



Volunteers band together to develop book exchange for needy students

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Every semester, anxious students and parents scurry around campus to pay tuition, secure housing, and purchase books and class material.

For many, all these bi-annual expenses are too much to deal with.

Thanks to Bicharaf for Academic Integrity and Business Ethics and the Civil Welfare League (CWL) at AUB, a Book Exchange and Loaning Drive was developed this year to help students borrow university text books.

In partnership with the Office of Student Affairs (OSA) and the Center for Civic Engagement and Community Service (CCECS), books are collected all over campus and put into circulation through a book drive at the beginning of every semester.

Book recycling was first initiated in 2005 when Bicharaf established a collective to promote a book exchange to limit the circulation of illegally photocopied books.

“Don’t photocopy, buy, sell, or exchange books. This will be support and preserve the intellectual property of authors,” said Bicharaf’s advisor and AUB Business Professor Tony Feghali.

A book repurchasing system was then created, allowing students to sell their books at a reduced price to other students who might benefit from them the following academic term.

Five years after the start of the initiative, the collaborative is now working to stop the circulation of photocopied books and provide students a cheaper way of obtaining the course materials they need.

The book loaning drive, which CWL helped launch this year, will send out volunteers every semester to collect used books that are still in acceptable condition and part of the teaching curriculum to be loaned to other AUB students in need. These books will then be returned and re-loaned during the following semester.