

Perlego



Case Study

Student & Instructor
Survey Results

Overview

The cost of course materials has been, and remains, a barrier to access for many U.S. based students. Costs not only prevent students from being able to acquire their required course materials but can impact the classes they choose to take. Perlego is here to break down these barriers. By providing access to over one million academic titles for a single subscription fee, Perlego is a single point of access for U.S. students to acquire content easily and affordably.

At Perlego, our mission is to make education more accessible and more affordable for students worldwide. Our revolutionary course materials model equips students with a variety of built-in study tools, including one-click referencing, read-aloud functionality, the ability to highlight and take notes, in-book search, and more.

The Goal

We are dedicated to revolutionizing the standard for course materials access in higher education and beyond. Through our continually expanding platform, we provide students with essential resources at a more affordable price, and empower instructors to explore alternatives beyond traditional options for course materials. We are connecting students, faculty, and institutions across higher education with an indispensable tool that fosters collaborative and accessible learning communities.

The Challenge

Overhauling the old course materials adoption system within the U.S. requires a re-evaluation of how instructors choose the materials that best meet their pedagogical needs. Faculty are aware of the financial constraints of students and are therefore mindful when selecting titles to teach from. This often leads faculty to limit their adoptions to a single title, rather than attempting to offer a variety of valuable resources to balance access and curricular outcomes.



The Solution

During the Fall 2023 semester, we partnered with 21 instructors from 19 different colleges and universities across the U.S. to provide their students with free access to the Perlego platform. This complementary access initiative provided the opportunity for faculty and students to experience the power of Perlego to meet the dynamic learning needs of students. Faculty were able to provide students with a variety of resources hosted entirely on the Perlego platform rather than having to choose a single source of content for their course and learning outcomes. At the end of the Fall 2023 semester, we administered a survey to students and faculty who used the Perlego platform to understand the impact it made in their course. Their feedback serves as a valuable resource in understanding the role Perlego can play in higher education within the U.S.

The Approach

The survey's aim was to obtain a comprehensive understanding of faculty and student perceptions, experiences, and satisfaction with the Perlego platform. Faculty and students were provided access to the platform at no cost during the semester, which increased user adoption providing a diverse and representative pool of respondents.

Our comprehensive survey reached both faculty and students from across the United States, teaching and pursuing diverse courses and majors spanning different academic proficiency levels. This broad representation ensures findings from this study reflect a varied spectrum of perspectives, backgrounds, needs, and preferences.

Participating Universities



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
LONG BEACH



COLLEGE
of the
DESERT



HOFSTRA
UNIVERSITY



LOYOLA
UNIVERSITY MARYLAND

SJSU

SAN JOSE STATE
UNIVERSITY



UNIVERSITY OF
ILLINOIS CHICAGO



UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND
BALTIMORE



WISCONSIN
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



UNIVERSITY of
ROCHESTER



WESTERN
MICHIGAN
UNIVERSITY



ST. EDWARD'S
UNIVERSITY



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
AT EL PASO

Survey Findings

An analysis of the survey results for faculty and students provides a comprehensive understanding of their perceptions and experience within the Perlego platform.

Student Insights

The survey revealed that 86% of student respondents expressed a desire to utilize Perlego in the future as an affordable option for acquiring and delivering course materials in upcoming terms. This result underscores the significant potential demand for Perlego.

"I think Perlego is a great platform and I look forward to seeing many more classes use it!"

—University of Illinois Chicago

Interestingly, 64% of students indicated a preference for obtaining future Perlego subscriptions through their campus bookstore. This highlights the importance of the campus bookstore for students as a reliable source for acquiring course materials.

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Student responses also reflected a positive overall user experience as 70% would recommend Perlego to their peers—a resounding vote of confidence in the platform's accessible resources.

"Super helpful to look up key terms/concepts. Great online resource for textbooks!"

—San José State University



Students not only reported positive experiences with the available course material resources on the platform but also found the learning tools highly beneficial. Among these tools are highlighting, note-taking, read-aloud functionality, and BeeLine Reader—an accessibility tool that has received the social impact award from the United Nations and Stanford University. Together, these tools effectively supported their learning experience, with 68% of students confirming their value. This highlights the effectiveness of the Perlego platform's tools in enhancing the overall learning experience for students.

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—San José State University

Faculty Insights

Faculty responses indicated a positive perception of the Perlego platform with 60% expressing their likelihood to recommend the platform to their students. Affordability was a key theme for faculty as a majority of respondents noted the low monthly subscription cost of \$10 as a key factor.

>60% **Would recommend Perlego to students**

Faculty are not only likely to recommend Perlego to their students, but over 86% of faculty respondents indicated a willingness to recommend Perlego to their colleagues. This result validates Perlego's usefulness and effectiveness for both faculty and students.

87%

**Would recommend
Perlego to colleagues**

As with student respondents, a majority of faculty (60%) would prefer the campus bookstore as the distribution point for Perlego. Again, this response expresses the importance of the campus bookstore as a trusted partner in course materials acquisition and delivery.

60%

Purchase through the
campus bookstore

40%

Students independently
purchase

"As an instructor, I really like that I'm not bound to a single textbook, but that I can assemble a reading list from a combination of various titles without worrying about incremental costs for students."

—San José State University

Faculty Insights

Drawing insights from the survey results, we've identified key recommendations to facilitate a seamless adoption of this platform for instructors and universities

Diversify Content Offerings

Perlego has been and will continue to be dedicated to growing our content library. This effort will expand our already wide range of subjects, academic disciplines, and proficiency levels. We will simultaneously continue our focus on enhancing resource quality for a consistent, positive user experience.

To further enhance Perlego's viability and usability, we are committed to taking a collaborative approach with educators. This approach will help grow the diversity of our available content selection and expand content across all disciplines. We will continue to provide adoption guidance to faculty to facilitate the seamless integration of Perlego into their courses. Our comprehensive support resources, such as tutorial videos, instructional guidance, and dedicated support channels will ensure faculty can easily adopt Perlego as their required selection of course materials.

Institutional Partnerships

Faculty (60%) and students (64%) have been clear that the campus bookstore plays a pivotal role in the course materials acquisition and delivery process. Perlego will prioritize strengthening our relationships with the campus bookstore. Deeper collaboration with campus bookstores will streamline the acquisition process for students and increase the ease of adoption for faculty. Ultimately, these efforts will result in the scalable adoption of Perlego throughout higher education.

Conclusion

Having witnessed a notable impact on students and faculty spanning diverse disciplines such as accounting, marketing, and health sciences, our study underscores the positive influence of Perlego's platform. The U.S. Fall Class Test included over 600 student users which indicated the platform's efficacy. Committed to continuous improvement, Perlego aims to enrich and expand its platform library with a diverse range of resources. Through improved platform accessibility, we seek to actively engage more institutions in our pilot program, fostering a faculty-driven approach that cultivates a sense of community and collaboration among educators. This strategic expansion not only enables Perlego to establish connections with institutions nationwide but also reinforces our ongoing advocacy initiatives, solidifying Perlego as a trusted and gold-standard choice for course materials within the U.S. educational landscape.

Perlego is staunch in our commitment to modernizing the educational journey for students and faculty through course materials. The insights gained from the survey have paved a pathway forward in feasibility and scalability within the U.S. market. Access and affordability are central issues facing higher education, which means providing accessible and affordable course material solutions for faculty and students could not be more important. Perlego provides the opportunity for faculty to adopt a course materials solution that doesn't restrict choice but eliminates the student burden of acquiring more than one textbook. As we strive to become the world's largest online learning library, we will redefine how course materials are acquired by and delivered to students.



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