E-Book

Saranjit Kaur

Ph.D Scholar of Computer Science, Professional Assistant (Library)

Sri Guru Gobind Singh College of Commerce, Pitampura

University of Delhi, Delhi – 110034

E-Mail: saran_kaur1@rediffmail.com

ABSTRACT

E-books have been widely accepted by students, teachers and research scholars and their use by them is also increasing. The demand for e-books is growing rapidly with the advancement of computers, ipad, tablet computers and mobile technology and the increase of software's or convenient formats of reading e-books. There are many distributors or vendors of E-books available in the market, 24 hours internet access is also boosting readers to access e-books anytime and anywhere.

Keywords: E-Book, E-Book Reader, E-Book Format, E-Book Distributors, Phone, Information Technology

1. Introduction

E-books have been in use since the early 1990s, when developments in IT (Information Technology) began to allow convenient and cost-effective production, storage, and dissemination of electronic texts. Both mass market and academic publishers have turned to e-books and several organizations—including Google, the Open Content Alliance, Net Library, and Questia—are building online libraries of electronic texts that, to varying degrees, target the needs of academics and researchers. Now a day e-books are growing at impossible rates and use of paper is declining rapidly. E-books display text on a screen, allowing users to page through the content, search the text, and hyperlink to online resources or to other parts of the e-book, such as citations, other chapters, or an index. Many e-books integrate multimedia with textual component. In one example, an e-book that discusses a piece of classical music includes an audio file of that music. Readers can listen to the music as they read about its characteristics and its composer. Other texts include still images or movie files relevant to the topic at hand, or tools such as a digital physics simulator, that help bring the content alive. Further e-book functionality depends on the hardware and software used, with features available in different combinations for particular e-book products. These functions include printing, copying and pasting, annotating text (and in some cases sharing those notes with others), and reading e-books on portable devices. E-books can use many different file formats, though they all share certain characteristics: they are portable, transferable, and searchable. Electronic media can also incorporate other features, such as annotations, audio and video files, and hyperlinks. E-books can include commenting and chat tools that allow interaction among readers, and some let users add links to external resources. Many e-book readers can use the internet through Wi-Fi and sometimes have a relationship to a digital e-book seller, allowing the user to buy and receive digital e-books through this seller. In this way, the books owned by the user are managed in the cloud, and the e-book reader is able to download material from any location. An e-book reader may also download material from a computer or read it from a memory card.

2. Define E-Book

An electronic book (variously, e-book, e-Book, digital book, or even e-edition) is a book-length publication in digital form, consisting of text, images, or both, and produced on, published through, and readable on computers or other electronic devices. The Oxford Dictionary of English defines the e-book as "an electronic version of a printed book," but e-books can and do exist without any printed equivalent. E-books are usually read on dedicated e-book readers or tablets using e-reader applications. Personal computers, many mobile phones, and nearly all smart phones can also be used to read e-books. Fundamentally, an e-book is an electronic version of a text that can be read on a standard desktop or laptop screen, on a PDA or other portable device, or on dedicated e-book hardware.

3. History of E-Books

In the late 1940s, the first e-book may be the index thomisticus, a heavily annotated electronic index to the works of Thomas Aquinas, prepared by Roberto Busa.

In 1930, e-reader is developed by Bob Brown after watching his first "talkie" (movies with sound), he wrote an entire book on this invention and titled it "The Readies" playing off the idea of the "talkie". A machine that will allow us to keep up with the vast volume of print available today and be optically pleasing (this was a big point for Brown).

In 1949, a teacher from Spain - Angela Ruiz - patents the first electronic book. Her intention was to decrease the number of books that her pupils carried to the school. Alternatively, some historians consider electronic books to have started in the **early 1960s,** with the NLS project headed by Doug Engelhard at Stanford Research Institute (SRI), and the Hypertext Editing System and FRESS projects headed by andries van dam Brown University. FRESS was used for reading extensive primary texts online, as well as for annotation and online discussions in several courses, including English Poetry and Biochemistry.

In the 1970s, e-book implementation was the desktop prototype for a proposed notebook computer, the *dynabook,* at PARC: a general-purpose portable personal computer capable of displaying books for reading.

In 1971, the operators of the Xerox Sigma V mainframe at the University of Illinois gave Michael S. Hart extensive computer-time. Seeking a worthy use of this resource, he created his first **electronic document** by typing the United States Declaration of Independence into a computer. *Project Gutenberg* was launched afterwards to create electronic copies of more texts, especially books.

By 1985, the term 'electronic book' said to be coined by Van Dam, was established enough to be used in the title of an article.

In the 1990s, the general availability of the Internet made transferring electronic files much easier, including e-books.

In 1992, Sony launched the Data Discman, an electronic book reader that could read e-books stored on CDs. One of the electronic publications that could be played on the Data Discman was *The Library of the Future*.

4.   E-Book Formats and Readers

4.1 E-book Readers: The most preferred e-book reading among academic readers like students / faculty/ research scholars are personal laptop / computers / iPad / smart phones / tablet.   As e-book readers are growing so too are other devices. Still the following devices are most often used by library.

