



Article published on March 27th 2012 | [Business](#)

Textbooks can be a nightmare for those who are terminally short of cash. It's hard to figure out how such a relatively small book can cost so much, but the fact is they do. Is there a way around this, though? Well yes there is because there are websites which allow students to rent textbooks from their database and then send them back at the end of the semester. Think of it as a long-term, online library. However, these companies also have other options open to students too.

Benefits of Renting and not Buying

Some companies allow their students to personalise the textbooks through highlighting certain passages or circling certain areas lightly in pencil. However, don't bank on this with all companies as some can be stricter than others.

The fact that the book isn't the property of the student will mean that they are likely to take better care of the book through fear of having to pay for the replacement of said book if it becomes damaged.

Purchasing a whole box of textbooks and attempting to store them in a small college dorm can be a problem. But if the decision is made to rent a small amount of books at a time it will ultimately save space in one's room, and that's always a bonus.

It allows students to be free from the bonds of the campus library. This is a crucial advantage because many students rush to the library on the first day in order to rent a certain textbook, but if the library runs out of books in their inventory then the student can be left in a very problematic position.

The most obvious advantage is that it lets the student get cheap textbooks. College fees are higher than ever these days so finding deals and implementing cost-cutting measures are always welcome.

What Else do they Do?

Providing a place to rent textbooks is not the only function of many of these companies at all. Many of these companies also provide a number of other services. Obviously, these services will be specific to each company, but there are some services which are available all across the country.

1. These companies will allow students to actually buy the textbooks too. Usually, this can be the perfect place to find cheap textbooks because many sell their books at lower prices than the stores in one's local area. This is also a great advantage if the student wants to personalise the book by folding pages and marking it heavily, or is generally very clumsy and can't be trusted with a rented book.

2. When a semester is finished and it's understood that the textbooks will never be used again it can be difficult to find a place to dispose of them. Many of these companies are always looking to replenish their stocks, so if the book is in good condition then they can also be sold.

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Article Keywords:

Cheap Textbooks, Rent Textbooks

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