

# MATH 103 TEXTBOOK AFFORDABILITY

FACULTY INTEREST GROUPS  
SYMPOSIUM FALL 2013

TEAM MEMBERS:

JOHN ERDMANN

SARAH FRYE

LAURIE ORDIN

DAVE PATTERSON

# Does access to course textbooks impact student success in MATH 103?

- Texts at COM Bookstore: **\$196.00 new / \$147.00 used / \$82.95 rental**
- Logistics of obtaining book before start of semester:
  - Availability in bookstore
  - Timing of financial aid
  - Waiting for book to ship if ordered online
- Our team was concerned that these presented significant barriers to student success in a “gateway” course.

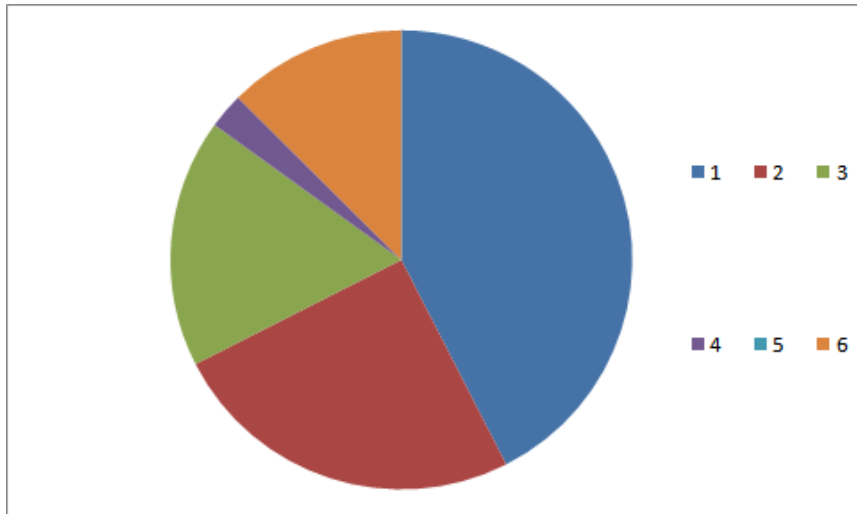
Inquiry Question

- **Paper Survey**
  - 9 questions regarding textbook affordability and access
  - Laurie Ordin administered survey to MATH 103 students (n=37) in early November
- **Interviews**
  - 10-minute interviews with individual students to gather more detailed perspective



Inquiry Method

# How students accessed the textbook



1. Bought new book	46 %
2. Bought used book	27 %
3. Bought used book online	19 %
4. Rented a book	3 %
5. Used Math Lab/Library's book	0 %
6. Other	14 %

*\*Students could select more than one answer*

Key Findings

- To what degree does the price of the textbook impact your ability to obtain a copy?
- To what degree does access to the textbook impact your ability to be successful in this class?

1 = no impact

5 = significant impact



Key Findings

- To what degree does the price of the textbook impact your ability to obtain a copy? **Average 3.7**
- To what degree does access to the textbook impact your ability to be successful in this class? **Average 4.2**

1 = no impact

5 = significant impact



Key Findings

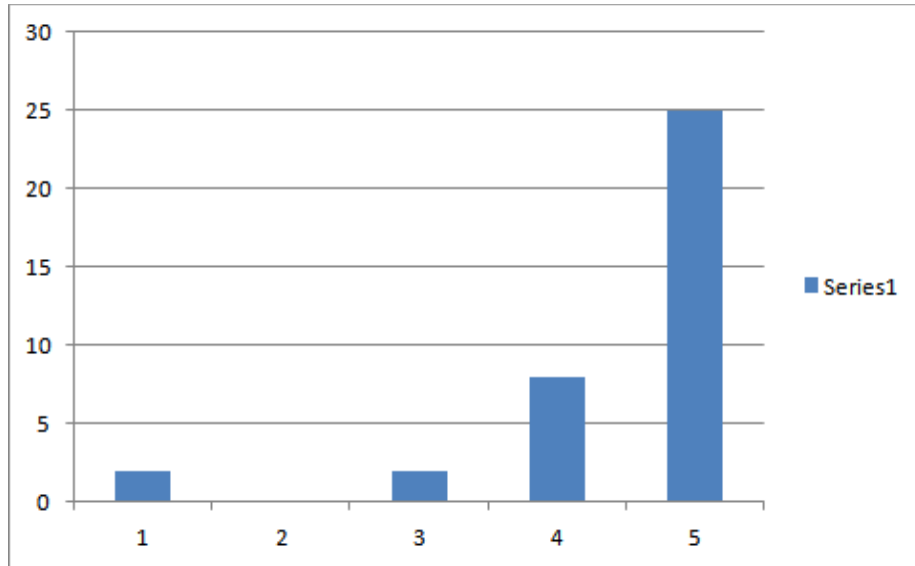
# Students' awareness of library's textbooks on reserve

- **76%** knew the library had textbooks
- **49%** knew the library had their specific math book
- **24%** used library's textbooks on reserve for other classes



Key Findings

# Students rated potential impact of free textbooks on student success



1 = no impact  
5 = significant impact

**Average response 4.5**

Key Findings



# Student Comments on Survey

- “The cost is prohibitive, even used.”
- “If I did not have some good parents, I would not be able to afford [sic] the books.”
- “Sometimes [I use the library’s textbooks], but I can’t be in the library all day!!”
- “Assuming there haven’t been any major breakthroughs in algebra since the last edition, having a new text every couple years just fosters confusion.”

Key Findings

# Pilot Project Slated for Fall 2014

- Laurie Ordin will use a previous edition of MATH 103 text
- Library will purchase copies for each student in Laurie's MATH 103A & B
  - Previous editions average < \$10.00
  - Include details in Fall 2014 course schedule
  - Textbooks will be checked out on first day of class
  - Students will keep their copy throughout semester
  - Students will return their copy with their final exam

Future Application of Findings