LSU School of Veterinary Medicine finds ebooks valuable for students and faculty

Background: The School of Veterinary Medicine at Louisiana State University (LSU) in Baton Rouge, which is accredited by the AVMA Council on Education, offers the DVM degree and MS and PhD degrees in Veterinary Medical Sciences.

Issue: In 2012, a Clinical Assistant Professor in the school saw that students could benefit from ebooks in the dissection laboratory and as a study tool.

Approach: The professor contacted Elsevier and worked with the company and the LSU bookstore to create a package of recommended and required textbooks available through Pageburst on VitalSource. She and other faculty members also use Pageburst to create PowerPoint lectures with notes that include annotated information from various books and their own clinical experience. They highlight material of importance for students to promote learning of key objectives.

Results: Students use Pageburst to access ebooks in the dissection lab, to study, and in discussion groups. The features of Pageburst help students access accurate information quickly. Faculty members are using features such as annotating PowerPoint lectures.

Benefits: Students can access Pageburst from their mobile device, which makes it easier for them to study. Both students and faculty members have annotated information automatically included when they cut and paste information, which allows them look back later and easily identify the source of the material.

Because students can access information more quickly, they can more fully participate in discussions.