



**HOLT, RINEHART AND WINSTON**

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**Back To School With a Lighter Backpack – Student Textbooks Go Online**

**Austin, Texas – July 18, 2003** – Students really can run to class this year because their backpacks are nearly empty – textbooks are lighter than air yet filled with all the traditional content. Schools across the country have purchased online textbooks, eliminating the need for lockers and alleviating parent concerns about overloaded backpacks.

Textbook publishers like Holt, Rinehart and Winston have been refining the model of online textbook delivery for a few years. Holt, which has been in the textbook business since 1866, already has 135 online textbooks available and adds more every month (see [www.hrw.com](http://www.hrw.com)).

“Our online textbooks include every page of the printed version plus interactive tutors, classroom management tools, tests, journals, audio files, video files, and so much more. The face of student learning is so different today,” says Judy Fowler, Holt president.

“Online textbooks save our students from carrying home those heavy books every night, and then back again in the mornings,” says Phyllis Blundi, a social studies teacher at Woodrow Wilson Middle School in Philadelphia. “The best advantage is that they help me be a better teacher and the students better, more attentive learners.”

Ms. Blundi is referring to the ability of online textbooks to be interactive and capitalize on the web’s ability to bring real-time information into the classroom. “My social studies class spends a lot of time on current events. The *Holt Call to Freedom* textbook we use has a current events feature that links directly to news content for students and also has additional teaching resources for me.”

Mattie Collins, a world history teacher in Pine Bluff, Ark., also uses online textbooks as a link to current events. In fact, she spent a good portion of last May talking about the war. “When my students returned from spring break, the war had just started,” recalls Ms. Collins. “They had so many questions about the Persian Gulf, the people, and the crisis. When we opened our online *Holt World History* textbook, we found that someone had anticipated our need for more information.”

Interest in online textbooks is growing, not only because of students’ sore backs, but because teachers like Ms. Blundi and Ms. Collins see that online textbooks offer them tremendous flexibility to manage their curriculum and track student progress with integrated assessment tools—so crucial in today’s environment of state mandated tests. Most online textbooks offer tutors and homework resources

to help students grasp difficult material. Holt, for example has an artificial intelligence tutor, created by Quantum Simulations, to support its chemistry materials.

Note to editors: Teachers using these products and experts on online textbooks are available for interview. Online textbooks available for review or on-screen demonstration by contacting Jennifer Harrison at [jennifer@JHarrisonPR.com](mailto:jennifer@JHarrisonPR.com) or 916-716-0636 (mobile).

### **About Holt, Rinehart and Winston**

Holt, Rinehart and Winston is a leading publisher of textbooks and educational materials for grades six through 12 and is part of Harcourt Education, a global education provider serving students and teachers in PreK through grade 12, adult learners, and readers of all ages. The Harcourt companies are Harcourt School Publishers, Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Harcourt Supplemental Publishers (including the Rigby and Steck-Vaughn imprints), Harcourt Educational Measurement, The Psychological Corporation, Classroom Connect, Harcourt Canada, Harcourt Religion Publishers, and Harcourt Trade Publishers. For further information, please call (800) 992-1627 or visit [www.hrw.com](http://www.hrw.com) or [www.harcourt.com](http://www.harcourt.com).

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