table of learning objectives. ",
"modularity_rating":3,
"modularity_review":" The text is clearly divided into chapters and sections within each chapter. The chapters are easily and readily divisible into smaller reading sections. The authors, themselves, commented how each chapter might be appropriate for different learners.\nHowever, the Contents page simply states the title of each chapter and there is no Index or Glossary of Key Concepts. There is also no Suggested Websites at the end of each chapter which would be very helpful given some of the data presented. \n\n\n\n",
"organization_rating":4,
"organization_review":"For the most part, the topics are presented in a logical, clear fashion but there were times when the transit from one topic to the next did not seem immediately apparent. ",
"interface_rating":4,
"interface_review":"There do not seem to be any interface issues. The Content page has hyperlinks to the beginning of each chapter. Some graphs were small but they could be enlarged. ",
"grammatical_rating":5,
"grammatical_review":"The only grammatical errors were a few orphan headings (i.e. see page 40). ",
"cultural_rating":5,

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    "cultural_review":"The text is not culturally insensitive or
offensive in any way. ",
    "overall_rating":8,
    "overall_review":"I was looking for an undergraduate public
administration textbook but this textbook is more appropriate for
undergraduate accounting majors who are interested in working in the public
sector or public administration graduate students. That being said,
\nChapter 1 and Chapter 6 could definitely be incorporate into an
undergraduate public financial administration course. ",
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    "position":"Assistant Professor",
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    "comprehensiveness_rating":4,
    "comprehensiveness_review":"As the authors note, this textbook
is suitable for an introduction class on financial management. To this
effect, it is comprehensive. For longer courses or more in-depth classes,
other resources would likely be needed. It would be nice if the authors had
linked to other resource that expand upon the material covered in the text.
As it stands, there is very little direction for students who may be
interested in learning more about the topics covered in the book, outside a
few footnotes dispersed throughout the text. ",
    "accuracy_rating":5,
    "accuracy_review":"I did not notice any major factual errors in
the text. ",
    "relevance_rating":5,
    "relevance_review":"The book does a great job of using
relatively current events to motivate financial strategies and analysis.
Some of these examples may become outdated such as the landslide in
Washington described in Chapter 3. Others such as the example of Ferguson
and its reliance on the police force and financing the government through
fees will remain relevant and timely. Additionally, including examples from
the private industry is useful to students who may be studying public
management but may still be interesting the for-profit or private sectors.
",
    "clarity_rating":4,
    "clarity_review":"The test is written in a readable style.
Financial strategy can be dry but the authors do a great job of motivating
the tools described and study of them by students. The figures and example
financial statements are, as noted elsewhere, small and difficult to read
on a small screen. In particular, the example balance sheets and other
financial documents were blurry at times. Luckily the format is zoomable.
Paper copies of this text may not be very useful though as a result. ",
    "consistency_rating":5,
    "consistency_review":"The book uses two motivating examples,
one non-profit and one governmental, throughout most of the text to
illustrate key concepts. This consistency will be beneficial to students to
see how these types of analysis can apply across both sectors and to one
organization, thoroughly. ",
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    "modularity_rating":5,
    "modularity_review":"Each Chapter can stand on its own as a
thorough introduction to each concept. Chapter 3 stands out as particularly
useful outside of the context of the book as it has two stand-alone case
studies that students can interact with. Other chapters with case studies
would work well as single unit texts in public budgeting classes. These
cases significantly expand the scope and usefulness of the text. ",
    "organization_rating":5,
    "organization_review":"The topics in the text make sense in the
order that they are presented in generally. The flow of the individual
chapters also works well. Each begins with a case motivating the chapter,
proceeds to the definitional issues and techniques in the chapter, and then
provides more concrete examples. ",
    "interface_rating":3,
    "interface_review":"Overall the book is generally well
presented. As noted above, the figures are at times small and hard to read
and would not work in print. The financial statements are also blurry in
many spots, not to the point of not being readable but somewhat
distracting. Additionally, some of the use of color in blocking text and in
the figures could be a barrier to accessibility. It is a very low frills
text in its interface, even compared to other OERs.",
    "grammatical_rating":4,
    "grammatical_review":"I noticed a grammatical error on Page 1
of the Introduction quoted here, "or used a shot of insulin from by Novo
Nordisk". This did not engender confidence in the quality of the text
however I did not notice significant other mistakes similar to this one. ",
    "cultural_rating":5,
    "cultural_review":"The text actually does a really good job of
referring a variety of issues and individuals from various cultural
backgrounds, such as including the budget of Ferguson in discussion or the
use of different mission-driven organizations for the cases. I appreciate
this because it isn't something the authors have to do but they clearly
have paid attention in constructing their examples. ",
    "overall_rating":9,
    "overall_review":"This text exceeded my expectations. It
generally rivals costly budgeting and financial management texts that were
used in my coursework. I would definitely use it in an Intro class for an
MPA or MPP program. I think it could even be used, with some modification,
in an undergraduate course on Financial Management and Budgeting. I don't
mind that it doesn't hold the reader's hand and think this might actually
improve note-taking and comprehension when using the text, especially given
how applied and interactive the topic is. I will probably use some of the
cases and examples in my Intro to Public Administration course when
discussing Financial Strategy and Management. ",
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    "last_name":"Ely",
    "position":"Associate Professor",
    "institution_name":"University of Colorado Denver",
    "comprehensiveness_rating":4,
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"comprehensiveness_review": "The "strategy" focus in the title is narrower than the actual content of the book, which covers everything from public sector revenue sources to financial accounting and budget strategy across six chapters. From the opening sentence, the intentional blurring of sectors is apparent. The broad definition of "public" reflects reality and the dependence of government on nonprofit and for-profit organizations to deliver services and support the public good. The text covers sources of public revenue, financial accounting (statements, analysis, and recording transactions), costs, and public budgeting. In the revenue chapter, the treatment of topics across the complete range of government types is refreshing (for example, including special districts and counties). The authors are very open about what they do not cover in the text. Although the authors suggest they "gloss over government budgeting systems and processes," the budget content delivers the needed basics. While there is no index for the book, the table of contents is suitable when used in conjunction with the ability to search the digital text format. Practice problems and end-of chapter cases for each chapter are a welcome addition and can benefit instructors even if they choose not to exclusively use the textbook for a class. More citations to the primary sources that aided the writing of the textbook would help other instructors build out a comprehensive course and guide students to useful supplementary materials.",

