# What is the future of eBooks in Higher Education?

**A summary of the 2011 Horizon Report:**

The 2011 Horizon Report seems to indicate that the future of eBooks in Higher Education is very strong, and by this time (2012) are largely implemented. While the report states various issues with lack of academic prevalence in eBook material, it also seems to indicated that many of the issues with the exceptions of DRM issues have been largely addressed (within reason) to a point that eBooks are now prevalent in Higher Education.

The Horizon Report indicates that in the future eBooks, and specifically eTextbooks will become less and less of a technological marvel and more and more of the norm. The report points out that as eBooks become more and more prevalent in Higher Education, and as more institutions, instructors, and students begin utilizing them, more and more, publishing companies will continue to adapt more and more of their publications such as textbooks and supplemental course materials into an eBook format. With this adaptation will come greater linking and interactivity components, which will add to the overall prevalence of the eBooks in higher education.

The Horizon Report discusses access to eBooks relative to how it will impact their future prevalence and seems to indicate that as technology and DRM issues evolve, it will become easier and easier to access eBooks, particularly within the realm of higher education. It indicates lower cost subscriptions for students and institutions on a per book or per course capacity, as well as options to de-bundle eBooks from printed materials. The report also seems to suggest that institutions will take a potentially greater control of eBook usage by their students, through course management systems and other contracting options with publishers. The Horizon Report seems to indicate overall that the prevalence of eBooks in the near and distant future will increase and will continue to diversify from simply electronic versions of textbooks, into widely distributed interactive and dynamic learning aids, with the potential to outnumber printed textbooks at some point.