



HofTAPS

Online Textbook Exchange

Product Requirements Specification

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1. Introduction

1.1 Project Scope

It is often a hassle for college students to find and purchase a textbook for class. After going through all this work purchasing textbooks, students then end each semester with books they no longer need, which they may have spent hundreds of dollars on. HofTAPS aims to create a quick and easy way for Hofstra students to sell their old textbooks to other Hofstra students who need one for a class.

HofTAPS allows Hofstra students to sell their old textbooks to other Hofstra students. This requires:

- 1.1.1 Account Registration: Hofstra students enter their name, Hofstra student ID, email, and a password (**B5**)
- 1.1.2 Add Textbooks to be Sold: Students can add a textbook by entering the textbook's ISBN number. This is used to harvest information about the textbook from Google's Book API including title, authors, and any associated images. Students also enter the condition, subject, a short description of the book, and a price they wish to sell it for. (**B6**)
- 1.1.3 Search Engine: A way for interested students to search and browse for textbooks using title, author and ISBN number. (**B11**)
- 1.1.4 Automatic Textbook Removal: Once a textbook is sold, it is automatically removed from the database (**B7**)
- 1.1.5 Notifications System: If a buyer is interested, an in-site notification is sent to the seller notifying them of any interested buyers. The buyer will then receive a confirmation notification with the seller's decision. (**B9**)

1.2 Use

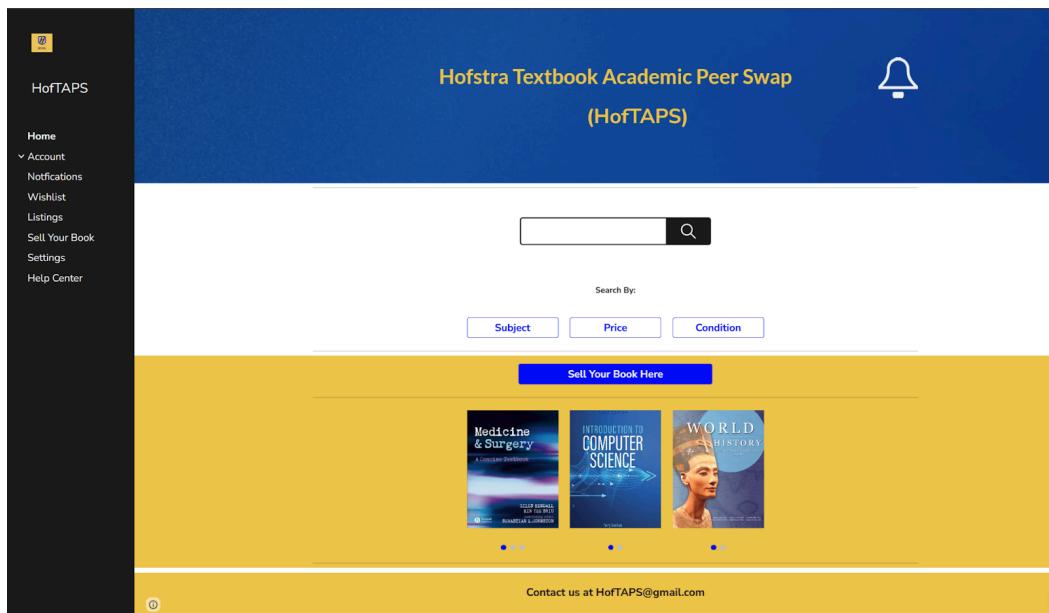
The purpose of the textbook exchange software is to allow Hofstra students to easily buy and sell textbooks. Students who have a textbook that they no longer need list the book by entering the book's ISBN number, along with the condition of the book and the price they wish to sell it for. Other students who wish to purchase a textbook can search for a desired textbook by these specifications, see results, and make a purchase.

