"Analysis of student textbook costs at Randolph College" Lewis Ward, '20; Stephen Krueger, Access and Outreach Services Librarian

The cost of textbooks and other academic materials is an increasingly important issue for everyone involved in higher education. Researchers in library and information science (LIS) are studying textbook costs, their effect on students, and potential solutions. In order to effectively address the situation, it is important to have accurate and specific information on the costs of textbooks. Nationwide studies have been done, but it is difficult to tell how accurately these reflect particular types of schools. This project will assess the textbook costs at Randolph College using methodology developed by community colleges doing similar research. Using bookstore records, we will calculate the total cost for Randolph students in different disciplines over four years of study; maximum and minimum costs will be compared. This research will provide current information on textbook costs at a small liberal arts college that will add to the broader averages currently available.



