

Textbooks and readers for college courses are too expensive. Oftentimes you buy the book for an exorbitantly high price and then are forced to sell it back to the school for a fraction of what you paid originally. According to a recent article in the Huffington Post, college textbook prices are actually increasing at a faster rate than tuition and general inflation. Textbook prices are 812% higher than they were thirty years ago. A study done at the University of Michigan showed that during the 2006-2007 school year the average undergraduate student spent \$942 on textbooks and supplies for their classes. For the average college student, these prices are nowhere near affordable. Purchasing textbooks is becoming a huge financial burden for many families--on top of the stress they already experience from tuition and housing fees. In fact, a recent study found that a majority of students have admitted to not purchasing a textbook they need for a class because of the price. That's where our idea can help.

Our book exchange will create an online platform for students to search by department for students looking to sell or trade books. By giving students an opportunity to collaborate together to provide each other with books, we hope to lessen the financial stress placed on all students at the beginning of each semester. In order to implement this solution, we will build our website using agile methods to create a simple design that is easy for students to use and navigate.

We will create our website in increments using the scrum method, adding functionality with each deliverable. As it is described in Sommerville's text, the agile method relies heavily on customer involvement, feedback, and requirements. In our first customer meeting, we will receive feedback on our software and use that feedback to ensure that our book exchange is on the right track to meeting customer needs. As we continue to develop the website we will be able to use the scrum agile method to complete two sprints, each lasting about two-three weeks. We chose the scrum method because customers will easily be able to view the increments and see how our product works as it is developed. We will be implementing our website with React(JS), Node.js and Firebase for our database.

--*"Legendary book exchange. Always crushing it."*