1.3 Technology Use

- 1.3.1 Front End: JavaScript, HTML, CSS and Bootstrap are used to create a simple a smooth user interface
- 1.3.2 Back End: Firebase allows for all user and textbook information to be stored and allows for easy access. JavaScript allows for easy integration with Firebase, the Google API, and our front end frameworks.
- 1.3.3 API: Google's Book API allows for information about each textbook to be gathered and shared to allow users of the site to see all the information they may need about a particular textbook, including title, authors, and cover image.

1.4 UI Design

1.4.1 Home (F1)



1.4.2 Account (F3)

The screenshot shows the HofTAPS account interface. On the left is a dark sidebar with a yellow logo at the top, followed by navigation links: Home, Account (which is expanded to show Account History, Notifications, Wishlist, Listings, Sell Your Book, Settings, and Help Center), and a Contact us at HofTAPS@gmail.com link at the bottom.

The main content area has a blue header with the word "Account". Below it is a large black placeholder for a profile picture. To the right of the placeholder are the user's details: Name: Gene Erik, Email: Genorik@hofstra.pride.edu, Password: (redacted) new password, User Rating: ★★★★☆, Change Password (blue link), and Delete Account (red link). Below these details is a "Change Profile Picture" link.

At the bottom of the main content area is a yellow footer bar with the contact email again.

1.4.3 Notifications (F5)

The screenshot shows the HofTAPS notifications interface. The sidebar is identical to the account page, with the Account section expanded.

The main content area has a blue header with the word "Notifications". It displays four notification items, each with a user icon:

- Selling**: Dan Mazzara has made you an offer of \$88.48 on PatientCare 1st e.d by Dr. Gregory House. Buttons: Accept (blue) and Decline (white).
- Buying**: Joe Lagrassa has accepted your offer of \$65.43 on Medical Malpractice 10th e.d by James Wilson. Text: Email them at: JLagrassa@hofstra.pride.edu to arrange pick time and location.
- Selling**: David Piccolissimo has made you an offer of \$98.35 on PatientCare 1st e.d by Dr. Gregory House. Buttons: Accept (blue) and Decline (white).
- Buying**: The textbook: Public Speaking by Ron Burgundy has been sold to someone else.

At the bottom of the main content area is a yellow footer bar with the contact email again.

1.4.4 Wishlist (F6)

The screenshot shows the HofTAPS website's wishlist section. The left sidebar is dark blue with white text, listing navigation options: Home, Account, Notifications, Listings, Sell Your Book, Settings, and Help Center. The main content area has a blue header with the word "Wishlist". Below the header, there is a book listing for "Julius Caesar Commentaries On The Gallic War". The listing includes the title, author, ISBN, price (\$20.00), seller (Even Range), and some descriptive text: "Edition: 18th", "Subject: History", "Condition: Good", "User Rating: ★★★★", and "Offer Place: \$13.45". A "Remove From Wishlist" link is located at the bottom right of the listing. At the very bottom of the page, there is a yellow footer bar with the text "Contact us at HofTAPS@gmail.com".

1.4.5 Listings (F7)

The screenshot shows the HofTAPS website's listings page. The left sidebar is dark blue with white text, listing navigation options: Home, Account, Notifications, Listings, Sell Your Book, Settings, and Help Center. The main content area has a blue header with the word "Listings". Below the header, there are four identical book listings for "Dr. HOUSE PATIENTCARE". Each listing includes the title, author (Dr. Gregory House), ISBN (9784257118206), price (\$150.00), seller (Larry Sehn, Carl Lomont, Gene Erik, or Mark Rover), and some descriptive text: "Edition: 1st", "Subject: Medicine", "Condition: New", "User Rating: ★★★★", and "Offer Place: \$13.45". Each listing also has a small thumbnail image of the book cover.

