

Various items relating to e-Books

Compiled by [Dan Christian](#) at Calvin College on October 30, 2008

- [Collection of free e-Learning ebooks](#) -- from Zaidlearn.com
- [E-Books in Higher Education: Nearing the End of the Era of Hype?](#) -- from Educause Center for Applied Research, by Mark R. Nelson, Volume 2008, Issue 1, 13 pages
Abstract: This ECAR research bulletin examines the hype and the reality of e-books in higher education. Some experts predict that 2008–2009 will be transition years for the higher education e-book market, with large growth expected in both digital textbooks and digital library collections. Publishers and campuses alike are exploring the use of e-books and other forms of digital content. Are we approaching the tipping point in e-book usage on college campuses from occasional oddity to a mainstream technology?
Audience: The content contained in this research bulletin may prove particularly useful to CIOs, faculty, librarians, provosts, bookstore directors, and chief financial officers.

- [Digitized texts](#) -- study by Ebrary
"Faculty members overwhelmingly prefer using online material to printed material, according to the results of a [survey](#) released this week by Ebrary, a company that provides electronic content and technology to libraries, publishers, and other businesses." [Quote from The Chronicle of Higher Education](#)

Note from DSC: Granted the Ebrary organization probably has its own bias; but still, the [survey](#) captures some more of the changing times/trends and the move towards more digital methods of communications.

- [Communications Forum: Books and Libraries in the Digital Age with Robert Darnton](#) -- from MIT Comparative Media Studies
A pioneering scholar of the Enlightenment and of the history of the book, Robert Darnton is the director of the University Library and the Carl H. Pforzheimer University Professor at Harvard. A former Rhodes Scholar and MacArthur Fellow, his books include *The Business of the Enlightenment: A Publishing History of the Encyclopedie*, *The Great Cat Massacre: And Other Episodes in French Cultural History*, and *The Forbidden Best-Sellers of Prerevolutionary France*. He has written extensively on the impact of digital technologies on the culture of print and on the responsibilities of libraries in the computer age.
- [E-Textbooks for All](#) -- from InsideHigherEd.com
Many observers, both in academe and in the publishing industry, [believe it's only a matter of time](#) before electronic textbooks become the norm in college. Some campuses in particular may already be getting a glimpse of the future through partnerships with individual publishers or with consortiums.

Such deals tend to offer students a choice in addition to their current options in the hope that they'll opt for the cheaper alternative. In contrast to that model, and through a partnership with the publisher John Wiley & Sons, an experiment soon to be underway at the University of Texas at Austin will shift certain classes entirely to e-textbooks.

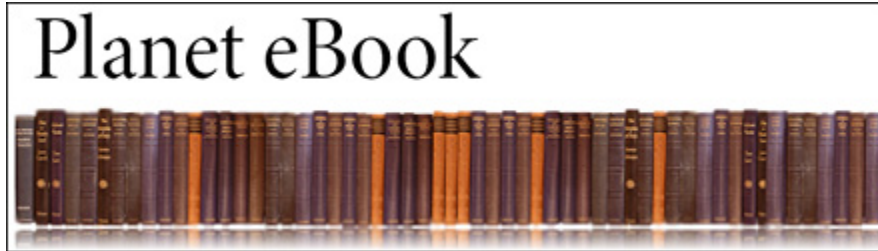
Beginning next semester, for the initial pilot phase of one to two years, the university will cover the electronic materials for the approximately 1,000 students enrolled in a handful of courses in largely quantitative subjects such as biochemistry and accounting. By purchasing in bulk on a subscription model, the university initially hoped for a "per student per book" cost of \$25 to \$45. (Wiley hasn't publicized a final price range, so it's unclear whether it will be that low.) The idea of the "beta test," as the university dubs it, is to see how students and faculty respond to e-textbooks and to decide whether they could be deployed on a larger scale.

Most of the biggest textbook publishers already offer some or all of their catalogs in electronic form, but e-texts remain a relatively small portion of the overall market. What remains to be seen is how the publishing industry

alters its business models — which many readily admit will have to change — and whether the companies are in for a shift along the lines of that seen in the music industry, as some have predicted.

- [Planet eBook](#)

Welcome to Planet eBook, the home of free classic literature. All our novels and books are entirely free for you to download and share with your friends, classmates, students, anyone!



- [Pearson and Rio Salado College Save Students More Than 50 Percent on Textbooks](#) -- from B2E and Pearson

Rio Salado College, a community college catering to working adults in Tempe, Ariz., recently faced a tough challenge: How could they create textbooks for their online students that offered personalized content, yet also saved students money?

- [Books for Free!](#) -- from Angela Maiers

So many books, so little money...sound familiar? If you're on a book buying budget (and what teacher isn't), you may want to consider these sites for **free unabridged books online**. Book options include fiction, nonfiction, verse, classic works and reference books...

- [Top 100 Open Courseware Projects](#)

"Open courseware projects provide a head rush for many autodidactics because those projects often offer lecture notes, chapters or entire textbooks online, illustrations, charts, and other tools that help the reader learn a given subject. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) gained notoriety for its online open courseware ([OCW](#)) offerings and many other colleges have followed this example; however, the self-learner probably knows that many college professors have offered their course outlines and materials online for years before MIT laid claim to this effort."

