Internet2 eTextbook Pilot
Compiled November 2011

Background of eTextbook Initiative
• Several of the provosts who met at the CIC this fall have joined together to initiate an eTextbook pilot project.
• Other participating institutions include Indiana University, the University of Wisconsin, University of California - Berkeley, University of Virginia, and Cornell University.
• Indiana University initiated formal eTexts pilots with a faculty-led research study in fall 2009 and is the point institution for this initiative.
• Trial courses included the humanities, languages, sciences at all levels—professional, undergraduate, graduate—and both on-campus and online.
• In September 2011, IU announced path-defining eText deals with major publishers and a common software platform.
• Over 150 IU course sections will use eTexts for the January 2012 semester based on opt-in choices by faculty

Opportunity for CIC Institutions
• IU has offered to provide institutions with a simple way to pilot eTexts quickly as part of a comprehensive approach to understand and influence the eText transition.
• Because of the increased costs of printed textbooks, and because a variety of educational materials including textbooks, website tutorials, and simulations are already available in digital formats, educational institutions have a brief time to act proactively to shape the economics of these transitions in the interests of students and faculty.
• IU’s initiative enables a group of invited R1 institutions to buy the future faster by joining a comprehensive pilot for January 2012 semester and learning from each other.
• Internet2 Net+ handles all contracting matters with publishers and Courseload (the provider of eReader/annotation software).
• Institutions pay an all inclusive $20K flat fee to Internet2 for the Pilot Pack.
• The pilot includes up to 10 course sections and up to 1,000 students per institution.
• Participation in the Internet2 Net+ Pilot does not preclude any other institutional trials or negotiations.
• IU will share all training and support materials

Details of Pilot for University of Minnesota
• The University of Minnesota has agreed to be part of this initial pilot project.
• The $20k flat fee for the U of M will be covered by the Provost’s Office as an eText trial and there will be no fees to students.
• At Minnesota, as at the other participating universities, faculty will be identified who wish to be part of the pilot for Spring 2012.
• Minnesota may opt to participate in a faculty-led, IRB-approved research study and receive a summary and raw data at the end of the semester.
Office of the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

- This pilot will use existing infrastructure and integrates the eReader software with each institution’s Learning Management System (LMS) with single sign-on to access texts.
- This pilot is agnostic with respect to browsers and digital readers so that faculty and students can read, annotate and print eTexts via any browser, tablet, or smartphone that supports HTML5, as almost all do.
- This pilot seeks to explore and understand how students with disabilities — including those who use screen readers — can access and navigate material through the Courseload application.
- Students have no textbook costs for a course section, but have the option to pay $28 on average if they want a printed textbook in addition to electronic versions.
- Students with documented print disabilities who cannot access eTexts will receive the published print copy at no cost.
- For this pilot, McGraw-Hill has agreed to participate with any MH textbook as an eText for up to 10 sections and 1,000 students.
- Minnesota and other participating universities can have an unlimited number of sections for faculty-authored or non-copyrighted course material delivered via Courseload.

Why the Internet2 Net+ and Why Now?
- The shift from print to digital textbooks is already upon us, but R1s have been moving in a fragmented way, and these separate institutional initiatives are costly in time and lack any comprehensive influence.
- Because Internet2 includes nearly all R1s, it is ideally suited to work with publishers/eReader software providers to enable a quick pilot at low cost, simplify complex contracting/negotiation, and help us develop rapid, multi-institutional insights.

Time Is Short for Jan 2012: Next Steps
- Identify Executive Sponsors and Co Leads (21 November)
- Create Project Management Team and Project Plan including timelines, deliverables, challenges/risks/issues and metrics (21 November)
- Webinars to interested parties at U of M (21 November-January)
- Identify process for selecting faculty with sections (28 November)
- Finalize faculty in pilot and begin implementation of pilot (14 December)
- Stakeholders’ communication with SCIT, CUE, TEL Council, TC Deans, Bookstore, etc.

Logistics for Implementation of eTextbook Pilot at U of M
- Provost CIC Initiative authorized by Provost Sullivan
- Executive Sponsors: Vice Provosts Billie Wahlstrom (point person) and Bob McMaster
- Co-Leads: Sue Engelmann and Bob Rubinyi
- Project Management Team Members Identified: Sue Engelmann, Bob Rubinyi, Sandra Ecklein (DEIT); Suzanne Bardouche (Undergraduate Education); Ole Gram (Faculty Affairs); Amelious Whyte (Student Affairs); Peggy Mann Rinehart and Tonu Mikk (Disability Services); Brittany Lloyd (OIT); Bob Crabb (Bookstores); Karen Williams (Libraries); Tom Brothen (SCEP); Greg Brown (General Counsel); Selected Faculty and Student Representatives (from the pilot)

Website http://www.elearning.umn.edu/etext