

How Perlego Enhances Research Opportunities at Missouri University of Science and Technology



Abstract

Missouri University of Science and Technology is a public institution that predominantly enrolls future engineers and STEM majors but offers a vibrant mix of disciplines and courses, including Modern Eastern Europe, taught by Assistant Teaching Professor Andrew Behrendt, PhD.

With limited access to resources and outdated collections in the university library, conducting research in the field of Eastern European history posed a challenge for both Dr. Behrendt and his students. As a result, Dr. Behrendt sought a solution that would enable students with affordable access to academic materials and facilitate project-based assignments that required extensive reading and research.

Perlego ultimately provided students access to a vast collection of academic works, empowering them to explore their research interests and engage in project-based learning. This case study highlights the transformative impact of Perlego in helping Dr. Behrendt overcome resource limitations and foster student success.

PERLEGO CASE STUDY

About Missouri University of Science and Technology

Missouri University of Science and Technology (Missouri S&T) is a public institution founded in 1870 whose mission is to integrate education, research and application to create and convey knowledge that serves Missouri and helps solve the world's great challenges.

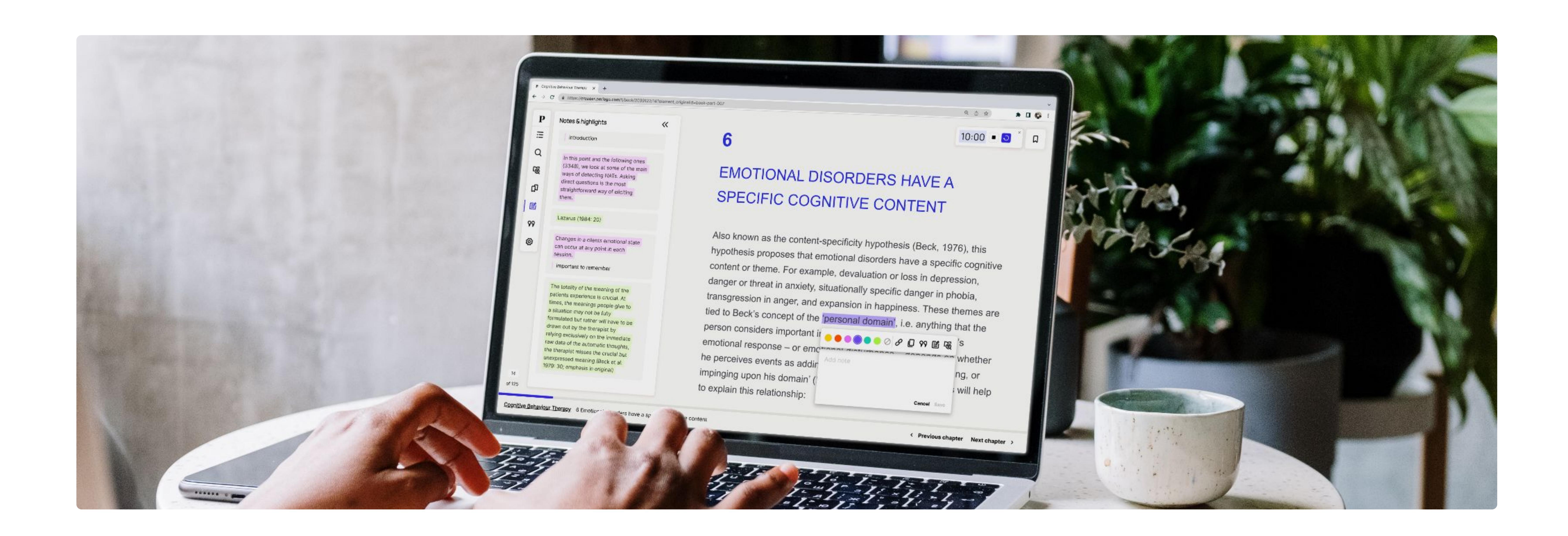
With three undergraduate colleges, the College of Engineering, the College of Arts, Sciences, and Education and the newly developed Kummer College of Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Economic Development, students are offered diverse academic pathways.

As Missouri S&T strives to become the leading public technological research university for discovery, creativity and innovation, the institution remains committed to lifelong success, creativity, integrity, sustainability, partnerships, and inclusion.

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.





Dr. Andrew Behrendt, Professor at Missouri University of Science and Technology

We spoke to Dr. Behrendt to discover more about why he uses Perlego, and the impact it has on his students.

The challenge

While preparing to teach a Special Topics (experimental) course called Modern Eastern Europe,

Dr. Behrendt reflected on the major challenges or pain points he experiences when teaching such a course.



Time and workload

Dr. Behrendt was navigating the time and workload constraints associated with teaching multiple courses and managing a large number of students. The demands of grading assignments and maintaining a high level of engagement while also revamping the course content posed a considerable challenge.



Affordability

Students at Missouri S&T often face significant expenses for textbooks and materials in their STEM-focused programs. Acquiring high-quality course materials while being cost-conscious also added another layer of complexity for course preparation and delivery.

The challenge

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The limited availability of research resources

One significant challenge for Dr. Behrendt and his students was the limited availability of research resources in the university library, particularly the scarcity of those related to Eastern European studies.

"Our university's library must run on a small—and shrinking—budget. This means that our collections are quite small and in certain sectors are outdated. Our Eastern European collections are very minimal, so, even more than usual, asking students to do any kind of research seemed next to impossible, except for what they could borrow through interlibrary loan or what I could put on reserve from my personal library,"

- Andrew Behrendt, PhD

As a result, this limitation restricted the range of assignments that could be assigned and completed throughout the course.

"That [the limitation of discipline-related resources], in turn, appeared to limit what kinds of assignments I could reasonably ask of them—especially for the final assessment, which at the upper levels I always try to make project-based somehow."

- Andrew Behrendt, PhD

The solution

Leveraging Perlego, Dr. Behrendt redesigned the Modern Eastern Europe course to incorporate project assignments and expanded the reading materials available to students. By offering additional readings through Perlego, Andrew Behrendt augmented the course syllabus with invaluable resources. "Perlego allowed my students to experience the course in a way not otherwise possible. It let them explore their own interests more, it let them "customize" their projects, and it gave them greater exposure to actual academic research. It added a dimension to the course without which the whole enterprise would have been less dynamic, and perhaps less meaningful," he said.

Immediate and Expanded Access

Perlego transformed the learning experience for history students, providing them with resources and research capabilities that were previously unattainable. Dr. Behrendt asserted, "It gave me a research library to work with, instantly. Nothing short of marvelous."

Intuitive Interfaces

With the ability to read and study easily, students leaned into their creativity and successfully prepared for their end of term assignments. "The seamless switching between the desktop and mobile app versions was impressive. The interface, in general, is very user-friendly and makes it a pleasure to work in," Dr. Behrendt said.

Overcoming Resource Limitations and Promoting Student Success

In an effort to continue expanding access to academic resources for students and faculty at Missouri University of Science and Technology, Andrew Behrendt plans to introduce Perlego to his colleagues and further explore the possibility of adopting it as an institutional resource. He also intends to continue using Perlego for his own research needs.

By promoting Perlego's benefits and incorporating it into the institution's resources, Dr. Behrendt ultimately aims to enhance teaching and research opportunities at scale for students and his colleagues.

"It sounded almost miraculously like the thing I needed to cut the Gordian knot of my student research problem: a huge library of works from dozens of academic presses, accessible through a fluid interface, at a low cost for my students."

- Andrew Behrendt, PhD

Get in touch with Perlego

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

Learn more