

It is not mandatory to set a textbook – but if one is assigned, then your students will need sufficient access throughout the course’s duration. Restrictive licensing conditions, such as concurrent user caps and print or download limits, may create barriers to student access during periods of high demand.

If you’re considering setting a textbook for your course, the Library can help. We can confirm availability and access limitations imposed on institutional copies and can arrange acquisition where possible. We can even identify some potential texts on your behalf- just contact us via [Ask the Library](#).

This guide aims to assist academic staff in interpreting licensing and access information for ebooks listed in the Library Collection. It also outlines alternatives to commercial textbooks: Open Educational Resources.

Interpreting License information via the Library Collection (‘Catalogue’)

If the Library holds a copy of an ebook, it will be listed in the Library Collection. You can view the item’s record to access the ebook and confirm licensing restrictions.

1. Start by searching for the book’s title and author. Use “double quotes” to find an exact match



2. Select the correct ebook title for more information. Consult the information under ‘View Online’.



Any user limits will be detailed here. You may see:

- Unlimited: no cap on the number of users who can view at once
- 1 or 3 User License: only 1 or 3 users may view at once
- Multi User: No cap on users who may view at once, but an overall annual access limit applies. If reached, the Library automatically purchases another batch of access if commercially available
- UniSA Research Outputs Repository: Unlimited access for staff and students
- Open Access (*source may vary*): Unlimited access

Note: Proquest Ebook Central treats 1 or 3 user caps slightly differently. If the maximum number of readers has been reached on a Proquest Ebook Central text, additional users can view the book online for 5 minutes.

You may also see a note about download restrictions- in this example, none of the textbook may be saved or downloaded, so must be read online. If you do not see this information, open the ebook to check.

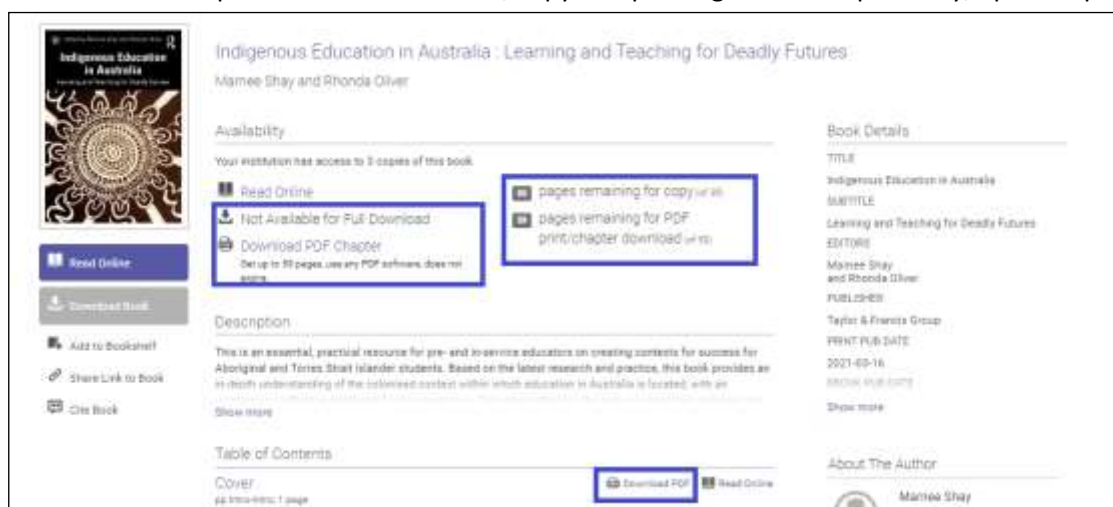
Interpreting Download, Copy and Print Limits via the Ebook

1. Select the Access link to view the ebook.



2. From within the ebook, if there is a link to download or print the text, this indicates the license permits this. The ebook will specify if there is a limit on how much may be printed or downloaded. Note that download/print limits are for each individual user, and typically reset after 24 hours.

The below example allows for download, copy and printing of one chapter only, up to 59 pages:



Want to know more? Our [Ebook Guide](#) includes a wealth of information about each major publisher's typical ebook license restrictions.

Alternatives to Commercially Licensed Ebooks: Online Educational Resources (OER)

OER are designed to make education more inclusive by alleviating the high cost of course materials. These resources are either specifically licensed for free use and adaptation, or do not have copyright restrictions: This means no user caps and no download or print limits.

How to find flexibly licensed textbooks

OER take a wide variety of formats, including scholarly textbooks authored by research and teaching academics. The Library has compiled a guide on [Open Educational Resources](#), which includes further information and links to some of the major OER sites.