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The Illini Book: Student Resource or a Door Stopper?

The Illini Book, also referred to as the “I-Book”, is a resource available to students to use as an Illinois student. The Illini Book is “Students Planning Events for Students”. My thesis is the “I-Books can redistributed and made better than ever. The “I-Book” has a plethora of information tooled towards informing anyone who chooses to open it. The first versions of the book, were made out of leather, pocket size and had the Illinois Logo and the current year. The late 1900’s the book was adapted to a note book type look, with a plastic-nylon cover the size had quadrupled. The current book is a planner and not so much of an informational piece but the intention is to inform the reader. Currently printed by the Illini Union Board, the book has fallen to a state of outdated resource for students. This is a contradiction in itself as a useful piece of reference. Current technology are taking over the current the masses and lending pieces of reference useless. Over the years the value of “I-Book” has declined, not in financial reasons event though my Illini Book was free. Maybe the reason for the decline use of the “I-Book” is the publisher. Despite the advancement of technology it seems that the Illini Book has lost some pieces that made the book valuable to the students. Now the book is more of a calendar and not really a book.

The furthest time I could date the book to be 1900-1910. The school was predominately white, blacks still were treated less than human beings due to segregation and white supremacy.

The university was a little bit more than fifty years old. It was also the same year we won our first homecoming football game 3-0 vs Chicago. The baseball team had won the conference as well. This was right before War World I, the world was still peaceful and serene. Having college degree was not worth acquiring for a job. A lot of changes were constantly happening because the university was still developing adding buildings, and expanding. The campus was only a fraction of what it is today, rules were still being installed for safety. More clubs were being created and events were looking for ads in the I-Book.

Now is time to transform this book into something truly informal for the reader and not so scarce. My warrants deal what is inside of the “I-Book currently and not enough useful information in the book? If I open an Illini Book from the early 1900’s the size of the book was smaller but it contained so much valuable information. Every part of the book had a section and had majority of things a student used such as rail times. It was simple easy to understand and compact.

The Illini Book should be a reliable resource for students. Even with the advancement of technology the amount of information should be stuffed into this book. I still haven’t had to open my “I-Book” until this assignment just to see what I could use for my paper.

As a freshman majority of students rely on Facebook, Twitter, etc., or even word of mouth to receive information. Being freshman there are a lot of thing that we do not know about that isn’t listed in online or anywhere else. The Illini-Book from 1910 has so much information that you had everything that was relevant at your fingers. Most of the time I have to go digging

for anything that I need. Constantly checking emails, social media, or having to ask people hoping they know. There are 30,000+ students at this prestigious university and some things fall through the cracks, but information can't be lost if they are in between the covers of a book.

While the Illini Book was still fairly young, the book was going to be published by the Illini Union Board. The Illini Union Board still prints the Books to this day, and the book was still a thriving back in the age before computers. If we go back to when the computer were prevalent there was still a better version of the book we currently have. Is the technology to blame, or is it the publishers responsibility to keep use up to date. If students are publishing the Illini Book they should know what to put in the book. The Illinois Union Board holds so many events for the students social, and academic and they aren't even represented in the book.

The "I-Book" could be a way to keep track of the events like council meeting, social gatherings, and important dates for students. There is just too much going on to keep up with everything on campus, but the book can assist students with time management. This way the book will be valued in the eyes of the students. Books are valued more than the internet in some people eyes. Books are more accurate than internet, "To gather information, the students either use the Internet or books. The Internet is very easy to access, and it is flooded with information. However, the problem with the internet is that there is some information that might not be accurate, or that it might even be completely wrong. Students have no way of knowing if the information is accurate because they expect it to be accurate", (Detera)

There is no doubt that the Illini Book is outdated and needs to be improved.

Understanding that the problem is the book and not necessarily the internet as a whole is a first

step. It is in fact the combination of the internet, lack of information, and lack of worth the students value the book at. The Union Board is responsible making it better for us the students.

Sources

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