

TIPS FOR CREATING DIGITAL TEXTBOOKS TO ENHANCE E-LEARNING

Nowadays it is hard to imagine any process without the involvement of IT technologies. Lately E-learning has become more and more popular amongst teachers and a lot of enthusiasts as well as experts have opened online schools to make the teaching-learning process more comfortable and suitable for modern needs. However, pre-printed textbooks and their digital variants are not always enough to meet the growing requirements of online schools, and there is a strong need for digital textbooks and courses not only for employees of online schools, but for individual educators as well. In this blog post, we have identified some tips and steps to help you get started with making your own, unique and highly efficient digital textbook.

WHAT EXACTLY IS A DIGITAL TEXTBOOK?

To put it in simpler words, a digital textbook is an e-book, a book or a set of teaching materials available digitally, but of course they can also have their printed variants and just be digitalized. But the key point which makes a digital textbook different and unique is interactivity. It opens doors for new approaches to learning.

HOW CAN A DIGITAL TEXTBOOK MAKE THE LEARNING PROCESS MORE EFFECTIVE?

First of all, digital textbooks or digitalized variants of books are more convenient to use, as it is easier to scroll, go through pages, and find specific information through the search option in just one second. Secondly, digital books provide teachers with the opportunity to insert hyperlinks, which will redirect the student to additional sources of information. Visualization is another fantastic feature of digital textbooks, as in digital textbooks all images, graphs, charts, tables and similar content can be enlarged and viewed more thoroughly. Last but not least, digital textbooks are great for breaking the pattern of monotonous learning and provide the students with real time contexts and situations to create real experience.

FIRST STEPS AND TIPS FOR CREATING DIGITAL TEXTBOOKS

1. The cover idea

We have always been told not to judge the book by its cover, but, in fact, covers do matter. The cover is of utmost importance, as readers and users tend to get attracted to the cover. The cover image should be carefully chosen, created or taken, and it should speak for the book. The cover should be a brief, visual summary of what lies ahead.

2. The layout template

This one greatly depends on the level of learners, the subject and the sphere. One needs to clearly understand what kind of book they want to create. Should it be full of visual content? Or are texts and written information more significant? Should exercises prevail? All this must be taken into consideration beforehand to have a mental image of what your digital textbook will look like.

3. Content and elements of interactivity

As digital environment provides us with countless opportunities, it is better not to cling to text and images only. Integration of audio and video may help to adapt various materials to the needs of all students, irrespective of age and level of knowledge.

4. Tools to make it easier

Of course one can create a digital textbook using PDF, word document or PowerPoint files and then convert them into ePUB file, but nowadays there are more and more tools to make the process easier. Below we have presented a list of resources and tools; Kitaboo – an award winning digital platform to create your own interactive books.

Blurb – helps you through publishing and distribution procedures.

Notion Press – you can find the best eBook experts here.

Also let us not forget about iBooks Author (for Mac) and Kotobee (both for Windows and Mac).

5. Table of contents

Once everything is ready, you can create the table of contents. This is done in the very end, as during the process there are a lot of things to add, change and rearrange.

IN CONCLUSION...

The implementation of digital textbooks in the teaching-learning process benefits both the students and the teachers and makes content available anytime, anywhere through a variety of devices. They are a universal tool for public, private, online schools, teaching and training centers, individual teachers and, in general, all kinds of educators, educational institutions and platforms. Create your digital textbook now and you will see how efficient your lessons will become in the nearest future.