

Electronic Publishing and Latin Pedagogy: Redefining Introductory-Level Textbooks

As recently as ten years ago, students learned Latin solely through attending classes and using printed textbooks. The concept of a “blended” learning approach included an introductory text plus the use of paper flashcards for vocabulary review and maybe a grammar like Bennett’s or Gildersleeve’s.

With contemporary technology and a population of tech-enabled students and a younger corps of Latin teachers, we are in the middle of a Renaissance of Latin pedagogy. Textbook series like the *Cambridge Latin Course*, *Ecce Romani*, and *Latin for the New Millennium* have robust online components to support what students are learning in their books. As we have seen with the recent suspension of the online resources for *CLC*, these digital extras are expensive to maintain, to manage, and are increasingly temporary. The question is how to tie in appropriate, useful digital content directly with a student textbook. And the answer is “enhanced PDF”.

Latin for the New Millennium is the first introductory Latin textbook to introduce interactive digital material directly within the pages of its eBooks. Other textbooks are not far behind. With an enhanced PDF eBook, students benefit by being able to listen to a passage in Latin while they read it. They can click on vocabulary lists at the end of each chapter to watch launch a video inside the page that displays an animated “pictionary” so they can listen to the word in Latin, its definition in English, while looking at a picture representing the word. Student review exercises are also embedded within the PDF allowing readers to answer questions directly in the pages, granting the ability to save or print their answers for grading. The eBook even allows students to take notes via Adobe Reader’s Commentary feature. These new electronic textbooks can be read online or saved to a Macintosh or PC or even read via Amazon’s Kindle.

This paper will not only demonstrate the state of the art in electronic textbook publishing for Latin, but will also show CAMWS conference delegates how to produce documents like these so that they can give their students learning tools above and beyond what ordinary textbooks and classroom instruction can provide.