## The Underground Guide To Getting (民门) 居居 AT ROCK BUTTON 7 ; 4 ( ) = ( 5) [

# he Underground Guide To Getting COLLEGE TEXATEOOKS AT ROCK BOTTOM PRICES!

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# The Underground Guide To Getting COLLEGE TEXATEORS AT ROCK BOTTOM PRICES!

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# THE Underground Guide To Getting GOLLEGE TEXTEOOKS AT ROCK BOTTOM PRICES!

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## The Underground Guide To Getting GOTHEGE THEXTEDOKS AT ROCK BOTHOM PRICES!

## Introduction

Thank you for downloading **The Underground Guide to Getting College Textbooks at Rock- Bottom Prices!** We hope you find this information useful and hope it helps you save money!

We have included a number of links at the end of this ebook to websites that offer the *lowest prices* on new and used textbooks.

We recommend you read this entire ebook prior to searching the links so you can use them most effectively!

Websites come and go daily, so we apologize if any of the links in this ebook are out of date. If you find any broken links, please alert us at <a href="mailto:support@rapidresearchpapers.com">support@rapidresearchpapers.com</a> and we will update the ebook and send you the latest and greatest copy at no charge.

### **Textbook Prices Are UP!**

Textbook prices have risen dramatically, 40% from 1999-2006, and are up 186% from 1986 to 2006, the last year for which we have data!

All indications are that prices will keep rising unless Congress takes action to stop it, which they are considering.

Don't hold your breath though! Instead, get textbook savvy and use these great tips!

# The Underground Guide To Getting COLLEGE TEXATEORS AT ROCK BOTTOM PRICES!

A 2002 survey by the National Association of College Stores found that **88% of students buy their used and new textbooks at college bookstores.** 

Sometimes these students get a good deal, but most of the time, not. If you are already in the "other 12%", then congratulations, you are probably a smart textbook buyer! *Use these tips to save even more money!* 

TIP: This tip may be obvious to most of us, but it has to be said: You generally save money when you buy used textbooks instead of new, so buy used whenever possible.

## Be Aware of all Costs when Comparison Shopping

Before you go textbook shopping, whether in the physical world or online, you need to be aware of a couple of things. First of all, chasing prices can save you money, but if you drive all over town and spend many hours in the process, you may not save as much as you think, so make sure you take that into account. With gas at well over \$3.00 per gallon, you can quickly use \$10-20 worth of gas to drive across town to buy just one book!

If you decide to shop online, you can find great deals, but again, you will have to invest some time and energy into the process. How much is your time worth? Only you can say for sure. You will usually pay shipping charges when you buy online, so add that to the price of the textbooks.

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If you shop online for your textbooks, try to buy as many books as possible from the same store, or website, to save money on shipping costs.

For those of you who are in the 88% group that buys in a campus bookstore, well, maybe saving money isn't your highest priority, and we can understand that! But since you are reading this ebook, we will assume you are looking for deals as well, so let's dive right in:

## Selling Your Books Gives You More Cash, so Sell Smart!

Before we talk about buying, we should talk about selling your books. All of us at the end of a class or semester need to get rid of our books. Most of us buy "used books", and those have to come from somewhere. Campus bookstores buy back books at a fraction of the price they sell them for. For many of us, that seems like "bonus" money, but it's not.

Your goal should be to get the most money, per book, when you sell. Incase you didn't know, you are under no obligation to sell it back to the campus bookstore.

The more money you get when getting rid of your books, the less expensive the next batch of books will seem to you. If you get an extra \$50 for selling 3 books directly to a buyer, (in person on campus), it's the same as if you negotiated a \$50 discount on an order of books.

# The Underground Guide To Getting GOLLEGE TEXATEOOKS AT ROCK BOTTOM PRICES!

Don't overlook opportunities to *sell smart*, they are *just* as important as *buying smart!* 

You may find that your best bet is to sell it to someone who will be taking the same class that you just completed, and sell it directly to them. Since you cut out the middleman, you can get more for the book, and the buyer should be able to buy it from you for less than from buying from the store.

The downside of this method is that it can be somewhat labor intensive, but you can use the Internet to find students in your school to sell to, as well as bulleting boards, flyers, etc.

