Our HE site customers asked ...and we responded

Student read-only access to e-textbooks

Guest access option



Originally our digital textbook collection required a dual login: students whose libraries purchased the collection would log in via the library to

access the textbooks, and then be required to login again on a separate Higher Education account to actually read the material. Dual login was required at first because usage tracking was set up requiring an account to log against.

After librarians voiced concern for their students about the extra login step to get to the content, we put in place our "Guest Access", so students could just read without creating their own Higher Education accounts. This change also meant that we could track usage via the library login and access.

From receiving the librarian feedback in September 2020 to implementation of the guest access option took about 3 months.

LMS integration

Implementation underway, beginning with Moodle



Librarians asked us to create a process by which a student can access and open content directly from or within their learning management system, without having to come via our website first. Instructors asked us to enable deep linking within their syllabi, reading lists, and/or LMS, so students can click a link and enter the eReader at a specific chapter rather than at the beginning of the textbook.

LMS integration and permalinks/deep links will shortly be available for our digital textbooks, starting with Moodle; Blackboard, Canvas, Brightspace D2L, and Sakai will follow in mid-2022.

Group annotations

'Group code' implementation

Instructors asked to be able to highlight and direct students to particularly important textbook extracts to aid learning.

Instructors at institutions who have access to our collection of textbooks can assign student email addresses to a "group" within our eReader, and those groups of students can see annotations that the instructor has written. If the student has their own individual HE account too, they can make private annotations alongside the notes their instructor has shared.

Implementation began in the summer of 2021 and our Group Code function was live in December. Our next step in annotations is to determine whether it will benefit students to be able to add comments to instructor annotations.

Engagement analytics

Implementation underway; Phase 1 about to be delivered



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The first phase of our engagement

analytics development is graphical representations of COUNTER compliant statistics: textbook views over time, cumulative textbook views, and most popular device used to access. These will be made available to instructors as well as librarians, at a textbookspecific level and by institution.

Phase 2 will include a deeper dive into the engagement within specific textbooks, and what is actually happening in the eReader. This may include showing chapter-level engagement, the enrichment views, time spent on pages, and supplementary material usage if applicable.

For more information, please visit www.cambridge.org/highereducation