1.4.6 Individual Listings (F8)

The screenshot shows a product listing page for the book 'Dr. HOUSE PATIENTCARE'. At the top, it says 'Individual Listing'. Below the title, there's a thumbnail image of the book cover. To the right of the image, detailed product information is listed: Title: PatientCare, Edition: 1st, Author: Dr. Gregory House, Subject: Medicine, ISBN: 9784257116206, Condition: New, User Rating: 4.0 (4), Price: \$180.00, and Seller: Larry.Smith. Below this, there's a short description: 'Amazon Description: The seminal text in patient care, Dr. Gregory House explains how to make patients feel comfortable, calm, and welcomed while undergoing near death experiences.' A note below states: 'Seller Description: The text Book is still nested in the original wrap. Slight tear on the wrap but other wise in perfect condition.' Below the main listing, there are three smaller images labeled 'Front Cover', 'Back Cover', and 'Spine'.

1.4.7 Sell Your Book (F9)

The screenshot shows the 'Sell Your Book' section of the HofTAPS platform. On the left, a vertical sidebar menu includes 'Home', 'Account', 'Notifications', 'Wishlist', 'Listings', 'Sell Your Book' (which is highlighted in blue), 'Settings', and 'Help Center'. The main area has a dark blue header with the text 'Sell Your Book'. Below the header, there's a photograph of several blue books standing upright. Underneath the photo are several input fields: 'Enter book ISBN', 'Enter Book Name', 'Enter book Author', 'Choose Subject [N]', 'Select Book Condition [N]', 'Enter Asking Price', and a text area for 'Write a Description of the condition of the book[ex. writings in pages]'. A yellow bar below these fields says 'Please Provide Three Pictures, One of the Front, One of the Back, and One of the Spine'. Below this bar are three upload boxes labeled 'Front Cover', 'Back Cover', and 'Spine', each with a placeholder image and a 'Select File' button. At the bottom, a blue button says 'Publish Listing'. A yellow footer bar at the very bottom says 'Contact us at HofTAPS@gmail.com'.

1.4.8 Create Account

The screenshot shows a web page titled "Create Account". At the top left is a yellow square icon with a white "H" and the text "HofTAPS". Below the title are six input fields with labels: "Enter Hofstra Email", "Enter H70 number", "Enter First Name", "Enter Last Name", "Enter a Password", and "Re-Enter Password". A blue "Next" button is at the bottom. A yellow footer bar at the bottom of the page contains the text "Contact us at HofTAPS@gmail.com".

1.4.9 Create Account Verification

The screenshot shows a web page titled "Create Account Verification". It has a single instruction: "Please Enter the 8-Digit Code Sent To Your Email" above a dashed-line input field. A yellow footer bar at the bottom of the page contains the text "Contact us at HofTAPS@gmail.com".

2. Product Description

2.1 Description

Jump into a dedicated textbook exchange for Hofstra students, this streamlined application allows a student with a textbook to connect with students who need a textbook, making for an easier experience for both buyer and seller. The homepage makes actions clear and concise with search functionality that allows for multiple ways to search for that perfect textbook, as well as a carousel of textbooks that are hot on the market right now. Listings are easy to see and follow. When a seller accepts a buyer's offer, the listing is removed from the Listings Page in real-time. Listings can also be sorted by price. They can also be filtered by price and subject. If a user wishes to sell a textbook, the integrated Google Books API allows the seller to type in the ISBN number while the API gathers other information such as the title and author. Creating an account is simple and limited to only people with a Hofstra ID, ensuring a closed and safe environment for buyer and seller. The Wishlist allows for the user to keep track of those textbooks that they need in a simple place, while the notification center allows for the users to see up to date information about the books that they are buying and selling. Once a seller accepts a buyer's price, the buyer confirms the sale and both buyer and seller are left satisfied.

2.2 Features

- 2.2.1 Search and Filters: Our search allows the users to search either by ISBN, author, or title. They can also filter their results by price and subject. (**B12**)
- 2.2.2 Wishlist: A user adds listings to their wishlist with a click of a button and have all the textbooks they need in one place. (**B10**)
- 2.2.3 Notifications: Users have a real-time notification center to see if a seller has accepted or rejected their offer, or if an interested buyer has placed an offer. (**B9**)
- 2.2.4 Textbook Carousel: On the homepage, users see a carousel of recommended textbooks from our textbook database. (**F16**)

2.3 Operating Environment

HofTAPS is designed to work on both desktops and mobile devices using browsers including Chrome, Firefox, Edge or Safari. It is hosted using an Amazon AWS EC2 instance, allowing for anyone to connect using any device. An internet connection or a mobile network is required to access the website. (F19)

2.4 Design

Every user is able to buy and sell as well as have their own unique wishlist. When selling, the users indicate the subject of the textbook from a drop down menu, which allows buyers to easily look for which textbooks they want. Notifications allow sellers to know when someone wants to purchase their listing and for buyers to find out if their offer has been accepted or declined.