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## Innovative Ways to Spend Less Money on Textbooks

## **Returning Books**

Here is one option that isn't exactly ethical, but since ethics are relative, it's my duty to mention it, and you can decide if it's right for you:

Most bookstores allow you to return books. Most people assume you can't return a book, but you usually can. After buying a book you may decide that you don't need it after all, (and you may decide this after reading the book, cover to cover and absorbing all of the information).

There is no-one stopping you (except your conscience) from photocopying the book before you return it. Yes, it violates copyright law, and some people consider it unethical, or in "bad taste", at a minimum. But I'm just throwing it out there and you can decide if you it works for you.

The police won't arrest you for it, but you might get dirty looks from a bookstore employee if they suspect you are photocopying books, so try to use different stores to "spread the load" around.

Also, make sure you don't damage the spine of the book if you lay it on the photocopier glass and close the lid. You might render the book "used" and not get a full refund, so be careful.

# The Underground Guide To Getting COLLEGE TEXTEOOKS AT ROCK BOTTOM PRICES!

## **Buying Textbooks**

## The One "Cardinal Rule" of Buying Textbooks

Here is the one cardinal rule of buying textbooks:

## NEVER, and I mean NEVER buy a textbook new from a campus bookstore!!

Every single other option listed in this ebook will get you a better price.

If they are out of used copies, and you are in a rush, go online and buy it *new*, and have it sent Priority mail. Even with the cost of the shipping, you will come out ahead.

New books at campus bookstore prices have the most markup and profit for the stores. And, if you sell it back to the school bookstore, the book will then be considered "used", so you will get a fraction of what you paid for it!

There are many routes you can take to find almost any textbook for less than the suggested retail price.

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## Newer Methods for Buying textbooks at Rock-Bottom Prices

## **Google ISBN Searches**

Google now supports searching by entering the ISBN number! You can search the ISBN numbers for your books through Google Search and buy from any company that it selling the cheapest. You may get hundreds of hits, so look for reputable well known websites first, but don't preclude buying from the newer smaller sites.

## Craigslist

One great free site that many people overlook for textbooks is Craigslist! Just find your city or region on Craigslist.com. If your city or region doesn't come up by default, use their search feature by typing in "textbook". Here is a sampling of results that came back from a search run on Craigslist, San Diego:

### **Sample Craigslist Textbook Listings**

- May- 3 Criminal Justice Textbook \$15 (San Diego)
- May- 3 Criminal Justic Textbook \$10 (San Diego)
- May- 2 Chemical Principles The Quest for Insight 3rd Edition by Atkins \$25
- Apr-30 Administration of Justice coursebooks and two not \$107 (La Mesa) img
- Apr-30 Financial Managerial Accounting \$25 (Lakeside) pic
- Apr-30 ``WANTED BUS125 & MUSIC 110 TEXTBOOKS`` (EL CAJON) << items wanted

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Notice that most of the listings are books for sale, but sometimes people will post books that are wanted.

Sell to these people directly and you will both, score!

Also note, many of the listings have pictures of the books, as indicated by "pic" or "img" after the description, so you can see the condition of them prior to buying. The condition of your book when you resell it can affect how much you get for it, so avoid buying a book that is falling apart. If there are no pictures, contact the seller and ask about the condition.

### **Take Pictures!**

Also remember that when it's time for you to resell your textbooks, take a picture and then post it on Craigslist!

The general rule of thumb is that if you want to save money, don't wait until the last minute to buy your textbooks. The more time you give yourself to find a bargain, the better.

## Time of Year Makes a Difference

The number of textbooks posted for sale, or buyers looking for textbooks vary greatly, based on the time of year. Obviously the period between semesters has the most results. Listings expire quickly, so check back every couple of days and make sure if selling that you repost every week.

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I recommend creating an account on Craigslist, because it speeds up the process and you can more easily repost multiple expired listings.

A final note on Craigslist: any time you meet with someone in person whom you met online and that you don't know personally, use caution and meet in a well lit public place, and if you can take a friend with you, then that is best. Don't take unnecessary chances.

## **Buy Textbooks on eBay**



Another great source is eBay! Check out eBay's regular auctions to find books with low starting bid prices. Bidding on an auction is the best way to get the lowest price, but you may not win the auction. If you really want a book and the seller is offering a *Buy It Now* price that seems reasonable, then go for it.

