

A HEAT TRANSFER TEXTBOOK: A free electronic textbook

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Description

We are placing a mechanical engineering textbook into an electronic format for worldwide, no-charge distribution. The aim of this effort is to explore the possibilities of placing textbooks online --- effectively giving them away. Two potential benefits should accrue from doing this. First, in electronic format, textbooks can be continually corrected and updated, without the delays inherent in printed books (second and later editions are typically published on a five-year cycle). Second, free textbooks hold the potential for fundamentally altering the economics of higher education, particularly in those environments where money is scarce.

The book in question is a senior-level text on heat and mass transfer, the third edition of *A Heat Transfer Textbook*, by *John H. Lienhard IV* and *John H. Lienhard V*. It was published in two print editions in the 1980's and was used across the US and internationally. It remained in print until some five years ago. The authors now hold all rights to the work. The electronic book is currently being alpha-tested at MIT and will be made available to the general public in the near future.

John H. Lienhard V, who is leading the revision, is a full professor at MIT working in the fields of heat transfer and fluid mechanics. He is the recipient of teaching awards at MIT and research awards from ASME¹ and other organizations. He is a Fellow of the ASME.

John H. Lienhard IV is internationally known for his work in heat transfer and thermal science, which spans some 40 years of research and teaching. He is a professor at the University of Houston and the creator of the program *Engines of Our Ingenuity* which is heard on Public Radio nationally. He is an Honorary Member of ASME and has received many awards for his research, his teaching, and his radio program.

The URL for A Heat Transfer Textbook is: <http://web.mit.edu/lienhard/www/ahtt.html>

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¹ ASME is the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.