

FINDING AFFORDABLE TEXTBOOKS

FLI TIPS SHEET

FOR A MORE DETAILED GUIDE, CHECK OUT THE [FREE & LOW-COST TEXTBOOK RESOURCE LIST](#) ON THE COLUMBIA FLI PARTNERSHIPS LIBRARY WEBSITE

E-BOOKS

- Visit the **Columbia Libraries E-Resources** webpage. 40% of the Libraries' print collections are now available online!
- **Check your public library!** For example, join the NYC Public Library to access E-Book Central, which contains thousands of free e-books.
- Visit **RedShelf** to shop for more affordable digital textbooks.
- Need just a chapter or article? Request a scanned copy through Columbia's **Interlibrary Loan** service.
- Check **Google Books** and other online platforms for free PDF copies.

PRINT BOOKS

- The **FLI Partnerships Library** is a collection of textbooks specifically for FLI students with locations at both Butler and Milstein Library. Search "FLI Partnership Library" in CLIO (the library catalog) to see what's available. Can't find the book you need? Email: columbiaflipartnership@library.columbia.edu
- Contact professors before the semester begins and **ask for the book list** so that you can order used books in advance.
- Make use of the **Library Course Reserves** on campus that allow you to check out course books for short periods of time.
- Check out the EcoReps Green Sale each fall for used books, school supplies and more!

TIPS FOR STEM COURSES

- **Rent** textbooks rather than buying them through services like Chegg and Amazon Rentals.
- **Buy an older textbook edition** if versions do not differ significantly. Check with your professor to find out which versions are okay.
- Check the **Buy/Sell Facebook groups** at Barnard and Columbia to see if students are selling low-cost copies of STEM textbooks.

TIPS FOR HUMANITIES COURSES

- The **Center for the Core Curriculum** has extra copies of Core books that FLI students can borrow. Contact the office for more information or stop by Hamilton 202.
- Ask **peers** who have taken the course if they are willing to lend or sell you their old textbooks. Reach out to these FLI student organizations to get connected with peers:
 - *Quest Scholars Network
 - *FLI Network