

Cambridge Aspire

Enhancing teaching & learning

We recently had the opportunity to speak with librarians who shared their institution's experiences with our eTextbooks.

The Cambridge Aspire (formerly Higher Education from Cambridge University Press) website was created with librarians in mind, knowing the pressures they face to ensure their patrons have access to the most up-to-date and vital content.

We wanted to hear first-hand how institutions are using the site and the impact it has had on faculty and student experience.

Quotes from the head of collection strategies at a Carnegie Classifications R1 institution:

"We had a collections discussion: Is it the library's place to provide eTextbooks? Should we be subsidizing the student's costs? If we provide eTextbooks, is this project sustainable?"

We agreed to do a small pilot, consisting of three Cambridge titles for classes with over 50 students each. Usage over the past four years has been phenomenal: one title had 2,372 item requests over the four-year period; another has had 9,135 in just two years. Overall, usage of Cambridge eTextbooks at our institution has worked out to 41 cents per use.

As we have been very happy with this pilot, we have just expanded to include some additional titles, and also dropped the criterion for course inclusion to 25 students per class. This project is adding accessibility and increasing equity for our students, which is very definitely part of the library's mission."

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