

# COLLABORATING TEXTBOOKS AND DIGITAL LEARNING

“Books are a man's best friends”- goes the old saying which holds true for all times.



## Introduction

Since time immemorial books have been the storehouse of knowledge, transferring wisdom stored in them from person to person and generation to generation. They open an entirely different and amazing world for us to explore, a world full of letters, numbers, humans, animals and super heroes, problems and their solutions, facts and fiction. Be it religious texts, story books or the textbooks, they always have something valuable to give us every time we turn their pages.

Text books have and will always remain an integral and indispensable part of the education system having always proven a great help in imparting

target-based knowledge as per a fixed curriculum in the schools. They are full of facts that are essential for students in improving their knowledge. Since textbooks are so important for the students, they

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should be capable of fulfilling all the qualities of a good textbook.

The article talks about the what comprises a good text book, best practices by teachers while using a text book and discusses how digital technology has improvised teaching methods by empowering the teacher with better teaching-learning aids to explain a topic more effectively.

## Qualities of a Good Textbook

Now, what is a good textbook? According to me, a good text book not only provides relevant and sufficient information to the students, but through its multiple exercises also develops problem solving and reasoning skills among them, which is essential for their overall development. A good textbook should have some of the following features:

- ▶ It should cover all the important and valid content as per the subject and class for which it has been prescribed.
- ▶ All the information provided in it should be factually correct and free from errors.
- ▶ The contents are made more interesting and understandable if the book has diagrams and illustrations.
- ▶ The simpler the language, the easier it is for the students to interpret.

- ▶ The content should be in accordance with the mental capabilities of the age group for which it has been prescribed.
- ▶ A textbook with MCQs, one words, fill ups, long and short answer questions and many more brain storming activities help students gain a better understanding of the subject.
- ▶ The book must have higher order thinking questions.
- ▶ The exercise should cover all the important points of a particular chapter.
- ▶ The arrangement of chapters should be in an increasing order of difficulty.
- ▶ The contents of the book should be revised and updated on a regular basis.

## Best Practices While Using Textbooks

Choosing a good book is half the job done, but using it effectively is equally important. Here at Seth Anandram Jaipuria both the teachers and students use textbooks to extract the maximum benefit from them. Key pointers for teachers to make the best use of textbooks, include:

- ▶ The teacher ensures that students have the right books in the latest editions.





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- ▶ The teacher ensures that students read aloud each and every word of the book correctly, assimilating its meaning and then chalking out its important points from the text.
- ▶ The teacher ensures dictionaries, atlas, thesauruses and/or other teaching aids are used to understand the text clearly, ensuring a wider knowledge of the topic.
- ▶ The teacher ensures that students solve the exercises in the textbook with their assistance.
- ▶ The teacher ensures that students make proper use of workbooks and worksheets for better assimilation of the studied material.
- ▶ The teacher ensures that practical, objective, subjective and oral tests are taken from time to time to get an idea of how much the students have understood.

## Collaborating Digital Learning and Textbooks

With technological advancements engulfing the whole world, books have not been outdated, in fact, the world of digital learning has opened new and interesting prospects to make textbook learning more interesting.

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## Importance of the Collaboration

This amalgamation of the new with the old has strengthened the already powerful effect of textbook knowledge. Clubbing textbooks with

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digital learning makes things easy, interesting and understandable to students and helps in increasing the efficiency of textbooks. Collaborating digital learning with textbooks has opened an enchanting realm of knowledge for students, making textbooks more effective in the following ways:

- ▶ We have digital learning through Smart Classes and Audio Visual aids to help students work on three fronts i.e audio, visual and verbal, helping them understand a topic better.
- ▶ We also use digital aids to compensate for the lack of practical experiences in the school premises, especially in subjects like History and Geography.
- ▶ We use facilities like language labs, which help in improving the language skills of the students by making them listen to the stories and poems that they read in books.
- ▶ Our textbooks are equipped with the latest digital technology, such as CDs, DVDs, QR codes which can be scanned to better explain topics, even while mobile or at home.
- ▶ Subjects like Physics, Chemistry and Biology are taught with the help of videos for a student's better understanding which helps in the overall progress of the child.

Thus, in a nutshell it can be said that a good textbook, well equipped with examples, illustrations, exercises, activities along with digital advancements, in the hands of a good teacher is capable of producing students who are full of knowledge and have the skill to work wonders in their lives.



**Shalini Shukla** is an educator with an M.Com and B.Ed degree. She is currently teaching English and Social Studies in Class IV at Seth Anandram Jaipuria School in Kanpur. Shalini believes in the power of reading and the transformational changes it brings into the personality of an individual. Reading Ignites and Kindles, the imagination of a person along with enhancing the language skills and communication skills of a person. Therefore, she keeps inspiring and motivating her children to become voracious readers. She strongly believes that every teacher should emphasize on proper planning and effective presentation of his/her subject which influence and empower student learning.

Email: shalini.s\_sajskanpur.edu