

# eTexts: Issues to Consider

<b>Purpose of the project</b>	Is the institution trying to save students money? Enhance learning? Stop piracy? Appear technologically savvy? How will you measure success?
<b>Accessibility</b>	Is material accessible to users with disabilities? Do content providers abide by WAC3 and ADA? Is the <i>content</i> accessible and not just the <i>reader</i> ?
<b>Platform(s)</b>	Can material be accessed using devices supported (or not supported) by the institution, including iPads, laptops, and dedicated ebook readers? How will students gain access and rights to each of their books?
<b>Availability</b>	Are the desired texts available on the selected platforms?
<b>Support</b>	If the system has problems, who will address them? Is there 24/7 support?
<b>Printing</b>	Can users print all or portions of the text? How important is this?
<b>Affordability</b>	What is the cost? Who bears it? How does cost compare to buying a book new or used (including sell-back), rental? Will this impact administrative costs?
<b>Permanence</b>	Do users own or rent the material? How long do they have access to it? Is there provision for permanent access? Will students want to retain reading rights to the book?
<b>Learning</b>	Do eTexts provide the same/better/worse learning experience for students?
<b>Connectivity</b>	Do users need to be connected to the internet while using the material? What happens if connectivity fails? Does your campus have sufficient wi-fi? Are users able to download a version of the material to retain long term, e.g. as an epub3?
<b>User choice</b>	Can faculty select texts for their courses? Can students choose the digital or printed format of the book? Can students choose whether to purchase text or not? Do all the students in the class have to buy a book? If so, how is billing managed? If so, what is the provision for students who have medical or other reasons to buy a paper text?
<b>Provider(s)</b>	Are you considering one or more platforms? If contracting with non-publisher platforms, will the needed texts be available on time/in desired format? Are you considering one or more publishers or platforms? Will this cause instructor or student confusion/problems?
<b>Features/functions</b>	Can users export their notes? Can the textbook platform connect to the course management system? What data about users are available from the textbook provider? Can students and instructors share their notes? Do students/instructors need training on features? If so, who is providing support?
<b>Bookstore</b>	What is the impact on your bookstore?

**ELI Presentation:** COMING SOON TO A UNIVERSITY NEAR YOU: E-TEXTS AND E-TEXTBOOKS  
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