

# Online sales of texts offer alternatives

BY ERIC RINEER  
Staff writer

With the growth of online shopping services, some University of Nebraska-Lincoln students are taking their textbook shopping to the Internet.

Tim Butler, a junior mechanical engineering major, said shopping at sites such as varsitybooks.com was an excellent way to purchase textbooks.

"I'd suggest it if you have to buy new books," Butler said. "You get them for way cheaper, and they get there quick."

Other online textbook shopping can be found at booksamillion.com, bigwords.com and Efollet.com, a site run by the University Bookstore.

Paul Bouc, UNL's campus representative for varsitybooks, said online

companies were a good way to find books. His employer, he said, offers books to more than 250 colleges and universities nationwide.

"Students now have an opportunity to pursue other avenues," said Bouc, a senior marketing and finance major. "I think it's kind of a dumb thing on campus that the bookstores have a monopoly. They really take advantage of students."

Despite the advertising by several online textbook companies on UNL's campus this week, sales at the bookstore continue to be strong, said Viann Schroeder, the store's acting manager.

"From our standpoint, our sales are ahead of last year, and last year we set records," Schroeder said.

The store's high sales can be largely attributed to the textbook reservation program at the bookstore, she said.

"It's a lot easier to use textbook reservation than it is to use online services. All you have to do is write down your signature and give us your ID number," she said.

From there, the bookstore does the rest.

"We pull the books according to the courses students are registered for," Schroeder said.

Jackie Beiriger, a sophomore international business major, said she was frustrated with high prices after buying a Spanish book at the University Bookstore.

Had she shopped online, Beiriger said, she would have saved nearly \$15 on the same book.

Beiriger said she felt university prices were sometimes unfair but would continue to buy from the campus store because she is able to put her

bookstore charges on her university centralized bill.

"It's more convenient that way," she said.

Still, online shopping may be the better choice, Beiriger said.

"I went to the bookstore three times this week, and my books weren't in yet," she said. "I feel like it's very disorganized that you have to keep going in there."

Online shopping can sometimes be deceiving, according to Schroeder.

While the University Bookstore offers used books, online services provide only new books. Therefore, the two have basically the same prices, Schroeder said.

"They say their prices are less, but if you're able to get used books from us, it at least comes out to a wash with the other services."

ASUN

## ASUN distributes reference brochures

BY VERONICA DAEHN  
Staff writer

It will soon be a little easier for new students to navigate campus.

Thanks to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Quick Reference Guide, distributed by the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska, students will no longer have to search for the information they need.

"We want new students and transfer students to know about the services available to them," said Vicki Geiser, the ASUN senator who conceived the idea.

The free brochure covers eight areas including housing, involvement opportunities and health and wellness.

For each category, there are common questions and the place students should contact to find the answer.

The back of the guide contains a list of frequently-used university phone numbers, addresses and Web sites, as well as information about ASUN.

Five thousand copies are being distributed across campus, and ASUN will continue to hand out brochures today and Friday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Nebraska Union.

After that, guides will be available in the ASUN office, 136 Nebraska Union.

The brochure is free to students because of a sponsorship between ASUN and Printing and Copy Services at UNL.

Geiser said she hopes to get the guides out to all new students.

"It really helps them because it has a lot of questions that are common or questions they may not feel comfortable asking," she said.



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