Skyepack (platform)
http://www.skyepack.com/

About:
Skyepack is a simple solution for faculty and universities looking to break away from the textbook ecosystem. We work with instructors, departments and universities to create a sustainable, low-cost course materials solution. By utilizing Open Educational Resources (OER), content generated by professors, licensed copyrighted content, or a mixture of everything, Skyepack delivers affordable and custom designed course material through a single platform available on devices students already own.

Content design services:
A devoted team of learning designers will assist in customizing content for your course. They will help to create responsive learning presentations, produce high quality instructional video and audio segments and instructional animations. For more details and examples please refer to the website
http://www.skyepack.com/design.html

Benefits from Collaboration with Skyepack

For students:
- *Low cost* (however, lifelong access): USD10 = about AUD15 (max USD20 if the authors decide to go for max royalty of USD10 per textbook)
- *Lifelong access*: access to the most recent updates of the book at no extra cost, connection to their Alma Mater
- *Streaming to any device* (HTML5 coding)
- Mobile-capable access *anywhere any time* from iOS, Android or Kindle Fire
- Free App for mobile devices (synchronisation for notes, bookmarks, discussion board, etc.) Students can carry any course they receive in that App which is a great take-away from the university.
- Possibility to have *interactive content* with videos, animations and presentations imbedded into the content of the book
- It's a *learning companion* not only a learning resource: students can engage with the content by making notes, bookmarking and highlighting content, etc., which gives them a good opportunity to mobilise their learning styles
- Possibility to *save and print out notes*: useful for exam or practice/lab preparation
- *Download now and read later*: enables students to download and locally store course materials on their devices. This approach saves bandwidth costs for students.
- *Full support service* (in case of some glitch, there is a team to support students and they can resolve tech. issues with the help of Skyepack without involving a lecturer/instructor/coordinator – they can have sustainable support even after graduating from the university)
- *New tools/features added* to the platform to make the learning experience and interaction with the content more efficient (Skyepack is a company open for collaboration and happy to add functionality to the platform to enrich teaching and

learning experience: example during our project with Skyepack UQ asked if the notes could be saved and printed out – this feature is now added to the platform)

For Lecturers/Instructors:
- *Full support and help from educational designers*: allowing to combine content with unique pedagogy enriching it with self-assessment, quizzes, tests, animation, video, audio, interactive presentations and static pictures
- *Possibility to use OERs, content generated by lecturers, content created by Skyepack learning designers and copyright cleared material* or a combination of all pulled into one textbook (One of the models Skyepack offers: a lecturer provides outline of the course with indication of the level of competency (year of study) and Skyepack combines content from quality open educational resources to create a textbook, which could be reviewed to ensure the quality. Skyepack also works with other third parties to clear copyrighted material if required).
- *Intellectual Property and Copyrights remain with the authors and the institution:* This means that the material can be reused, repurposed and reassigned without clearing copyrights with Skyepack.
- Skyepack is a *cloud-based* platform – there are no downloads or version updates required. Revisions can happen in real time and updated on all the devices.
- *Lecturers could create/customise their courses themselves* (a core content could be created, then copied over and provided to instructors every new semester so that they could customise the material to fit their specific pedagogy and their specific students and their learning styles).
- *Design in compliance with ADA standards:* accessibility for students with disabilities (this is how it is addressed by Skyepack http://www.skyepack.com/accessibility/vpat.html)
- *Earn royalty* up to USD10 per textbook (could be used to support future projects or to provide free access to the book for students)
- *Opportunity to sell book to other institutions* (under separate agreement with Skyepack and using their promotional channels). Skyepack is currently negotiating with Amazon for the possibility to promote the books if the authors chose to do so.
- *Opportunity to apply for a financial support through Book Liberation Fund:* in recognition of the time instructors spent on developing content for eTextbooks Skypepack rewards instructors/authors/institutions through Grant funding for liberating their students of expensive textbooks (http://www.skyepack.com/Textbook-Liberation-Fund.html)
- *Analytics*: Skyepack collects analytics and provides an aggregate view for the instructor as a means of reporting student progress. This information can be combined with gradebook information to measure student use in relationship to specific assignments, overall course performance, or impact on learning outcomes.
- *Sustainability*: in case of unfortunate events (e.g. leading the company to bankruptcy) Skyepack will facilitate content migration to similar platforms – HTML5 coded.

For the Institution:

- *Bragging rights*: making high quality education more affordable; innovative approach to cost-savings; additional revenue streams.
- *Link to the graduates*: by providing access to the latest versions of the eTextbook at no extra cost, the university keeps the connection with their graduates alive and delivers on the promises to support students' life-long learning.
- *Keep IP and Copyright* to the material published.
- *Promotion of the University brand:* having a devoted UQ Channel and having a possibility to promote quality teaching that takes place at UQ to other universities worldwide.
- *Fast production time*: Skyepack can create, design and develop for all subject areas, with minimal turnaround time, freeing the instructor of their time. (e.g. Interactive book on parasitology consisting of 6 chapters (online and off-line versions) for the UQ Vet School was created in 2.5 months from early January 2016 to mid March 2016).
- *Moderate or No Cost Projects*: Skyepack can develop course packs with no cost to the department or institution: instead, they can roll the upfront developmental fees into the student access fee to cover those costs. For example, for 300 students ($3000 to develop + $10 / student access fee would instead be a $20 access fee for one year, and then the student fee could be dropped to $10 thereafter).
- *Provision of engaging life-long learning experience:* Skyepack is a developer and provider of accessible course content for students but their ultimate goal is aligned with UQ student strategy to provide a positive learning experience for students.
- The content is designed in compliance with *ADA standards*: allowing university to meet their obligations under the *Disability Standards for Education 2005* (Commonwealth of Australia, 2006).
- Possibility to *integrate this eTextbook with online or blended-course delivery mode*: opening new opportunities for fully online-based courses, blended learning or flipped classrooms.