Professors can be slow to use technology in their classrooms. A recent Chronicle survey showed that they are wary of assigning digital textbooks. But with new technologies that promise to make textbooks more accessible to students, faculty attitudes could shift in the future.

Faculty Members Don’t Favor Digital Textbooks

What type of textbooks do you prefer students to use?

- I let them choose: 49%
- Combos of print and digital: 22%
- Print: 20%
- Digital: 3%
- No opinion: 5%

... And Most Are Skeptical About the Benefits

To what extent do you think digital textbooks and course materials improve teaching and learning?

- To a great extent: 13%
- To a moderate extent: 27%
- To a limited extent: 45%
- Not at all: 16%

But Faculty Do Care About Cost

Portion of faculty who say cost to students is a factor in their decisions about which textbooks to assign.

- Always: 8%
- Frequently: 43%
- Sometimes: 35%
- Rarely: 12%
- Never: 3%

... And Many Complain About Lack of Accessibility

How frequently do your students have trouble accessing materials?

- Always: 3%
- Frequently: 12%
- Sometimes: 43%
- Rarely: 35%
- Never: 8%

This Means ...

... professors may be open to digital ways to make textbooks more accessible to students. For example:

- inclusive-access deals with publishers provide books at a reduced cost that are available on the first day of class
- open educational resources offer online materials that are free