

Introduction of Chemistry eTexts using the Bibliotech Platform

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Problem: Getting Students to Read

Textbooks are:

- Heavy and not portable
- Too expensive

Would providing online access to key textbooks increase students' engagement with the books and encourage them to read more?

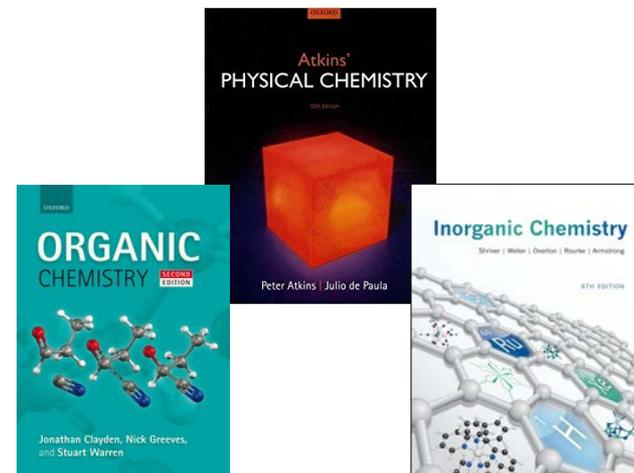
Bibliotech



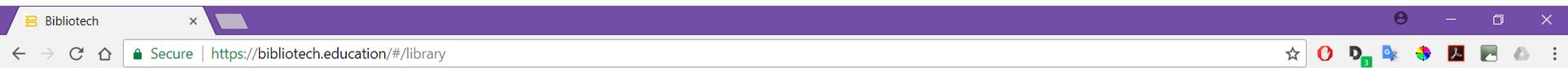
- <https://bibliotech.education>
- Described as “Spotify for Textbooks” = online ebook platform
- Android and iOS apps available – books can be downloaded
- Works with Oxford University Press (others available)
- Can be integrated with Moodle as an external tool
- Students can add notes and favourites to their account.

Trial: 2016/17

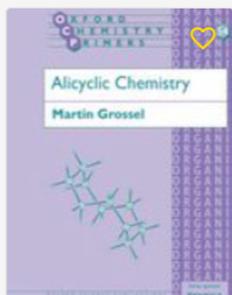
- All chemistry students were given access to
 - Key three main chemistry texts from OUP
 - All Oxford Chemistry Primers
- Students surveyed at end of year



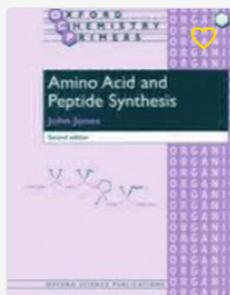
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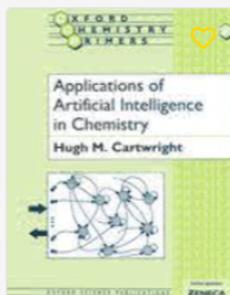
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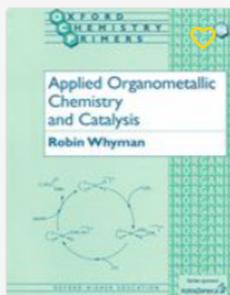
Alicyclic Chemistry
Michael Hornby and Jose...



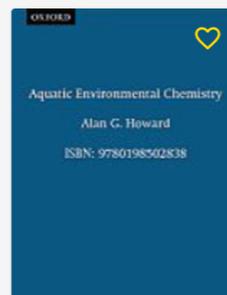
Amino Acid and Peptide S...
John Jones



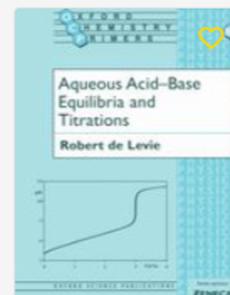
Applications of Artificial I...
Hugh M. Cartwright



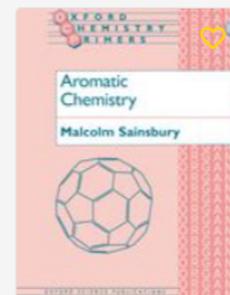
Applied Organometallic C...
Robin Whyman



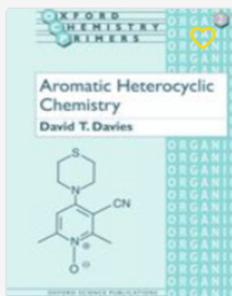
Aquatic Environmental Ch...
Alan G. Howard



