

The Palgrave Handbook of Textbook Studies

Eckhardt Fuchs • Annekatriin Bock
Editors

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The idea for this *Handbook* originated at the Georg Eckert Institute - Leibniz-Institute for International Textbook Research (GEI). Located in Braunschweig, Germany, the GEI is home to a unique textbook library and is the only institution in the world that systematically conducts research on educational media, informed by history and cultural studies. With deep expertise, extensive experience in textbook research and disciplinary diversity, it seemed only natural for the Institute to tackle a *Handbook* of this kind. The GEI has built a reputation in Germany and far beyond for the originality of its scholarship and contributions to educational practice. On the one hand, its scholars explore how educational media represent societal change and depict society itself. Research in this vein examines the continuity and transformation of perceptions, identity constructs, norms, and knowledge in textbooks. On the other hand, the Institute is interested in the medium's production, use, and adaptation. Based on cultural studies, empirical work along these lines has led to new approaches in educational media research, contributing to the field's methodological diversity and strengthening its theoretical foundations. Such studies ask which kinds of media are employed in schools, how certain media are selected for use in the classroom, and how media are integrated into the school day. They also investigate how young people interact with specific content: how they accept, challenge, and internalize the interpretations provided.

The *Handbook* summarizes research on all of these questions, incorporating the expertise of widely respected textbook scholars from all over the world. It is the remarkable result of an international network established over many years. All of the authors participated in the *Handbook's* conceptual and substantive development and the editors are very grateful for their input and patience. The *Handbook's* main chapters were coordinated by members of the GEI staff and therefore special thanks go to Barbara Christophe, Felicitas Macgilchrist, Markus Otto, and Steffen Sammler, whose expertise played a tremendous role in ensuring the *Handbook's* success. Without the patient and constructive support of our experienced translators, the *Handbook* could never

have come into being; many thanks to Katherine Ebisch-Burton, Wendy-Anne Kopisch, Sophie Perl, and Nicola Watson for their work on this volume. The editors would also like to thank Linda Sandrock for her substantial editorial help and for putting together the comprehensive glossary.

We hope the *Handbook* succeeds in providing an overview of current textbook research and future trends and resonates positively with its audience. We wish you an enjoyable and intellectual read!

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