Use of E-Books in Engineering Classroom

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Use of e-Books in Academic Libraries

- Widespread availability
  - 88% with access to e-books
  - 50% have >10,000 e-books
- Usage
  - 6% "excellent"
  - 22% "poor"

Ebooks Face Triple Threat by Andrew Albanese
Library Journal, 7/15/2007

Factors Impacting the Use of e-Books

- **Awareness**
  - Deluge of e-resources
  - Library's marketing limitations
  - Vendor's role
- **Interface usability**
  - Search complexities
  - Diversity by vendor
- **Training**
  - Usage goes up 30-150%
- **Use patterns**
  - E-books
  - E-references
- **Accessibility**
  - Catalog search limitations
  - Multiple layers (library>books>online books>Knovel Library)
- **Google**
  - 70% referred

Addressing Low Usage

- **Awareness**
  - Traditional methods
    - Syllabus
    - Library website
    - Course management software
    - Librarian consultations
  - *Social networks* (NSBA: 96% students use)
    - Facebook
    - MySpace
  - Blogging
- ***Curricula integration***
  - Textbooks
  - Course exercises
- **Accessibility**
  - Library Portals
  - Bookmarking
  - SEO
- **Training**
  - Lectures/Webinars

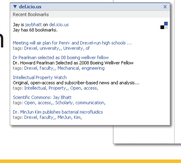
Survey of Drexel Engineering Students

	How do you most often find information about new resources available from the library?	How would you prefer to keep yourself up-to-date with new information?	How did you learn to find information you needed for research projects?
Face-to-face consultation with a librarian	15.6%	13.9%	29.5%
Email consultation with a librarian	26.2%	37.7%	18.9%
IM chat consultation with a librarian	2.5%	11.5%	4.9%
From friends and colleagues	**44.3%**	31.1%	**45.9%**
From postings on social sites such as Facebook	4.9%	19.7%	3.3%
From postings in course management software such as Blackboard	24.6%	40.2%	17.2%
From postings in the Library's website and blogs	**42.6%**	**56.6%**	35.2%

Drexel is Reaching Out Using Facebook

Drexel Engineering Information Awareness Campaign Group

Bookmarks from del.icio.us



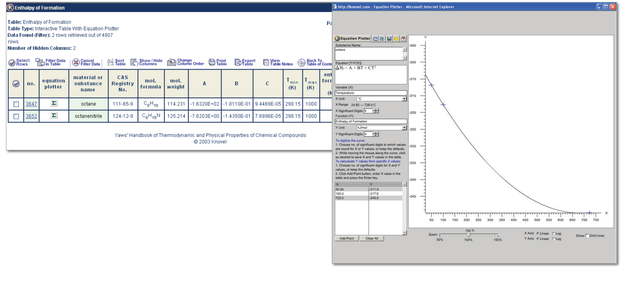
Curricula Integration Benefits

- Student learns how to find the right information and use it to solve a problem
- Thinks more about the physical significance of a problem (rather than trying to find a formula)
- Prepares for workplace
- Saves time
- Goes hand in hand with online learning

Textbook Exercise

Determine the enthalpy of formation of gaseous octane (C8H18) at 50 and 100°C at 1 atm, using data and interactive tools located on www.knovel.com. Present results in kJ/mol and kJ/kg, respectively. Also show answers in Btu/lb-mol and Btu/lb.

Enthalpy of Formation



Course Exercise: Brown University

- 400 general chemistry students
- Knovel vs. library stocks
- Usage increased almost 10 folds!
- Stayed 25% up afterwards
- Student survey
  - most never heard about service
  - found useful and will continue to use