

eBooks and Digital Textbooks

Question:

I am heavily interested in eBook /digital textbook strategies that might be going on at other institutions. I know that IU and a few other places were dabbling with wholesale adoption of e-texts in certain corners. Does anyone know of any landmark studies so far worth checking out? I know, I know: google it, but was wondering if anything on the top of people's heads would be definite places to inquire?

Also, is there a conference on anyone's radar that might be good to attend to smarten up on eBooks and digital distribution for higher ed?

- Michael Edwards, Academic Services Senior Professional, CU Online
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Answers:

The report is almost 2 years old now, but EDUCAUSE/Internet 2 ran a series of e-text pilots and described phase 2 in an ECAR bulletin, which is now available to the public. The 2012 pilot used very specific e-text tools and vendor (Courseload online e-reader and McGraw-Hill), but some of the ideas that students shared about their ideas on e-texts are still relevant. <https://www.educause.edu/focus-areas-and-initiatives/policy-and-security/educause-policy/issues-and-positions/e-content-pilot-series>

We participated in this phase described this document, so if you'd like more information I'd be glad to talk more one-on-one. I've also shared our experiences in a presentation at WCET in 2013 with Iowa State and Colorado State.

- Mark Porcaro, Interim Director, Media Resources Center, Director of Online Learning, Wichita State University
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I recently attended a meeting sponsored by the Hewlett Foundation and the US Dept. of Labor focused on degree programs that leverage OER (including e-books) to lower the cost of degree programs. The agenda featured two community colleges, Tidewater CC, and Northern Virginia CC who have designed and piloted what they call "Z degrees" using free digital resources. The goal of the Hewlett/DoL program is to have at least one "Z degree" per state. Follow this URL to some detail (<http://www.hewlett.org/blog/posts/z->



[zero-increasing-college-access-and-success-through-zero-textbook-cost-degrees](#)). TJ Bliss heads the effort for Hewlett.

Although not focused exclusively on e-books, the “Z degree” initiative clearly deals with operational and tactical issues that impact e-book deployment.

- Michael D. Abbiatti, Vice President for Educational Technologies - WICHE / Executive Director - WCET

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We have evolved over the years. We started buying e-book chapters seven years ago, versus paying 50% of the cost of an entire textbook in e-book format. We have consolidated this process into VitalSource. Why? Students can get the e-books in the same format for every course. 95% of our books are now e-books. I was delighted with the WCET conference in November in Portland, we are now looking at shifting toward OER materials. Lots of good information on that from the conference itself.

- Alan Hansen, Independence University

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BCcampus is a publicly funded organization that uses information technology to connect the expertise, programs, and resources of all British Columbia post-secondary institutions under a collaborative service delivery framework. BCcampus is also one of North American Network of Science Labs Online (NANSLO) partners. See www.wiche.edu/nanslo for more information on NANSLO.

For its member institutions, BCcampus has identified several open textbooks that align with the top 40 subject areas in British Columbia and placed links to them on their website - <http://open.bccampus.ca/>. These textbooks have been reviewed by faculty experts in the science disciplines.

As part of the Consortium for Healthcare Education Online (CHEO) initiative funded by a U.S. Department of Labor TAACCCT grant, BCcampus was asked to review and identify several textbooks that could be used for pre-requisite science courses taught in the allied health field. Here are links those textbooks that BCcampus engaged CHEO instructors in reviewing. All were highly rated by these instructors and those it works with in British Columbia (see resources section below).

- Sue Schmidt. NANSLO/CHEO Project Coordinator, WICHE

Additional Resources:

- Anatomy and Physiology: <http://open.bccampus.ca/find-open-textbooks/?uuid=f4873e49-e09c-469e-9ee8-9f14ca5a4e00&contributor=&keyword=&subject=Biology>
- Chemistry (adapted version): <http://open.bccampus.ca/find-open-textbooks/?uuid=c7025f6b-f32b->



[4d0a-865e-f473d9f98fb6&contributor=&keyword=&subject=Chemistry](http://open.bccampus.ca/find-open-textbooks/?uuid=2b7740b5-88cb-4e78-8f93-9f582afa605a&contributor=&keyword=&subject=Chemistry)

- Chemistry (original version): <http://open.bccampus.ca/find-open-textbooks/?uuid=2b7740b5-88cb-4e78-8f93-9f582afa605a&contributor=&keyword=&subject=Chemistry>
- College Physics: <http://open.bccampus.ca/find-open-textbooks/?uuid=c0cd5405-a301-4940-ab3a-56f754a0030a&contributor=&keyword=&subject=Physics>
- Biology: <http://open.bccampus.ca/find-open-textbooks/?uuid=561e303a-5a74-4bfe-af71-e884daec4e45&contributor=&keyword=&subject=Biology>

In addition, BCcampus suggested several others that might be useful in allied health:

- Concepts of Biology: <http://open.bccampus.ca/find-open-textbooks/?uuid=43cb399c-8324-4a19-867e-94f6fcbfb126&contributor=&keyword=&subject=Biology>
- Pharmacology: <http://open.bccampus.ca/find-open-textbooks/?uuid=81f9ddb-b946-400e-ac10-9afd71c47e32&contributor=&keyword=&subject=Pharmacy%2FPharmacology+Related>
 - Sue Schmidt, NANSLO/CHEO Project Coordinator, WICHE

Some studies you might find useful re) comparing e-text to print. Some may be paywalled & you may need to log on with institutional info.

- Schneps, M. H., Thomson, J. M., Chen, C., Sonnert, G., & Pomplun, M. (2013). E-Readers Are More Effective than Paper for Some with Dyslexia. PLoS ONE, 8(9), e75634. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0075634 <http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0075634>
- (note date - almost 10 years old so might not be totally relevant in light of more recent mobile trends) Liu, Z. (2006). Print vs. electronic resources: A study of user perceptions, preferences, and use. Information Processing & Management, 42(2), 583–592. doi:10.1016/j.ipm.2004.12.002 <http://www.sciencedirect.com.proxy.lib.sfu.ca/science/article/pii/S030645730500004X>
- Indiana State University. (2013). Students perform well regardless of reading print or digital books. Retrieved October 13, 2013, from <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2013/05/130524160710.htm>
- (while about OER, this does have useful format preference information) Brian L. Lindshield, & Koushik Adhikari. (2013). Online and Campus College Students Like Using an Open Educational Resource Instead of a Traditional Textbook. Retrieved July 25, 2013, from http://jolt.merlot.org/vol9no1/lindshield_0313.htm



and, if I can throw a bit in that I wrote that might have some useful info/links

- The business of textbooks or why do students prefer print? <http://clintlalonde.net/2013/08/09/the-business-of-textbooks/>

- Clint Lalonde, MA, Manager, Open Education

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You are welcome to join us at the Open Textbook Summit in May in Vancouver (<http://otsummit.bccampus.ca/>)

- Amanda Coolidge, Manager, Open Education

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You might want to check out openstax: <http://openstaxcollege.org/> It's an OER for etextbook publishing.

- John Lane Director, Technology Learning Services, Information Technology University of Houston-Downtown

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I do not know of landmark studies or conferences, but, as a start, you might pick a publisher and see the reviews and faculty advisories, e.g., Pearson: <http://www.myeducationcommunity.com/training-tips-and-guidance/> and <http://www.myeducationcommunity.com/faculty-advisor-network/> and proceed from there.

- Evan Smith, University of Missouri

About:

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