E-Textbooks for Engineering Courses

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http://hdl.handle.net/2027.42/91958
Dear Engineering Students,

The University of Michigan Library is conducting a study to learn more about student preferences about textbook formats, expectations and actual experiences with electronic textbooks.

As part of conducting this research, we would like to invite you to take this survey in order to help us identify your awareness of the availability of an electronic copy of your engineering textbooks, expectations, and usability experience with electronic textbooks. It will take no more than 5 minutes of your time. All information you provide will be secure and anonymous.

Please contact Susan Hollar (shollar@umich.edu) with questions or comments about this electronic textbook research and the survey.

Thank you for your participation!

Please indicate your year in school.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1st year</th>
<th>2nd year</th>
<th>3rd year</th>
<th>4th year</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduate</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
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<tr>
<td>Graduate</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

What is your gender?

☐ Male
☐ Female
☐ Prefer not to answer

A first set of questions asks you about preferences and choices of textbook formats.

In general, which of the following textbook formats would you consider using?

☐ New print textbook only
☐ Used print textbook only
☐ E-textbook only
☐ Both an e-textbook and a print copy

For your engineering course, AERO 347, how did you obtain the copy of your textbook, Orbital Mechanics for Engineering Students? Please select all that apply.

☐ Purchased a new print book
☐ Purchased a used print book
☐ Purchased an electronic book
☐ Purchased online
☐ Purchased at local bookstore
Please choose THREE primary reasons that influenced your choice of which textbook format to use.

- Textbook cost
- Personal preference for print or electronic textbook
- Required readings (not optional)
- Readings in your major
- Ease of use
- Portability
- Functionality

Next, we’d like to ask about your awareness of the availability of an electronic copy of your engineering textbook from the library.

Did you know your textbook for AERO 347, Orbital Mechanics for Engineering Students, was available in an electronic format from the library?

- Yes
- No

How did you learn about the library copy of this electronic textbook? Please choose all that apply.

- CTools or email announcement from instructor
- In class announcement from instructor
- Course syllabus
- Library reference service
- Library web search or Mirlyn catalog search
- Communication with classmates
- Social media
- Other (Please specify)

When did you learn about the library copy of an electronic textbook?

- More than 2 months before start of class
- Between 1-2 months before start of class
- Less than one month before start of class
- A week before start of class
In the future, when would you like to be informed of the availability of an electronic copy of your textbook?

- More than 2 months before start of class
- Between 1-2 months before start of class
- Less than one month before start of class
- A week before start of class
- First day of class
- After class begins

The next set of questions asks you about your current experience with using an electronic book/textbook during this semester.

Did you use the electronic copy of your engineering textbook from the library during this semester?

- Yes
- No

Please indicate the level of your agreement/disagreement with the following e-textbook features:

“*In using an electronic copy of my engineering textbook, I found it to be...*”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Don’t know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Easy to use</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
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<tr>
<td>Easy to access</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
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<tr>
<td>Easy to read</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
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<tr>
<td>Easy to print</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
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<tr>
<td>Easy to share</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
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<tr>
<td>Easy to copy paste content from ebooks</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
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<td>☐</td>
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<tr>
<td>Easy to highlight and take notes</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
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<tr>
<td>Easy to share notes and highlights</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
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<td>☐</td>
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<tr>
<td>Easy to search for particular words</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
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<tr>
<td>Portable</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
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<tr>
<td>Environmentally friendly</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
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<tr>
<td>A positive benefit to student learning</td>
<td>☐</td>
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</table>
Have you ever had difficulty using the electronic library copy of your engineering textbook?

☐ Yes
☐ No

How often have you had difficulty using this electronic textbook?

Rarely
☐

Sometimes
☐

Quite Often
☐

When having technical difficulty, what did you do to solve the problem? Please choose all that apply.

☐ Contacted librarians
☐ Asked professor/instructor
☐ Asked friend/classmate
☐ Did nothing
☐ Other (please specify)

Please rate your overall satisfaction with this electronic textbook.

Very Dissatisfied
☐

Dissatisfied
☐

Neutral
☐

Satisfied
☐

Very Satisfied
☐

Please describe why/why not satisfied?

A final set of questions asks you to report about your future plans with regard to electronic book/textbook use and to provide any suggestions.

Would you choose to use library copies of electronic books/textbooks in the future?

☐ Yes
☐ Maybe
☐ No
Do you have any suggestions for improving the usability of electronic resources and their related library services?