

Media and Book Reviews

NETTER'S ANATOMY ATLAS FOR iPad

\$80 (iPad only)

ATLAS OF HUMAN ANATOMY (NETTER BASIC SCIENCE) (KINDLE EDITION WITH AUDIO/VIDEO)

\$62 (Kindle, Apple, Android, Windows phone, Web-based, Blackberry)

ATLAS OF HUMAN ANATOMY (eTEXTBOOK)

\$72 (Kno.com; iPad and Web-based)

NETTER'S ATLAS OF HUMAN ANATOMY

\$77 (Skyscape; Android, Apple, Blackberry)

Generations of students of human anatomy know Frank Netter as a household name. He is the artist that has captured an incredibly complex subject with accessible and beautiful illustrations. Recently, several new forms of his book have become available digitally.

What is a book anyway? I find myself asking this question when trying to review a series of digital publications, all derived from the same physical book entitled *Atlas of Human Anatomy* by Dr. Netter. The reason the question arises is that, surprisingly, there is a big difference between the paper form and these newer digital incarnations. To begin with, some of them are only available in certain formats, meaning if you do not have the necessary digital device, you cannot access them at all. Then, interestingly, each of these different formats actually offers a somewhat different product.

The most basic form is available in 2 formats: the Amazon Kindle format and the Kno.com format. The former is available on almost any modern digital device; the latter is currently limited to iPad and Web-based. These 2 formats provide the book as it is published in physical form. Both of these formats offer innovative ways to maintain personal notes that would be the digital equivalent of a highlighter and pen-writing along the margin of a paper-based book.

A more interactive format can be purchased through Skyscape, which is also widely available on almost any platform (except Web-based). This format in some ways may be better for some readers, as the labels of anatomic structures are actually hidden, and will be revealed only if the user selects the struc-

ture. In my testing, I found this format incredibly cumbersome when searching for a particular structure. Skyscape's answer to the question of "what is a book" is digital content that can be broken down into digestible subunits, each sold separately or as a group. As a result, one can purchase the chapters that are relevant without needing to buy the whole book. This option can save a considerable amount of money if someone never needs the remaining chapters.

The furthest departure from the physical book can be found on the exclusive iPad app. This format (like the others) offers all the anatomic drawings found in the book; however, the organization is set up in a visual format and can be reviewed in multiple ways: by region, by system, by index, by search, by personal bookmarked pages. As a result, this form of the book operates much more efficiently than its less technological brethren. In addition, many (but not all) of the muscles of the body have a link that if tapped will pop up helpful information (origin, insertion, action, blood supply, innervation). That feature alone makes the iPad version significantly more useful to neurologists. Also, the app adds 10- and 20-question quizzes for each "page" of illustration to help consolidate and master the information. Links are provided to "related" pages at the individual structure or whole plate level. And the option to show/hide pins, labels, and lines permits a more clear view for the more advanced reader. One can watch a YouTube promotional video about the app, or download a free trial version to see all the functionality of this app. The app also features additional 40 plates of new illustrations, including anatomic variants. In short, the iPad app in nothing short of a rethinking of what a book truly means and it provides a new level of depth to an already outstanding text of human anatomy.

The Kno.com, Skyscape, and Kindle versions also offer access to StudentConsult.com, which provides additional online content, including images, 3-dimensional anatomic videos, dissection modules, and much more. This content is not connected to the textbook, and it takes a little while to get set up. You will also need a Web-based browser; thus not all devices will make this content easily worthwhile. Still, the extras are pretty impressive for those who have the patience to navigate through it. For some reason, the iPad version does not offer access to this content. Instead, they offer online

access to USMLEconsult 50 questions related to anatomy. All this bonus material may be interesting and useful, but given the cumbersome nature and lack of integration with the eBooks directly, one will probably not expect frequent use there.

In short, even posthumously, Dr. Frank Netter continues to help professionals and students alike. In these new digital formats, we can now carry his massive textbook in our pockets, our doctor bags, and review them on our computers. Depending on the format, we get access to new content or enhancements to the original content. Additional online content augments the text as well. Rapid search, review,

and annotations as well as portability make the digital versions much more valuable than the paper edition. In the case of the iPad format, tighter integration and interactivity offer a new level of sophistication that enhance and embellish the original text. If you could use a digital reference for anatomy, I recommend that you take a new look at these digital forms of a well-worn classic.

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Dr. Goldenholz serves on the editorial team for the *Neurology*[®] Resident & Fellow Section. **Go to Neurology.org for full disclosures.**

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Media and Book Reviews: Netter's Anatomy Atlas for iPad; Atlas of Human Anatomy (Netter Basic Science) (Kindle Edition With Audio/Video); Atlas of Human Anatomy (Etextbook); Netter's Atlas of Human Anatomy

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