"accuracy_rating": 5,

"accuracy_review": "The content appears accurate and unbiased. The authors convey the technical material in a logical and detailed manner.",

"relevance_rating": 4,

"relevance_review": "The authors achieve their goal of providing content in a fresh manner, but this may require periodic updates of cases and cultural references. The linkage between highly relevant cases and content is compelling, including for example the budgetary source of the much publicized police abuses in Ferguson, MO. The centerpiece case at the end of the book (The Cascadia Hearing School) should retain its relevance and usefulness well beyond the 2015 financial statements used in the case.",

"clarity_rating": 5,

"clarity_review": "The text is clearly written, despite content requiring the introduction of many technical terms.",

"consistency_rating": 5,

"consistency_review": "The text is internally consistent with, for example, the use of standard frameworks to guide the accounting content across multiple chapters.",

"modularity_rating": 5,

"modularity_review": "Instructors can benefit from the modularity of the content, whether it is using specific chapters, cases, call-out boxes, or end-of-chapter questions alongside other resources. In the foreword, the authors highlight the chapters especially relevant to different course offerings.",

"organization_rating": 4,

"organization_review": "The text presents within-chapter content in a logical, clear fashion. Starting with retrospective financial accounting and then moving to prospective budgeting is an unconventional order of content. As is beginning with financial statement overviews before introducing Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, but instructors can

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easily customize the order of content according to their personal
preferences.",
  "interface_rating":4,
  "interface_review":"I only viewed the text as a PDF, but
multiple formats are available. The quality of the financial statement
screenshots is uneven across the text, but all are readable. Some creative
figures (like revenues and spending of cities) are difficult to fully
benefit from due to sizing.",
  "grammatical_rating":4,
  "grammatical_review":"Some minor typos and misspellings
throughout the text, but nothing that undermines the credibility or
accuracy of the content.",
  "cultural_rating":5,
  "cultural_review":"The text is not culturally insensitive or
offensive in any way. In fact, the text does an admirable job of being
inclusive in the presentation of content and cases.",
  "overall_rating":9,
  "overall_review":"Financial Strategy for Public Managers is a
commendable contribution to the public and nonprofit management community.
Given the resource constraints of public organizations and the challenges
of affordable higher education, there is some irony that faculty do not
more frequently use open education resources to teach public financial
management. Whether used as a stand-alone text or with supplemental
chapters and materials, those who teach courses in public budgeting and
finance should become familiar with the text as a valuable teaching
resource. The authors acknowledge the availability of "many fine textbooks
on public financial management," but they add value with this text by
linking the excitement students have for public sector work to the
necessary tools to be effective managers. Opening each chapter with
content-specific questions typically asked by managers reflects the
authors' intent to connect technical skills to informing "actual management
decisions.""",
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  "first_name":"Jennie",
  "last_name":"Mitchell",
  "position":"Emerita Professor",
  "institution_name":"Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College",
  "comprehensiveness_rating":4,
  "comprehensiveness_review":"The text does much more than
provide financial strategy guidance. It dives deep into the most common
transactions in nonprofit accounting. For example, the authors devote an
entire chapter to transaction analysis. The authors explained "in kind"
contribution of volunteer time and did a great job of explaining the
transactions required for pledges receivable that turn into bad debt. The
authors use the same example of organizations throughout the entire text
which helps the students focus.\r\nWhat I did not see was the connection of
the City of Overland Park (OP) example to the actual city located in
Kansas. I think it would be important to make that link since the GFOA has
issued the City of Overland Park a Certificate of Achievement for
Excellence in Financial Reporting every year since 1976. In addition, the
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GFOA presented the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award annual to OP since 1995. \r\nThis text does not have an index or glossary and the TOC was not clickable in the PDF format.",

