

## Where to get eTextbooks

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Like it or not, eTextbooks will slowly replace traditional textbooks and become the way of the future. While digital textbook sales currently only account for a very small percentage of the textbook market, they are projected to reach 18.8% of the market by 2014.

As newer devices like the iPad are introduced, students are seeing they can read books in digital form all while saving money and reducing the weight of their book bags. But as it stands now, when it comes to studying, e-readers can't match the functionality of traditional textbooks. E-readers may be fine for reading, but textbooks are seldom read like novels, which is why most students still prefer traditional textbooks.

If you do choose to get your textbooks in digital form, it is highly recommended that you have some type of portable device like a laptop, iPad or Kindle DX so you can easily carry and view your eTextbooks on a readable device. Sometimes you can access textbook material from an iPhone, but this is not the ideal device to use when studying (though it comes in handy when trying to look up something real quick). You could use a desktop computer, but you may not be able to access your textbook (in some cases) when you are in class or in a study group, which could be limiting. To get around this, some students print out copies of certain parts of their textbook when needed in paper form.

The biggest complaint about eTextbooks seems to be that you can't take notes as easily as in a traditional textbook. However, there are a few e-readers available that will allow you to do highlighting and jot down notes next to a paragraph and you can easily search for a specific word, phrase or topic within the textbook. Of course, as mentioned before, with eTextbooks you always have the option of printing out your required reading and making notes next to passages as you normally would.

While more college bookstores are beginning to offer eTextbooks as a purchase option, you can still find these books for much cheaper online, as college bookstores are known to have quite the markup on prices.

Along with buying and renting, downloading textbooks is a third option for getting the textbooks you need, and clearly the fastest way to get your books as they can be downloaded instantly upon purchase online. Consider the following companies when looking to get your textbooks in digital form.

### CourseSmart

CourseSmart has really benefited from the growing popularity of eTextbooks. They reported a 400 percent increase in sales in 2009 from the year before.

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