Bear in mind the shipping costs when placing your bid, and don't forget to try to buy multiple textbooks from a single seller for the combined shipping discount. Beware though, some sellers don't offer a combined shipping discount when you buy multiple items, but most do, so make sure you check. If in doubt, email the seller and ask!

## **Bid Sniping Services are GREAT!**

If you want to place a bid for a textbook, I recommend using a bid "sniping" service, such as Esnipe.com, which offers a limited number of free "snipes". A snipe is a bid that is placed at the

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very last seconds of an auction, which is a stealth technique that helps to avoid a bidding war, in which everyone (but the seller) loses because the price gets driven up unreasonably high). The bid sniping service stores your eBay userID and password and places the bid on your behalf.

## eBay Advanced Search



eBay has evolved and now offers many different listing types including store inventory listings which normally don't come back in search results unless there are no regular auction results to display. Therefore, make sure to check out the *advanced search* function to search items in the eBay Store listings, as these store item listings don't come up in a regular search. .

Also look for the new *classified ad* listings they offer, which most people are not aware of. You can place a classified ad on eBay for a month for around ten dollars, and the transaction takes place outside of eBay's normal channels (eBay doesn't collect a fee).

The number of textbook classified ads on eBay is growing, and might be a good option for you for both buying and selling.

These ads are inexpensive to place, which makes them an attractive option for college students looking to sell. There aren't many textbook listings there yet as a classified ad, but it is sure to grow in popularity over time, so take advantage of this option.

If you've never used eBay before, it's easy to get started. Here's a link to get your account created, instantly. Click the 'register' button on the left of the screen. You can start searching or bidding right away!

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## How Textbook Publishers Bribe Professors, and What You Can Do About It!

Many times book publishers will release new editions of a textbook, and your professor will tell you to get the new one.

It is a common practice for the textbook publishers to "encourage" a professor to call for a new textbook by giving him or her free lesson plans, test questions, and other teaching aids in return.

It looks like a bribe, smells like a bribe... you get the idea. It's a common practice and the end result is higher prices for all of us.

## What makes it most painful, is the fact that 99.9% of the information is the same between the old and new editions.

There unfortunately isn't much that can be done about the laws regulating the textbook industry, but you can take control of your own spending by buying the older version of the book whenever possible.

It is very rare that a professor even knows you have an older copy of a textbook unless there have been major revisions and you are having trouble following along.

Usually if you ask your professor point blank, he or she will say that buying an older edition of the textbook is just fine and works as a perfectly good substitute.

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Sometimes you can get away with not buying the book at all! *IF* you are a good student, and the subject is a core subject, you can use internet resources to learn everything you need. This is a risky strategy, but if you pay attention in class (you DO go to every class, don't you?) and take good notes, you may not need the book. I have done it many times without problems. This is a great way to save money!

In rare cases they will say "No", but you *could* do it anyway. Make sure you ask, but ultimately, you have to use your own judgement.

If they say it's ok (and even if they say "NO"), then you can save a pile of money by going online to some of the sites listed below to find the *older edition*.

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## **Buying Textbooks from Overseas Sources**

Textbooks published in the United States are frequently sold overseas, for less.

Due to differences in publishing laws and varying textbook pricing structures, sometimes you'll find a textbook being offered by an American publisher is available, verbatim, as an international textbook for a fraction of the price.

You can take advantage of this fact buy going online and buying from discounted *foreign vendors*, though they can be hard to find.

## eBay is a great place to start your search.

In some cases, textbooks published overseas in a foreign language are translated or repackaged and sold by American Publishers at significantly higher prices.

It is helpful to do some research to find out the country of origin of the textbook that is called for. Hopefully you aren't surprised by the fact that American's don't lead the field in every industry, and some foreign textbooks are more "cutting edge" than American counterparts. So they are specified by Professors, usually in the Science classes.

International textbooks are printed differently than American ones, but are not any lower in quality. Differences may include size, print size, paper and cover artwork.

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If purchasing an international textbook, it is always best to check beforehand that there are no textual differences, but this can be hard to verify.

