

SPARKnews

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eBooks and eTextbooks:

A win-win situation for students and faculty

By Patricia Presti

How I would have wanted, when I was an undergraduate twenty-odd years ago, all the benefits that eBooks and eTextbooks are bringing to today's classroom. To be able to carry all your textbooks in your laptop, netbook or reader – and not 30 pounds of paper. To have the most up-to-date content on a variety of subjects, updated frequently to reflect changes in industry or the world at large. To read a wide selection of important papers or books from the comfort of your home, whenever you want.

This year, the emerging eBook and eTextbook market has been noted in the media as an alternative to paper copy, helping to save students money and giving faculty the added flexibility to choose texts right up until the beginning of the academic term. Current paper texts can also be supplemented with additional readings. And, in a computer lab atmosphere, instructors can have everyone refer to the same text at the same time online – without having to worry about students not having their own copy with them.

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