2.5 Constraints and Challenges

One of the biggest challenges is knowing when to remove a listing from the database. In the application, the listing is removed whenever the seller accepts a buyer's offer. This means that in a scenario where the deal falls through off platform, the seller would have to relist the textbook again. Our platform is also heavily reliant on the Google Books API, so if an outage were to occur, our service would be impacted.

3. System Features

3.1 Main Page

The system features of the HofTAPS homepage are designed for a user-friendly experience by facilitating the navigation of the website.

3.1.1 Search Bar: The search bar featured in the center of the main page allows for users to

search for textbooks using the book's title, author, or ISBN. Greater searching functionalities are found on the dedicated search page. (**F13**)

- 3.1.2 Sell Button: The sell button is shown on the center of the main page right below the search function. It redirects users to an interior page where the user can post listings for any textbook they want to sell. This button is highlighted in blue so it stands out among other features on the home page. (**F9**)
- 3.1.3 Featured Items: Featured Items are provided below the search function and the sell button. This section allows the user to browse through the image carousel of the featured books. If they are interested in looking even further into it, they can click on the image and are redirected to the book listing. There are always 3 featured books posted at a time, randomly selected from our textbook database. (**B14**)
- 3.1.4 Left Bar: The left bar on the upper left corner of the main page has an intuitive design, including a menu listing important sections of the website. (**F14**)
 - 3.1.4.1 Home Button: The home button brings the user back to the home page. (**F1**)
 - 3.1.4.2 Account Button: Right below the home button is the account button, which prompts users to their account page. (**F3**)
 - 3.1.4.3 Notifications: Below the account button, there is a notification button. When clicked on, it shows any notifications a user might have received. (**F5**)
 - 3.1.4.4 Wishlist: The Wishlist button redirects users to a list of textbooks that they added to their wishlist. Users add books to their Wishlist by clicking the wishlist icon on the textbook listing. (**F6**)
 - 3.1.4.5 Listings: The listing button brings users to a more detailed textbook search page. Users are provided with all the filters and search functions necessary, as well as the ability to view different listings posted by sellers. (**F7**)
 - 3.1.4.6 Sell Your Book: Below the listing button feature is a sell button, which redirects the user to the sell page. This sell button provides the same function as the other sell button in the center of the home page, but both are added for convenience. (**F9**)

- 3.1.4.7 Help Center: The help center button redirects users to a page where additional contact information is provided.
- 3.1.5 Contact Information: At the very bottom and center of the main page, there is a Contact Us section that includes an email to be contacted in case of any questions or concerns. More information regarding contact details can be found in the help center page.

3.2 Listing Pages

- 3.2.1 Search Bar: The search bar is the center focus of the website. When loading the webpage, it is located at the center of the page. When browsing through books, the search bar is at the top of the page. (**F13**)
- 3.2.2 Left Bar: The left bar of the webpage holds multiple options related to the user's account. They can choose to buy textbooks, sell textbooks, and can manage their account's settings. (**F14**)
- 3.2.3 Filters: When searching for a book, a user can filter the options that appear through various qualities. They can filter books by subject or price. (**B12**)
- 3.2.3.1 Subject: When searching for a book, a user can filter results to show only textbooks of a particular subject.
- 3.2.3.2 Price: The filter for price allows the user to enter a minimum and maximum price to be displayed
- 3.2.4 Sort: Sorting changes the way items are displayed on the page. They can be sorted from highest price to lowest price or lowest price to highest price. (**B13**)
- 3.2.5 Individual Listings: Once a user finds their textbook, they can click on it to bring them to the individual listing. This is where the user can see detailed information about the textbook and the seller, and where they can purchase the book. (**F8**)

3.3 Selling Page

The selling page allows users to upload a listing for a textbook they wish to sell.