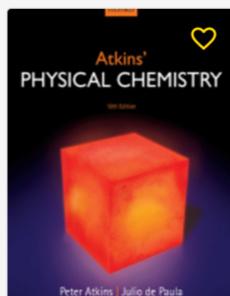
Aqueous Acid-Base Equili...
Robert de Levie



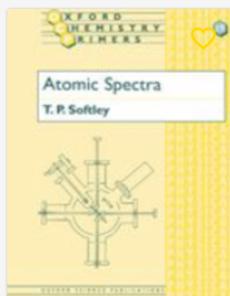
Aromatic Chemistry
Malcolm Sainsbury



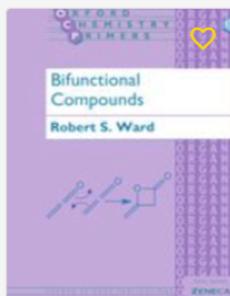
Aromatic Heterocyclic Ch...
David T. Davies



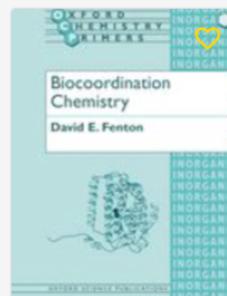
Atkins' Physical Chemistry
Peter Atkins



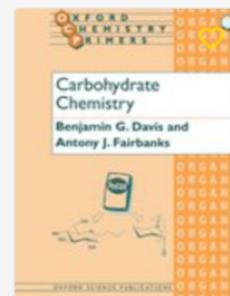
Atomic Spectra
T. P. Softley



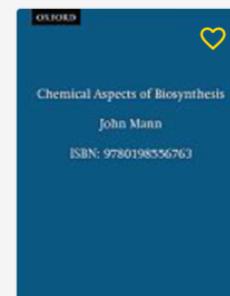
Bifunctional Compounds
Robert S. Ward



Biocoordination Chemistry
David E. Fenton



Carbohydrate Chemistry
Benjamin G. Davis and An...



Chemical Aspects of Bios...
John Mann



Student Survey

Students answered a brief Moodle questionnaire at the end of the year (5 = strongly agree... 1 = strongly disagree).

Reading Habits Before the Trial

Question	Average /5
I regularly use the textbooks that I own to enhance my understanding of course material.	3.6
I regularly use textbooks from the library to enhance my understanding of course material.	2.9
Prior to the Bibliotech trial I regularly used e-books to enhance my understanding of course material.	2.6

Student Survey

Students answered a brief Moodle questionnaire at the end of the year (5 = strongly agree... 1 = strongly disagree).

Reading Habits After the Trial

Question	Average /5
I have used the Bibliotech access to e-books to enhance my understanding of course material.	4.3
Having access to Bibliotech makes me more likely to use books to support my studies.	4.5
I would pay a subscription of £7.99 a month for continued access to e-books via Bibliotech.	2.2
If the free access to Bibliotech were continued I would use the service regularly.	4.6

Student Feedback

I prefer using books rather than ebooks hence why I used the library more than Bibliotech. If there's a book I cannot access through the library then I would resort to using Bibliotech.

Useful when lecture notes are crap.

I do not use Bibliotech. I have the three recommended textbooks for Inorganic, Organic and Physical and use the library for anything more.

Up until very recently I had not realised that we had access to this resource. Since signing up it has become **one of my primary sources when revising** and would continue to use it if given the opportunity.

In all honesty, you can get illegal copies of most textbooks online – but I wouldn't use them if we'd have had Bibliotech from the start of uni. I do however use the e-textbooks all the time!

Student Feedback

This should definitely be kept available and free for students. Makes it **much easier and quicker to access all books** without having to go to the library, and without having to deal with library rules/fees. Also it means that we can **access these books in our own homes or literally anywhere** without having to spend £££ on large textbooks or carry them around.

Very valuable platform, **less demanding on hardware** than normal e-textbooks, allows for easy searching.

I didn't actually realise we had departmental access to Bibliotech, however, now that I know, I would hope some form of access remains! This is a **valuable resource for expensive textbooks** which are sometimes hard to keep via the library's systems!

Found it very useful as **I normally would not refer to recommended texts** but **easy access** to the books means that I will be more likely to read further.

What Next?

- The Chemistry department will pay an annual subscription for UCL to access chemistry texts.
- Now accessed by UCL single sign-on.
- Possibility of directing students to specific pages/sections in your lecture notes.

If other departments are interested in trialling Bibliotech, please contact me.

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