Partnering for Broader Access to Educational Resources
Bringing E-Books into the Classroom with Strayer University

Background
Strayer University enrolls approximately 40,000 students through its Online Learning programs and at 78 campuses located throughout the United States. The University, accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, specializes in degree programs for working adults and offers undergraduate and graduate degrees in subjects such as accounting, business administration, criminal justice, education, health services administration, information technology, and public administration. For the past six years, the University has partnered with IGI Global to bring information science and technology e-resources to their students and faculty. At the beginning of 2016, the Center decided to partner with IGI Global more closely with the goal of bringing peer-reviewed e-books into the natural path of Strayer University students, assisting with the University’s learning goals and college affordability initiative.

Solution
The Stayer University Library invested in IGI Global databases, InfoSci-Books and InfoSci-Videos, and took advantage of IGI Global’s complimentary outreach services to incorporate e-books into key academic areas -- in Online courses, in the University’s bookstore, and in guides promoted by the university’s Learning Resources Centers.

Benefits For Researchers
At the start of this new partnership, IGI Global and Strayer University collaborated to organize a series of five 50-minute Online meetings for faculty members. In the Online meetings, subject-specific information was shared by the IGI Global E-Resources Team and the Strayer University librarians about the IGI Global e-books that are available for unlimited use with no digital rights management (DRM) for all academic community members. The faculty discussed their current courses and what types of e-books would be most useful for them and IGI Global provided book and article-level persistent URLs for the faculty to use within their Learning Management System. An overview of platform functionality was also provided, including the ability to download and print the e-books at the chapter and title level.

Due to the strong positive feedback from the faculty member meetings, Strayer University decided to add notices into their virtual bookstore for the courses that utilized IGI Global e-books rather than books or e-books that needed to be purchased. These courses included a persistent URL that link directly to the title so that students could utilize the e-book immediately. This initiative was tied into the University’s College Affordability goals.

Key faculty participating in the program are part of Strayer University’s business, education and computer science departments. Usage for the titles being linked to in in the LMS and the Virtual Bookstore has increased by over 400% since the project began.

This partnership has resulted in happy faculty members and students utilizing IGI Global e-books. Not only can we now affordably offer peer-reviewed reference e-books and streaming videos, but we are also leveraging IGI Global’s team to develop customized materials and programs to facilitate use of the innovative research.

- David Moulton, University Librarian, Wilkes Library, Strayer University
The Earl S. Richardson Library was able to quickly and thoroughly incorporate the IGI Global databases into the University's system, enabling strong use of the timely technology research. Within the first week of the investment, MARC records for all e-books and streaming videos were incorporated into the library's system. With specialized assistance from IGI Global, preferences to the university's discovery system were quickly adjusted to make full use of the research.

IGI Global LibGuides are laying the groundwork for Strayer University librarians to share the e-resource for subject-specific needs. The IGI Global E-Resources Team created a customized guide for the library.

The partnership between Strayer University and IGI Global will continue to expand with more courses and faculty being part of the e-book initiative. Plans include collaboration for a customized “Research Trends” Newsletter which highlights technology research in the core areas covered by the program. This quarterly newsletter is being emailed to faculty and student researchers in partnership with the Strayer University librarians.

IGI Global is pleased to implement similar partnerships to bring e-books into the classrooms with accredited institutions such as:

University of Phoenix, Capella University, University of Central Florida

- Jackie Ricords, Director of Electronic Resources, IGI Global

About IGI Global's Databases

Founded in 1988, IGI Global is an international and leading academic publisher of reference books, journals, and databases focusing on information science and technology. IGI Global is a leader in the field of e-resources and provided high-value databases: InfoSci-Books (3,900+ e-books), InfoSci-Journals (169+ e-journals) and InfoSci-Videos (100+ streaming videos). To learn about IGI Global's partnerships with universities and consortia, please contact: e-resources@igi-global.com.