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Books or Laptops? The Effect of Shifting from Printed to Digital Delivery of Educational Content on Learning

Rosangela Bando , Francisco Gallego , Paul Gertler , Dario Romero Fonseca

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Highlights

- Accessing and producing reading resources are increasingly shifting from print to digital
 options that can be viewed on electronic devices, such as computers. In education in
 particular, research studies have shown that providing digital content on computers has
 lower marginal costs but higher fixed costs in comparison to textbooks for schools.
- Information and communication technologies (ICTs), such as computers and laptops, provide users with computational tools, information storage and communication opportunities. However, these devices may also pose as distractors that tamper with the learning process.
- Using a randomized controlled trial in elementary schools in Honduras, we show that at the end of one school year, we fail to reject the hypothesis that the substitution of laptops for textbooks did not make a significant difference in student learning for mathematics and Spanish and in non-academic outcomes related to coding and verbal fluency.

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