Module Description

The “Academic Spring” is the latest iteration of a global Open Access (OA) movement that links the spiraling costs of college textbooks and scholarly journals to publishing monopolies that claim ‘ownership’ of faculty research, restrict access to those who can pay, and enjoy exorbitant profit margins in the process.

Critical Questions

What are the costs and benefits of OA?
What are the implications of Open Access:
  For you as a student, citizen, or potential researcher?
  For graduate students, faculty, disciplines, the university?
  For students and scholars in developing nations?
  For human health and development worldwide?
HONORS 399: Spring 2014

Engaging Undergraduates in Open Access: A Critical Information Literacy Module

Examining economic, ethical, legal, political, social contexts shaping the production, distribution, and consumption of scientific research and scholarship.

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**Student Comments**

Cool class! More people need to know about Open Access
Makes the topic of open access and research more interesting than most interpret it.

In five weeks, I have learned so much about open access and academic publishing.

The material is directly relevant to my career plan.

Allows flexibility for students to tailor a project to their individual interests.

I wish this were a full semester course! It’s crazy; I actually do ALL the readings for the course!

I will be honest: in most classes, I don’t get much from other students’ comments. But in this class I do!

This class should be offered again.

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![Graph showing profit margins of journal publishers vs. other companies](Graph.png)
Library assignments introduced Impact factors, Journal Citation Reports, OA journals, hybrid journals, IRs, predatory publishers.

Final projects were designed to teach VCU students and faculty about Open Access during OA Week 2014. **Generation Open**

**Final Projects**

- Open Access & Forensic Science @ VCU: What graduate students should know
- Hitting the Paywall: What are your options?
- A Timeline of Open Access Milestones and VCU Libraries’ participation
- Open Access & Open Textbooks: A survey of VCU undergraduates
- Open Access and Predatory Publishers: What you should be asking
- The Negative Impact of the Digital Divide in Developing Nations
- From Open Access to Open Textbooks: When costs hit home
- For VCU Researchers: A guide to publishing open access articles
- Open Access: Implications for drug policy reform

Undergraduate students and Librarians have an educational role to play in the future of Open Access.

**References**


