

OPEN **OCTOBER** 2025 ACCESS WEEK

WHAT IS OPEN ACCESS?

20 MONDAY
10 AM

Curious about Open Access but short on time? Join this lightning talk, "What is Open Access?", for a quick overview of its key components and why it matters for research, teaching, and access to knowledge.

Presented by Rachel Oleaga, Coordinator, Open Massachusetts: A Public Higher Education Repository

[REGISTER](#)



WHO OWNS OUR KNOWLEDGE?

21 TUESDAY
2 PM

Given the increased utilization of open educational resources (some rights reserved), open pedagogy and so-called inclusive access and traditional textbooks (all rights reserved), these conflicting approaches to accessing knowledge raises questions about who owns our knowledge. How do we democratize knowledge given access to knowledge is the pathway to critical thinking, personal autonomy, and independent choices? We will explore these ideas and more during this session.

Presented by Dr. Robert Awkward, Assistant Commissioner for Academic Effectiveness, Mass. Department of Higher Education
Panelists: Millie Gonzalez, Dean of Libraries, New York Institute of Technology; Dr. Kisha Tracy, Chair & Professor of English Studies & Chair of the General Education Program Area, Fitchburg State University

[REGISTER](#)



WHO WRITES OUR COLLEGE TEXTBOOKS? AMERICAN HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE GREAT OER / COMMERCIAL TEXTBOOK DIVIDE

22 WEDNESDAY
1:30 PM

For students required textbooks are either a very expensive commercial textbook product to purchase... OR a free, online resource available on day one. And in some cases students are told "you'll be working in groups to ADD NEW CHAPTERS to the textbook, which next semester's students will be using to learn." How did such a vastly different classroom experience come to be possible? Come find out where the idea for Open Educational Resources came from, how they became reality thanks to a new set of legal tools.

Presented by: Rebecca Dowgiert, Scholarly Communications Librarian at the Whittemore Library at Framingham State University

[REGISTER](#)



COPYRIGHT AND LICENSING – HELPING TO UNDERSTAND "WHO OWNS INFORMATION"

20 FRIDAY
10 AM

Who really owns the information we create and use? Join us for Copyright and Licensing – Helping to Understand "Who Owns Information" and explore how copyright, Creative Commons, and open licensing shape access, reuse, and ownership in scholarly communication.

Presented by Rachel Oleaga, Coordinator, Open Massachusetts: A Public Higher Education Repository

[REGISTER](#)