"accuracy_rating":5,

"accuracy_review":"Content is accurate, error-free, and unbiased, with good use of examples throughout.",

"relevance_rating":5,

"relevance_review":"Content is organized well with good scaffolding for the learner. The comparison of Financial Statement Ratios, Financial Statement Ratios for Profitability, Financial Statement Ratios for Solvency, along with all the "rule of thumb" listings provides great context for the students.\r\nMy only concern is that the examples should probably be updated soon since financial statements show 2015/2016. And there have been a few changes in accounting that will impact the financials (although an addendum could be added to alert students and faculty).",

"clarity_rating":5,

"clarity_review":"The text is clearly written with adequate context and appropriate terminology used throughout. The case, Cascadia Hearing School, is very cleverly written and the assignment for the newly hired employee, Kate Erikson, will encompass the learning outcomes of many of the chapters. I would use this case but slightly modify the assignments for my Financial Management for Nonprofit course.",

"consistency_rating":5,

"consistency_review":"The authors do a good job of a consistent framework starting with questions and learning objectives early in the chapter. I found it easy to follow.",

"modularity_rating":4,

"modularity_review":"My main interest was any sections on non-profits and this textbook included a fairly deep coverage of government organizations. However, I found it was easy to move to a relevant section. The text is divided into six chapters and could easily be incorporated into a financial management course at the master's level with some minor modification.",

"organization_rating":5,

"organization_review":"The topics are organized clear and logically. Some may prefer to move the transaction chapter before the financial statements. I prefer that the financial statements chapter is before the transaction chapter. I also like the comparison tables and thought they added value to the text.",

"interface_rating":4,

"interface_review":"There are several examples that are blurry, distorted, or missing. For example, in the PDF format that I reviewed there were lots of instances of "IMAGE HERE" alerting the reader to the fact that an image is missing and that they could assume the authors didn't include it.",

"grammatical_rating":4,

"grammatical_review":"The text contains minor typos.

\r\n\r\nIs there a reference section for the book?",

"cultural_rating":4,

"cultural_review":"The text is not culturally insensitive or offensive to me. However, I'm not sure using the phrase "They're just not sexy" is appropriate.",

"overall_rating":9,

"overall_review":"Overall, this book will fill a void I've

found in other textbooks. Students who become non-profit directors are \not\ number's people. Most directors are drawn to the nonprofit because of the mission and the people they serve. However, directors need to know and use numbers to help tell the story. This book does not include filing a 990 or how to meet Charity Watchdog requirements, but what it does cover is excellent.",

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"last_name":"Nelson",

"position":"Instructor",

"institution_name":"Dakota County Technical College",

"comprehensiveness_rating":5,

"comprehensiveness_review":"I will be teaching a course on financial management for public and private sectors. Prior to reading this textbook, I had a lack of knowledge in public financial management and this textbook covers the public sector (non-profit and government) very well. It may go into more detail than needed, but I plan to extract key information that will fit well into my course.",

"accuracy_rating":5,

"accuracy_review":"Did not determine any errors in accuracy.",

"relevance_rating":4,

"relevance_review":"Although many of the financial reports are dated, they are still relevant to what I plan to teach in my course.",

"clarity_rating":4,

"clarity_review":"The authors are careful to thoroughly describe all reports used by both nonprofit and governmental organizations.",

"consistency_rating":5,

"consistency_review":"The authors wrote this textbook in a manner I found very easy to follow.",

"modularity_rating":5,

"modularity_review":"Taken in total, this textbook could be used in a masters course on public financial management. I plan to extract key information for my undergraduate course.",

"organization_rating":5,

"organization_review":"I found this textbook to be very straightforward and easy to follow.",

"interface_rating":5,

"interface_review":"I found this textbook to be very navigable and appreciated the spreadsheet reports following each of the descriptions of their content. I see that some reported blurry or missing images. This is true only in the PDF version. I used the EBook version and it was fine.",

"grammatical_rating":5,

"grammatical_review":"Not enough typos to report.",

"cultural_rating":5,

"cultural_review":"Personally I did not find any text offensive.",

"overall_rating":10,

"overall_review":"Great textbook. I look forward to using it

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in my course.",
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strategy-for-public-managers",
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