

How Perlego is advancing student and instructor success



Abstract

In an effort to address ongoing challenges in regards to access, affordability, and college preparedness, many faculty continue to turn towards innovative platforms and solutions. For Jacob Rohrer, MBA, Adjunct Instructor and Assistant to the President at Howard Payne University, Perlego has been the gateway for solving those barriers.

In addition to his role as Assistant to the President and Adjunct Instructor, Rohrer is currently pursuing his Ph.D. Rohrer has leveraged the Perlego digital library to aid in his own scholarship and instruction as well as with his students.

This case study explores Professor Rohrer's experience with Perlego and the impact that seamless access to 1 million ebooks can have for students and instructors.

About Howard Payne University

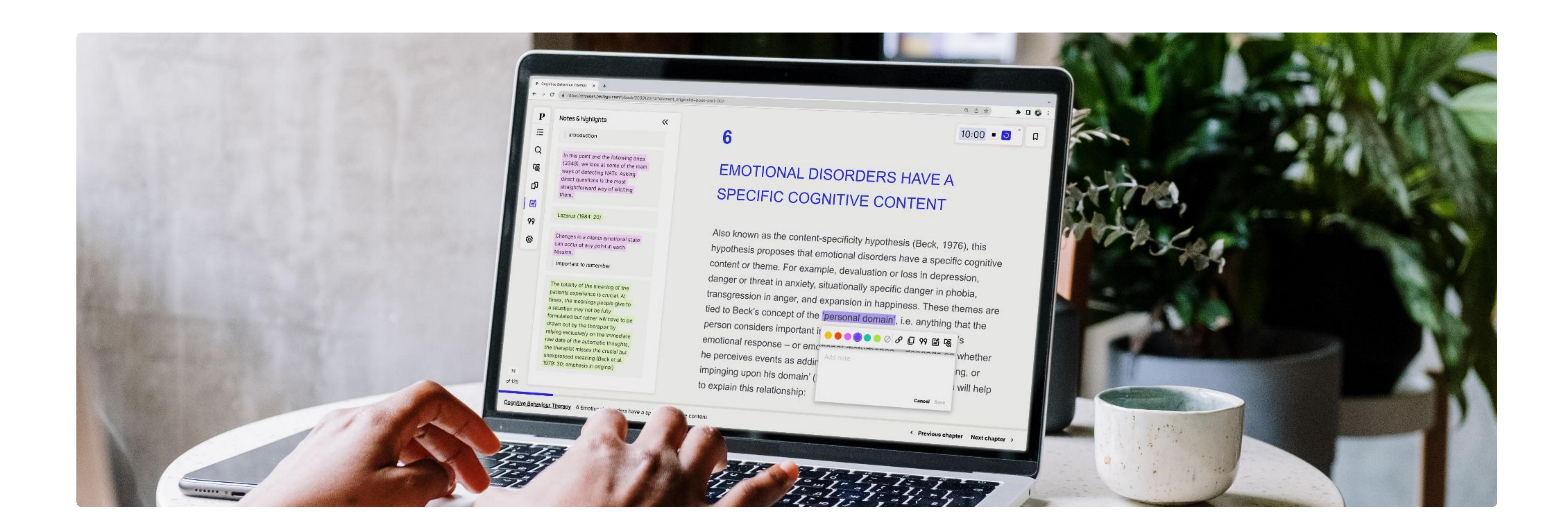
Located in Brownwood, Texas, Howard Payne University (HPU) is home to nearly 900 undergraduate learners. At HPU, students choose from more than 100 majors, minors and pre-professional programs in seven schools: Business, Christian Studies, Education, Humanities, Music and Fine Arts, Nursing, and Science and Mathematics.

The rural location of the university coupled with a student demographic that includes 35% Pell Grant recipients and first-generation college students motivates faculty and institutional leaders to think critically about the ways in which they offer both learning materials and experiences.

About Perlego

Perlego is an online digital library that empowers students and educators with access to more than 1 million books from leading higher education publishers.

We work in partnership with 200+ institutions worldwide to enhance the student learning experience, providing affordable and seamless online access via our top-rated online reader and app, student learning analytics and built-in study tools.





Jacob Rohrer Lecturer and Assistant to the President for Special Projects Howard Payne University

We spoke to Jacob Rohrer to discover more about why he uses Perlego, and the impact it has on his teaching.

Student and professor: a unique perspective

Professor Rohrer's current responsibilities at HPU span across the institution. As he develops undergraduate leadership studies courses in hopes of one day forming the university's first Minor in Leadership, he recognizes the importance of reading when it comes to academic success, both for himself and for his students.

"As the Assistant to the President at Howard Payne University, as an instructor, and as I pursue my Ph.D. with a focus on leadership in higher education, I find myself really on both sides of the user experience when it comes to Perlego," Rohrer stated.

Professor Rohrer began using Perlego, first for easy, reliable access to texts that would help him complete his research and writing at the graduate level.

"I first came across Perlego when my university library didn't have the books I was looking for. I didn't have time to travel to find the books or the time to order them online," Professor Rohrer stated. "And as it turned out, Perlego had the books I needed to complete a number of my papers." After experiencing the benefits of the platform, the comprehensive catalogs, built-in organizational tools, and dynamic reading experience, he would go on to recommend it for his students.

The challenge

The parallel experiences of teaching and learning often uncover universal challenges. For Professor Rohrer and the larger HPU community those challenges are top of mind.



Access and Affordability

Access and affordability remain core issues in higher education. But what happens when we think about how to tackle them simultaneously? "When I think about access," Rohrer said, "I inherently think about affordability, the rural location of our school, as well as content and platforms that accommodate every type of learner."

Understanding the value of reading

Reading is often cited as the foundation for academic success. As we know, however, many students are reluctant to read assigned readings or even purchase their text.

"It's important to me that I help my students understand the concrete connection between reading and success,"

- Professor Jacob Rohrer

The solution

Since 2022, Rohrer has used Perlego to help solve these issues. "Since I discovered Perlego, the platform has become a cornerstone resource in developing new courses and teaching my current classes. The resources available through Perlego have opened many new opportunities for course instruction and reading assignments without burdening my students with unnecessary and excessive costs," he stated.

Dynamic, accessible reading experiences

On the whole, accessible learning engages two major components – affordability and features or an approach that makes content readily available and easy to digest for all types of students. "[With Perlego] I can assign reading from myriad academic and professional texts, broadening the range of academic literature to which my students are exposed, alleviating the burden of exorbitant textbook costs, and removing the obstacles students face in accessing the academic literature vital to their academic growth," said Rohrer.

Learning on-the-go

The ability to read anywhere at any time is a game changer in the busy lives of students and faculty at HPU as they travel to and from and around campus. "[With Perlego], it's so easy to read in between class or meetings," said Rohrer. With access to the mobile app, "you don't have to worry about taking your books or notes with you, it's all in one place."

Looking Forward

Professor Rohrer has personally experienced how valuable Perlego is and looks forward to continuing to use the platform for his own lecture preparation and with his students. "Not only is Perlego beneficial to increasing student success and enhancing the student experience, the platform has helped me become a more effective instructor."

Along with other higher ed faculty, Rohrer remains dedicated to providing students with access to low-cost or cost saving platforms that advance the overall teaching and learning experience.

When you have platforms that benefit both sides, allowing students access to their material and providing an easy way for faculty to be more effective it really is a win-win."

- Professor Jacob Rohrer

Get in touch with Perlego

to find out how we could help you enhance student outcomes through improved access to online materials.

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