The digital book is a topic that is unavoidable as evidenced recently by a continuous stream of articles and editorials in The Chronicle, Inside Higher Ed, the New York Times and numerous other news outlets. Whether a scholarly work or a bestseller, the options for digital publishing and distribution are expanding rapidly. Specifically in education the last few months have witnessed many initiatives, both from the public and private sectors, to bring digital textbooks to our courses. This growth presents many opportunities, as well as challenges, that need to be carefully considered in this new era of digital textbooks.

On our campus there have been a handful of efforts exploring and producing digital textbooks. eText.Illinois currently offers three books through a web based learning interface and has successfully delivered digital textbooks to over 4,500 ACES and First Year Composition students. This workshop will provide an overview of the experiences that the authors, the instructors, the students, and the digital publishers have gained and will challenge you to think about digital publishing within your courses and scholarly work.