- [First It Was Song Downloads. Now It's Organic Chemistry](#) -- from the New York Times

"All forms of print publishing must contend with the digital transition, but college textbook publishing has a particularly nasty problem on its hands. College students may be the angriest group of captive customers to be found anywhere."

"Used book sales return nothing to publishers and authors. Digital publishing, however, offers textbook publishers a way to effectively destroy the secondary market for textbooks: they now can shift the entire business model away from selling objects toward renting access to a site with a time-defined subscription, a different thing entirely."

- **Textbooks -- high/increasing pricing may cause some changes and some innovations...**

- [Open Textbook Meets Community Colleges](#) -- from InsideHigherEd.com

Proponents of the open textbook movement have long envisioned a world of free (or almost free) educational materials, available to print or download, written by experts for others to read, share, improve or modify as they see fit. For one popular textbook, at least, that vision is now a reality. Connexions, a prominent online "open educational resources" hub based at Rice

University, announced Monday that it has published a statistics textbook online that's widely used in transfer-level community college courses. Officials at the site hope the zero-dollar price tag will help students deterred by ever-increasing textbook prices.

The book, [Collaborative Statistics](#) by Barbara Illowsky and Susan Dean, is not only available as a full download. **The content between the covers has been sliced and diced into "modules," Connexions' basic building blocks, that any student or instructor can rearrange or adapt for their own use.** Developers of the project also plan on adding videos of class lectures by Illowsky as well as other supplementary classroom materials, effectively uploading an entire course experience to the Web.

[Kindle: Amazon's New Wireless Reading Device](#)

- [250+ Killer Digital Libraries and Archives \(OEDb\)](#)
- [100+ Sources for Free-As-In-Beer Books & Texts Online](#)
- [Distance Education Journals and Readings](#) -- from the University of Wisconsin-Extension, its partners and other UW institutions
- [Digital libraries need to do more to increase user, search engine access: Michigan digital librarian](#) -- from Liberal Education
- [Digital Learning Objects on the Open Web](#) -- from Wesley Fryer's July 9th presentation at the Missouri Distance Learning Association's Annual Conference in Osage Beach

The Internet's world-wide web offers unprecedented access, publication, and collaboration opportunities for connected digital learners. In this session we will explore the dynamic world of digital learning objects, paying particular attention to the ways learning objects can be effectively integrated into existing course curriculum and student assignments for both K-12 and higher education learners. We will also explore the educational ethic of publishing content on the open web, which contrasts sharply with traditional notions of limiting access to content and ideas by sharing on a closed web via login-restricted learning management systems like BlackBoard, WebCT, or Moodle. Creative Commons licensing is playing an important role in the continued evolution of the digital learning object landscape, and a case will be presented for encouraging learners at all levels to both utilize as well as contribute to learning object collections shared under permissive Creative Commons licenses.

[Documentation for this talk here.](#) Wesley also refers to

- [Jimmy Wales: How a ragtag band created Wikipedia](#)
- [Free Content + Open Tools + Massive Collaboration = Learning for All](#) by Karen Fasimpaur ([podcast available too](#))
- **New business models...?**
From Will Thalheimer's research-based blog via George Siemens
Will writes back on June 6th:

In a [provocative article](#) today in the New York Times (June 6, 2008), Paul Krugman makes the case that all media (books, music, articles, software, etc.) providers/creators will be forced to lower prices significantly or give away their products for free. The new business model will involve selling ancillary services or products. This will not only produce a profound shift in how the world works, but it will affect the learning-and-performance industry as well.

Off-the-shelf e-learning courses will get really good and be sold really cheaply to wide audiences and all the small e-learning shops across the world will collapse into three to five big powerhouses. Companies that sell vast collections of mediocre e-learning are doomed. [Article/posting from Will here.](#)

- **Libraries to study gaming and literacy** -- from Liberal Education Today, by Bryan Alexander
A major new research project to study computer gaming, learning, and literacy has been launched by the American Library Association (ALA). The project is aimed at... [Article here](#).
- [Open College Textbooks](#) - "Created by experts. Enhanced by users. Free to all."
- **Gutenberg-e from Columbia University Press -- now open to all**
"Columbia University Press is pleased to announce that Gutenberg-e is now an open access site. These award winning monographs, coordinated with the American Historical Association, afford emerging scholars new possibilities for online publications, weaving traditional narrative with digitized primary sources, including maps, photographs, and oral histories. The American Council of Learned Societies also carry Gutenberg-e titles on their Humanities E-Book platform." [Further information here](#).
- [The Internet Public Library](#) is a public service organization and a learning/teaching environment founded at the University of Michigan School of Information and hosted by Drexel University's College of Information Science & Technology.



- <http://openlibrary.org/>
- http://www.futureofthebook.org/blog/archives/2007/07/the_open_library.html
- http://www.ebrary.com/corp/collateral/en/Survey/ebrary_student_survey_2008.pdf
- <http://www.idpf.org/>
The International Digital Publishing Forum, which sets standards and facilitates communication about eBooks between suppliers, distributors, hardware and software manufacturers and the channel.