- 3.3.1 Fields: When a user sells a book, they must type its information for sellers. They must provide the book's ISBN number, which is used by Google Books to get the title and author. The user must then enter the condition of the book, the subject, and the price they wish to sell it for. They may also include a short description of their book.
- 3.3.2 Image Uploads: A user may upload three pictures of the textbook they are selling. They provide a picture of the front, the back, and the spine of the textbook. (**F17**)
- 3.3.3 Publish: When a user clicks publish, the textbook is added into the database and appears online for other users to find and purchase.

3.4 Individual Product Information

- 3.4.1 Layout: When a user sees a textbook they wish to purchase, clicking on the listing card will bring them to the product page. This shows the icon of the textbook and other information shown on the listing page, all of which are listed to the right of the cover. The user can also see the name of the seller and the images of the textbook that the seller uploaded. There is a button below the textbook information that allows the user to purchase the textbook, as well as a button that allows them to add the textbook to their wishlist. (**F8**)
- 3.4.2 Contact Seller: When a user wishes to purchase a book, clicking on the purchase button will automatically contact the seller that someone is interested. (**B9**)

3.5 Purchasing

- 3.5.1 Contact between Buyer and Seller: Purchasing a book automatically notifies the seller via an in-site notification. These allow the seller to either accept or decline the sale. (**B9**)

- 3.5.2 Completed Deals: Once a sale has been approved by the seller, the sale is closed and the textbook is removed from the listing. (**B7**)
- 3.5.3 Deals that Fall Through: Once the seller clicks “accept”, the deal is completed and the textbook is removed. If the deal were to fall through afterwards, the seller must relist the textbook in the same method as they did the first time if they wish to sell it again. (**B7**)
- 3.5.4 Database Updates: The database holding the textbooks will update accordingly to not only hold books that are available for purchase, but to also remove items that are already purchased, as well as to remove items that are no longer available. When a book is purchased, the confirmation the seller gives will remove it from the database so that it does not take up additional space. (**B1**)

3.6 Accounts

- 3.6.1 Authentication: Once a user creates an account, their email is validated via a verification link sent to their email. This is handled using Firebase’s verification features. (**B15**)
- 3.6.2 Registration and Login: Users enter their full name, email address, Hofstra student ID, and a password to create an account. Users can then login using their email and their password. All user emails and passwords are encrypted using Firbase’s authentication features. (**B5, B8**)
- 3.6.3 Change Password: If a user forgets their password or if they wish to change it, they can click the “Forgot Password” link on the login page, which directs users to the change password form. A reset password prompt is sent to their email with a link to reset their password. (**B16**)
- 3.6.4 Account Details (**B5, B2**)
 - 3.6.4.1 Personal Information: Each user account includes a user’s full name, email and ID number.
 - 3.6.4.2 Account Management: Users can edit their name or change their password.
 - 3.6.4.3 My Listings: All of the textbooks listed by the user are seen here.

3.7 Notifications

When a buyer wants to purchase a textbook, the seller receives a notification in their notification center in-site. Buyers and sellers also receive notifications when a sale is completed or canceled. (**B9**)

3.8 Help Center

- 3.8.1 Getting Started: Provides the user with an overview of how the platform works, as well as instructions on how to create an account, list a book, and purchase a textbook.
- 3.8.2 Contact Support: Emails of support agents are provided to the users if they have any questions or need technical support

3.9 Searching

Users are able to search for textbooks using the textbook's title, author, or ISBN number. All textbooks from our database with matching fields are shown in the results.

