

Joshua Matteson

Steven Powers

Evan Tschuy

## PROBLEM STATEMENT

The purpose of the Many Voices Publishing Platform project is to remedy problems associated with the current textbook market and standard expectations that come with textbooks. The Many Voices Publishing Platform was developed to alleviate costs of text-books for students and provide instructors the ability to create their own textbooks using an open platform for collaboration between content creators and instructors and specificity of focus within their course materials. This platform was created using Ward Cunninghams federated wiki as a project base and was expanded upon to provide the ability to define and implement a collaborative platform for authoring.

Today the textbook industry is filled with yearly updates that are often released with the minimum number of changes needed to justify the new edition. Additionally, the addition of online course materials are used to keep students and professors buying new textbooks. A professor can either choose a textbook from a catalog, or write one of their own. Pre-written textbooks often contain unnecessary chapters, or can even be missing chapters viewed as critical. Writing one's own textbook, on the other hand, can take months or years of research and editing.

The Many Voices platform instead allows professors to create their own textbooks by using crowd-sourced content. Content creators are able to submit materials of many varieties, including images, small pieces of text, pages, or even entire chapters. A knowledgeable professor can contribute a chapter or unit on their specialty, and others are able to modify obtained materials in the way they see fit. These materials may be offered for free or for a nominal fee, determined by the content creator. Once materials are acquired, anyone is able to create a more affordable textbook available in either a downloadable ebook or in print form to create the exact textbook they want for their classes or for any purpose they desire. The finished platform will allow users to see existing textbooks, customize them using their own or third party materials, and contribute their customizations back to other professors.

To ensure the platform meets the defined needs and functions as according to plan, we will, in our best efforts, plan to meet at minimum every two weeks with our client to discuss current progress of project goals and proposed functionality for the application. Before beginning work on major milestones aspects of the platform, we will discuss our present status and inquire as to whether our current progress is in line to meet project expectations as desired. After reaching an agreement, we will continue to adjust and shape the platform where necessary and reasonable.