If you want to investigate this option, don't do it for every textbook you need. Do it *selectively* if you have reason to believe that a foreign book is available, or an American textbook originated in a foreign country.

Make sure you order your books well in advance to compensate for international shipping time.

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## Buying Textbooks from the Big "Chain Stores"

Occasionally great deals on textbooks can be found online on the websites of some of the big chain stores such as Walmart.com, BarnesandNoble.com, etc.

Most of the time the prices are full "online retail" minus a decent discount, but occasionally you find a VERY good deal on a more common textbook, so it pays to check these sources.

## Amazon – Still a Great Place to Buy Textbooks!



Amazon.com's new and used book search can also turn up great deals. There are tens of thousand of used book sellers tied in to Amazon.com. These can be both individual book sellers and bookstores.

No textbook search is complete without checking both *new* and *used* prices on Amazon.com. In fact, Amazon's prices are a very good "baseline" that you can use to determine if you are getting a good deal or not.

If you find a used version of a textbook on Amazon, factor in the shipping cost to get a *total price*. If you then find the book at any price lower than that, either online of offline, then you can feel fairly certain that you got a decent deal. This holds true for new textbook prices as well.

Amazon.com - Save Up to 90% off used Textbooks

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### Create a "Wishlist" for the Textbook Fairies

Amazon has a "wishlist" feature. Find all the textbooks you need, and create a wishlist, which is like a saved shopping cart that other people can see.

Send the wishlist to all your friends and family, and you never know, you might find that someone unexpectedly buys you a book.

You won't receive, if you don't ask, so don't be shy about asking!

No book is cheaper than a free gift book! You can then resell it and actually make some money!

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## **More Sources...**

## Finding Textbooks on Textbook Exchanges

A popular trend over the last ten years is the creation of *textbook exchanges*.

Perform a Google search for "textbook exchange (cityname)" or "(schoolname)" if you attend one of the larger schools. Put your city or school name in place of the (). This will help you determine if any student groups on your campus have any kind of textbook trading website or some similar service. Every now and again some groups of students get together, toss up a website with a list of books, and offer them at significantly discounted prices;

I used to see them come and go when I was still an undergrad. These sites usually don't last too long, as the person who took the initiative to create it graduates eventually and stops maintaining the website. So, don't be surprised to find references to exchanges, but then find the website is not maintained or not available. Also check school bulletin boards to find these.

## Tip for Buying Large Quantities of Books

If you need a very high number of books, which is sometimes the case in grad school or if you just have a very heavy course-load, input a list of the textbooks you need into a spreadsheet program such as Microsoft Excel. Then start checking all the sources and document your findings in spreadsheet. Ideally you will buy all of

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the books from just a couple of sources to save time and shipping costs, if any. Sometimes it is worth it to pay a few dollars more for a textbook to consolidate your purchases and maybe save on shipping or gas costs. Without a spreadsheet to track the prices, you may either forget prices or fail to check all the sources.

## One Last Free Book Resource - The Library!

Like we said, no price is better than **FREE!** Many students fail to check local or campus libraries for textbooks.

A decent library, especially on campus carries many popular textbooks for general circulation, sometimes as reference only, which can't be checked out.

But you may be able to borrow what you need, so check early in the semester, and reserve books if your library allows it. Sometimes the length of the lending period doesn't cover the entire class term, but you can either renew the book checkout, keep it longer than allowed and pay the overdue fines (if any), or "lose" the book and pay that fine, which may be less than buying the textbook in used condition.

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## How to Find Current Textbook "Specials" from Online Sellers

**RapidResearchPapers.com** maintains a "**hot list**" links page that has *current deals* being offered by textbooks suppliers and leading college retailers. This is a good jumping-off point. The site is updated *regularly* and you will definitely want to see what is available.

## Click Here to see Current Texbook Deals HOT LIST

This is the most comprehensive list of textbook sites that we know of.

We highly recommend you shop form this list when doing online searches. We have grouped them by *category*. Each entry is a hyperlink which will launch a new window or tab for easy browsing.

Don't forget to put your findings into a spreadsheet if you are shopping for a large number of textbooks.

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## Master List of the best websites that sell college textbooks

No textbook search would be complete without checking several of the newer Textbook sites online. Online sales is a very "cutthroat" business and prices change on a daily basis.