4. Interface Requirements

4.1 Live Updating

Textbook availability is updated real-time as books are listed and sold. Notifications are also updated real-time as offers are placed. (**B4**)

4.2 Categories and Search Filters

Users can search for a book by name, subject, or ISBN. Book searches can be filtered by subject and price. (**B11, B12**)

4.3 Notifications

A seller receives a notification when an interested buyer has purchased one of their listed textbooks. The buyer is notified when the seller has approved the purchase. The buyer is also be notified if the seller decides to cancel their order (**B9**)

5. Non-Functional Requirements

5.1 Efficiency

- 5.1.1 Item Search Time: The interaction between the website requests and the API takes no more than five seconds, allowing for a more efficient user experience.
- 5.1.2 User Database: The website is able to accommodate at least 1,000 new user data simultaneously without overloading the database or degrading website functionality.
- 5.1.3 Page Loading Time: The user interface takes about 5-6 seconds of loading time to display textbooks retrieved by the API as well as between each page that the user navigates to under standard network conventions.
- 5.1.4 Search Filters: The user can apply filters to their search to efficiently find their desired textbook. (**B12**)
- 5.1.5 API Retrieval: The API is able to handle at least 1,000 requests per minute (**B4**)

5.2 Usability

- 5.2.1 User Interaction with the Website: The user is able to navigate the website with ease. Therefore, widgets and displays are being kept in an organized, user-friendly manner to ensure efficiency and performance.
- 5.2.2 Cross-Platform: Users are able to access the website on both mobile and desktop

platforms, ensuring full functionality of all features. (**F18**)

5.3 Space

The account information is stored into Firebase's secured database. Sufficient space is available to handle up to 1000 entries.

5.4 Dependability

5.4.1 Error Handling: The website displays appropriate error messages to provide users information for debugging

5.4.2 Website Runtime: The website is in operation 99% of the time

5.5 Security

All user emails and passwords on the site are encrypted. Firebase's authentication feature guarantees encryption when a user creates an account. Users are also required to have a verified email address to use the site and must be signed in to use certain functionalities that involve listing or purchasing textbooks.

5.6 Maintainability

5.6.1 Code Quality: The website structure code is written in a way such that the software is scalable, allowing the admin to make modifications with ease. This includes using well-structured code using relatively similar naming functions

5.6.2 Scalability: The website is able to support new addition of textbook information with relative ease without any significant changes to structure code

6. Future Requirements

The requirements discussed in this document are the components that make up the final deliverable of the HofTAPS application. Given the length of time available to complete the project, there are some requirements that cannot be added or that need to be removed in order to meet the delivery date with a complete product. These requirements are either new features or enhancements to current features that would improve the user experience. Some of these requirements include:

- Improved Searching: Allowing for a more general search using keywords or contains methods instead of exact matches. This gives the user broader results and requires less specific search queries.
- User Bidding System: Allowing buyers and sellers to negotiate prices rather than using a fixed price set by the seller
- User Profiles: Creating profiles where users can view another user's profile and see their current listings, sold listings, and user ratings. This allows for greater transparency and increases buyer's trust in sellers.
- Enhanced Communication System: Allowing users to communicate with each other directly when negotiating or bidding instead of the automated notification system. This allows the users to have greater freedom in selling or purchasing and ties into the bidding and profile systems.
- Payment System: Allowing buyers to purchase textbooks in a monetary fashion to ensure greater transparency in transaction completion.

7. Conclusion

HofTAPS is a modern and efficient web-based application in which students attending Hofstra University are able to efficiently locate and purchase affordable textbook options for their classes. In its entirety, HofTAPS aims to be a leading platform amongst other textbook-selling platforms and increase more freedom for users rather than restricting them to limited buying and selling options; the platform fosters an open marketplace where students can explore multiple purchasing methods to find the best deals. By prioritizing user autonomy, HofTAPS ensures a more dynamic textbook exchange experience. In addition, HofTAPS serves as a demonstration that other students may be able to implement in order to find and purchase textbooks within their college community. HofTAPS is maintained, updated, and tested regularly for a more simple yet productive experience so that users may be able to make productive sales by selling old textbooks and/or finding textbooks for class to ensure academic prosperity.