Schools shift from textbooks to tablets

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(AP)—Schools no longer have to wait for textbook companies to print new editions to get the latest events. In some cases, it's as simple as a teacher hitting "refresh."

Welcome to the new digital bookcase, where traditional ink-and-paper textbooks have given way to iPads or similar handheld tablets. Publishers can update students' books almost instantly.

Schools are eyeing the devices as a way to sustain students' interest and keep per-pupil costs down.

In coming years, more of these programs may be the norm. New York City Council Speaker Christine Quinn has suggested replacing textbooks with tablets, and Los Angeles also is starting the shift. Even smaller schools are looking to move to digital textbooks or give them to students as a reward.

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