The following is a list of websites will be very useful in your search for lower priced books, and they are grouped by category. It is not a comprehensive list, as websites come and go, but these are **all** current as of this writing and are great sources for bargains. Links &

If you find any broken or outdated links in this list, or have suggestions for new links, please send us an email to support@rapidresearchpapers.com. Thank you!

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**Top Pick** Phatcampus - Cheap Textbooks. Fast Delivery.



ABEBooks - 80 Million - new, used, rare, out-of-print books



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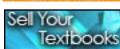
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**Amazon.com - Save Up to 90% off used Textbooks** 



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Powell's Textbooks - 2-day shipping, \$6.95 per order. POWELL'S BOOKS

Textbookx - Textbooks, Course Materials and TextBOOKX COM peer-to-peer marketplace.



Better World Books - Saving the world through book sales! BetterWorld



## Search Portals Unmasked

Search Portals don't usually sell books, they are sites set up by Internet savvy "affiliate marketers" to help you find textbooks at the lowest possible price (among the sites they search on your behalf). The site owners create software that will scan many of the online retailers, and return the results to you in order of price.

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The links they return are "affiliate links", meaning that if you use the link and ultimately buy from a site, the search portal owner will receive a commission. *Don't be afraid of using these links*.

The Search Portals provide a valuable service, that can save you time and energy. Even though they earn a commission, you won't be paying higher prices because of it. The textbook sellers usually eat the cost of the commission, and make it up by selling greater volume. These sites are a great resource, but also check the Hotlist link above because temporary promotion prices will usually beat the search portal prices.

<u>isbn.nu</u> - Picks the best deals from merchant sites, factoring in discounts and additional charges, finding the lowest price. Order directly from the merchants. You can view the results with or without the shipping costs of a single book, and also find the fastest source for a book from ordering to delivery.

<u>AnyBook4Less.com</u> - Searches all the main sites, showing the price and shipping. Calculates the total price including delivery and special offers, and presents the result in a form of a table with the links to the vendors.

<u>ADDALL Book Search and Price Comparison</u> - *Similar to Alibris...* a service that searches for the best deal of books on-line, independent, not owned by any bookstore.

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## Textbook Exchanges

**Books For School** - Canadian online portal, which provides students with a marketplace to buy, sell, and trade their used textbooks as well as purchase new textbooks at discounts.

Combines social networking with buying and selling used textbooks.

**BookMooch** - BookMooch is a community for exchanging used books.

## **Digital Ebooks and Audiobook Sites**

<u>Free Load Press</u> – Free digital textbooks - advertisements are included in the books and are offered as e-books for free.

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### **FREE SITES**

<u>Craigslist</u> – see Craigslist section above for more detail on how to effectively use Craigslist.

**Bookpool.com** - discounted computer / technical books

**Bartleby** - publishes free online classics of reference, literature and nonfiction, good online thesaurus and dictionary and other reference tools

**Google Scholar** - free - offers a database of free academic articles and ebooks. (Theses, books, abstracts and articles, from academic publishers, universities, etc).

<u>The Internet Public Library</u> – free searchable directory of websites, links to online texts, newspapers, and magazines

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- How to avoid the most common mistakes EVERY student makes that can DEMOLISH your grade!
- How to construct your thesis using my 2-part formula for remarkable results!
- "Common sense" techniques, you'll quickly realize, are anything but common!
- Hidden sources for quotes, REVEALED!
- And dozens of other great tips you can use to shave time and eliminate stress from the writing process!

- Should you quote your professor? Yes, but watch out for...
- The truth about using "quotes", and how many you need per page, and in total!
- To write an outline, or not to write an outline? That is the question (Answered)!
- How to eliminate any chance of being accused of plagiarism!
- How to organize your paper for maximum clarity to boost your grade!
- Full-color diagram you can print and use as a handy reference, showing you how to construct your paper for utmost simplicity and repeatability!

This system is designed to make your life easier, and it allows you to have more free time, doing as you please. Don't stay locked away in a library slaving away on your papers for hours! For less than the cost of a typical textbook, this system will give you back hundreds of hours over the course of your academic career! It's like literally buying yourself free-time for just pennies!

Get it at a special introductory price, today!