Online digital textbooks

answering the wrong question?
The wrong question

“How do we get textbooks on iPads?”
More convinced than ever that NOT having electronic textbooks was the best thing that ever happened to our iPad deployment.

5:18 AM - 10 Sep 2013

10 RETWEETS  6 FAVORITES
@kongtomorrow Yes, that’s exactly it. Books are for content consumption; iPads are for content creation!

5:28 AM - 10 Sep 2013  Sandton, South Africa
Some better questions

how do we get great resources into learning situations?

how do we support creation and curation/sharing of resources?
The Newington experience


Now
1:1 iPads K-8 (1100 boys)
1:1 laptops 9-12 (850 boys)
The Newington experience

Year 7 2012: ~$800 of textbooks

2013: a bad experience

2014: a better one - with LearningField.
The Newington experience

- Bundled with fees (Years 7 & 8 - 450 boys)
- Parents overwhelmingly positive, but some strongly opposed

Teacher training in December and Jan/Feb
Good things

- App in the App Store
- LF relationship with most publishers
- The ‘single chapter’ model
- Fantastic support from LF
- Performance / speed - even without special caching
Challenges

- Teachers have to do something
- Teachers have to do something new
- Not all publishers
- Not all subjects
- Parents and students
Not so good - general gripes

- The ‘one screen’ problem
- Fighting against the publishers
  - DRM means PDFs are locked away (No use of your favourite annotation apps)
  - Poor links to web links
  - PDF only
Not so good

● Still ‘early days’ for the app
● No management tools / class enrolment synchronisation *(we have ~1100 classes)*
● No links to our login systems
Next steps?

- Linking LearningField to our systems
- Looking forward to new features

*Exploring ways to help ‘liberate’ some courses from eTextbooks…*

Will LearningField be with us on that journey?
Further Thoughts?

blogs.newington.nsw.edu.au/ict/2014/01/textbooks-with-learningfield/

or Google “Newington LearningField”