

Oxford University Press Elevates Digital Learning with Collaborative Textbook App

"We believe that Office 365 provides a highly interesting approach to the core productivity and collaboration needs of schools. This, plus the fact that it is free to students who are enrolled at qualifying schools, should empower schools to achieve greater levels of interaction and learning."

- Joseph Noble, Head of Channels and Partnerships, Oxford University Press

Summary

Oxford University Press created the Oxford Learner's Bookshelf application to help schools and universities more easily disseminate textbooks. In 2014, it delivered the Oxford Learner's Bookshelf as a Microsoft Office 365 app, helping schools mitigate costs while allowing students to learn anytime, anywhere.

Making the Digital Shift



Oxford University Press wants to enhance the learning experience by helping schools move from print-based learning programs to digital ones. It has already made one giant leap toward this goal in the form of the Oxford Learner's Bookshelf: a cross-platform e-reader application that turns Oxford University Press English-teaching textbooks into interactive digital books.

"We make a difference in people's lives through education," says Joseph Noble, Head of Channels and Partnerships, English Language Teaching Division at Oxford University Press. "By bringing our high-quality educational materials into the digital environment, we are able to help drive learning outcomes more effectively."

The Oxford Learner's Bookshelf presents enormous opportunities for schools and universities to easily disseminate textbooks. Making the print-to-digital shift, however, requires schools to face new challenges, including difficult implementation processes, hefty price tags, and confusion around device, platform, and format compatibility.



Partner: Oxford University Press
Country: United Kingdom
Website: www.oup.com/elt
Number of Employees: 7,000
Industry: Education—K-12, Higher education

Partner Profile

Founded in 1586, Oxford University Press strives to enhance learning through high-quality books, textbooks, academic journals, and other scholarly works. Oxford University Press publishes more than 6,000 new books a year with a presence in more than 50 countries.

Office 365 Education Solution

The Oxford Learner's Bookshelf app within Office 365 creates a collaborative learning environment for students and teachers alike, providing instant access to digital textbooks and interactive features, all within the Microsoft SharePoint Online environment.

To help educators take full advantage of the Oxford Learner's Bookshelf, Oxford knew it had to find a solution that would make it cost-effective and efficient for schools to implement digital learning programs.

Learning on Demand

Oxford University Press teamed up with fellow Microsoft Partner Shaping Cloud, a software company based in the United Kingdom, to deliver the Oxford Learner's Bookshelf as a Microsoft Office 365 app in June 2014.

"For schools, having the product available as an Office 365 app is fantastic," says Noble. "It means they can quickly disseminate our books within a trusted single sign-on environment and collaborate using Microsoft OneDrive. Additionally, Office 365 is largely device agnostic, and we have found that it provides an excellent interaction point for schools needing apps and content."



Students and teachers are now engaging in a collaborative learning environment with instant access to digital textbooks

and interactive features, all within the Microsoft SharePoint Online environment. Teachers enhance lessons through video, audio, and interactive exercises, and students can highlight text, write notes, and share these items with one another through OneDrive. And because the app is specifically for SharePoint Online, students can seamlessly navigate between Office 365 apps for a robust learning experience, all with single sign-on access.

Instant access to textbooks is also a huge plus for students. "This can be a real issue where there is limited distribution of physical books," says Noble. "We have seen how the rate of adoption of the Oxford Learner's Bookshelf is greatest in rapidly developing markets where digital distribution can often trump physical and where educational and technological aspirations often coincide."

Cutting Costs, Enhancing Education

By using the Oxford Learner's Bookshelf app in Office 365, schools are saving money while elevating the learning experience through compelling content, ease of access, and collaborative environments.

Preserve Resources

Implementing new technology can be expensive, but schools find significant cost savings by using the Office 365 app, allowing them to channel their already scarce resources to other priorities. "Schools often have limited resources but expectations are that they need to take better advantage of technology," says Noble. "At a basic level, Office 365 greatly reduces the price of adopting and implementing a collection of digital solutions."

Learn Anytime, Anywhere

As students access their books through the cloud, they take learning into their own hands, studying from home without having to lug around a heavy backpack.

Additionally, the ability to share notes and questions with teachers via OneDrive after school hours creates open communication channels that foster crucial teacher-to-learner relationships.

About Office 365 Education Solutions

Office 365 is more than a collection of apps. It's a collaboration powerhouse.

To find scalable, secure, enterprise-solutions designed for schools that are built on Office 365, please visit www.aka.ms/office365educationsolutions.

Supported by a robust partner ecosystem, you are ensured to find a solution that is tailored to meet the needs of your school or campus.