



## MEMORANDUM

To: Faculty, University of Toronto Scarborough  
Chairs, University of Toronto Scarborough

Cc: Chairs' Assistants, Departmental Assistants/Undergraduate Coordinators

From: Professor Katherine R. Larson, Vice-Dean Teaching, Learning & Undergraduate Programs

Date: 3 June 2022

Re: **Digital Course Materials Pilot**

Note: For distribution broadly

*Katherine R. Larson*

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In partnership with the Office of the Vice-Principal Academic & Dean, the UofT Bookstore is piloting a new digital-first course material delivery model. This delivery model seeks to address the striking (and growing) percentage of students who have foregone getting their course materials in recent years, putting their academic success at risk. Student feedback indicates that pricing and ease of access are the biggest barriers to getting their materials, and this is an exciting first step towards removing these obstacles and improving the student experience.

Launched in January 2022, this pilot has introduced a new way of integrating course materials directly within Quercus through the combined efforts of the Bookstore, the University's IT team, and a digital distribution company called Willo Labs. Embedding digital materials directly within the Quercus learning management system conveys a variety of benefits:

- **Accessibility:** Students can find and purchase exactly what they need for their course within a platform they're familiar with.
- **Affordability:** Digital course materials are considerably less costly than print materials, and the UofT Bookstore works with publishers to negotiate further volume-based discounts.
- **Data Privacy:** Students purchasing through the integration will checkout securely through the Bookstore and have their data protected, rather than submitting it to publishers. The Bookstore does not add customers to marketing lists without their consent or share their data with any external entities.

Although the model introduced in this pilot is digital-first, it is by no means digital-only. The Bookstore will continue to work with staff and faculty to ensure they can assign their preferred course materials, and will stock print materials when available to ensure that students who prefer hard copies can still get what they need.

If you would be interested in learning more about the pilot, please contact the Bookstore as soon as possible. **Faculty members wishing to include their course in the Fall 2022 expansion of the U of T Scarborough pilot must confirm their participation by the end of June.**

To see the integration in action, you are encouraged to participate in an upcoming demo session co-hosted by the UofT Bookstore and Willo Labs. The sessions will take place every Tuesday and Thursday in June until the 28<sup>th</sup>, with two time slots available per day (from 10am-11am EST or 3pm-4pm EST).

To attend, simply click on the appropriate link below at the time you wish to join a session. There is no need to RSVP, but we recommend blocking off the desired time in your calendar and saving the link there for easy reference.

[Zoom Link for Morning Sessions](#) (10am on June 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, or 28<sup>th</sup>)

[Zoom Link for Afternoon Sessions](#) (3pm on June 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, or 28<sup>th</sup>)

If you have any questions, would like to make arrangements for a demonstration at a different time, and/or would like to confirm your participation in the Fall 2022 pilot, please reach out to the Bookstore contacts as follows:

Lindsay Spencer, Course Material Coordinator - [lspencer@uoftbookstore.com](mailto:lspencer@uoftbookstore.com)

Colleen Cook, Director Digital Delivery - [ccook@uoftbookstore.com](mailto:ccook@uoftbookstore.com)