- ➢ Library computer
- ➢ Personal Laptop/ Computer /Net book
- ➢ I-Pad or other tablet
- ➢ iPod Touch or similar
- ➢ Dedicated e-book reader
- ➢ Smart phones and other portable device

4.2 E-book Formats: Academic users mostly prefer PDF format for e-book reading and it is universally accepted format for e-book reading. The following formats are also available and used by e-book users:

- ➢ PDF
- ➢ HTML (full text) format
- ➢ Optimized for dedicated e-book device
- ➢ Optimized for other mobile device
- ➢ E-Pub and other formats

5.   E-Book Distributors

There are so many distributors of e-books are available that the publisher have a vide variety of choice to select any e-book vendor for copyright. Some of the e-book distributors are given below:

Vendor	Service Type	Website	File Formats
Amazon Search Inside	Discovery	http://www.amazon.com	uPDF
Amazon	Kindle Bookseller	http://www.amazon.com	ePUB
BookRiff	Discovery Bookseller	http://bookriff.com	TBA

Book Surge	Print on Demand	http://www.booksurgepublishing.com	Print on Demand
Books 24x7	Specialized IT & Business	http://corporate.books24x7.com	Proprietary
Canadian Electronic Library	Library Aggregator	http://www.gibsonlibraryconnections.ca	uPDF
CourseSmart	Textbooks	http://coursesmart.com	uPDF
Ebook Library	Library aggregator	http://www.eblib.com	uPDF
ebooks.com	Bookseller	http://www.ebooks.com	uPDF
ebrary Inc	Library aggregator	http://www.ebrary.com	uPDF
Ebsco Booksource	Library aggregator	http://www.epnet.com	uPDF
Follett	Library aggregator	http://econtent.follettebooks.com	uPDF
Gale Virtual Reference Library	Library aggregator	http://www.gale.com	Proprietary
Google Book Search	Discovery Bookseller	http://books.google.com	uPDF
Indigo	Bookseller	http://shortcovers.com/	ePUB
Ingram Digital Group	Bookseller	http://ingramdigital.com	uPDF
Knovel	Specialized scientific	http://www.knovel.com	uPDF
Lightning Source	Print on Demand	https://www.lightningsource.com	Print on Demand
Mobipocket	Bookseller	http://www.mobipocket.com	ePUB

MyiLibrary	Library aggregator	http://www.myilibrary.com	uPDF
NetLibrary	Library aggregator	http://www.oclc.org/net library	uPDF
Numilog	Bookseller	http://www.numilog.net	ePUB
O'Reilly Safari	Specialized IT	http://safari.oreilly.com	uPDF
Overdrive	Library aggregator/ Wholesaler	http://www.overdrive.com	ePUB
Printorium	Print on Demand	http://www.printoriumbookworks.com	Print on Demand
ProQuest	Library aggregator	http://www.il.proquest.com	Proprietary
Questia	Library aggregator	http://www.questia.com	uPDF
Sony Connect	Bookseller	http://ebookstore.sony.com	ePUB
VitalSource	Security software	http://www.vitalsource.com	Proprietary
World eBook Library	NFP Library aggregator	http://public-library.net	uPDF
WOWIO	Bookseller (Advertising-based)	http://www.wowio.com	Portable

6. E-Book For Academic Libraries

Some proponents of e-books contend that an environment in which students are able not only to read a text but also to make notes—and perhaps even change the book itself -facilitates the teaching of composition, writing and editing. Interactive exercises with e-books may increase student engagement and deepen their understanding of subject matter. E-books that make extensive use of multimedia components can increase student facility with a variety of ways of looking at certain concepts. To the extent that they can revise or create their own e-books, students have an opportunity to learn how to make appropriate decisions about the effective use of multimedia. E-books also have the potential to extend greater amounts of content, particularly highly specialized content, to broader ranges of students. Because costs are low and distribution is simple, e-books can bring more, and more focus content to classrooms. By the same token, students can increasingly take advantage of electronic means of producing and disseminating books, providing an avenue for exposure

formerly reserved for senior experts and established authors. Nowadays researchers, students and teachers prefer to read electronic material because of availability of Internet throughout the day. Another reason is that nowadays hardware is more easily available and comparative cheaper, e.g., I-Phone, I-Pod, Tablets, Android phones and laptop. E-text can be easily read on these devices.

7. Advantage and Disadvantage of E-Books

7.1 Advantages of E-Books

The following are some of the advantages of eBooks over physical titles:

➢ **Travel:** If one needs to travel a lot then e-books allow him to bring a whole library with him wherever he goes. One can switch between titles with ease and the weight is lighter than a standard paperback.
➢ **Storage:** Some may be keen in buying a lot of books but because of lack of space in bookshelf, are helpless. With the e-book readers bookshelf is located on a small handheld device, it can be computer or laptop or both. This will not only save lots of storage space but also provide a backup online in case of any problem with the system.
➢ **Cost:** As compare to printed book, E-books are often cheaper in the long run because there are no printing fees associated with them. If books are only available electronically, it avoids the printing, storage, and mailing costs of traditional publishing and may considerably reduce the time required to produce and distribute a text. Production costs for e-books are much lower than publishing on paper, and new editions can be created more frequently.
➢ **Font adjustments**: With an e-book one can make the adjustment of font as per convenience. One can instantly change the darkness of the lettering or the size of font or zoomed in to make the text as large as needed. After reading a printed book one gets feel eyes strained and there is no other choice but to stop reading but with an e-book, one can make changes according to ease.
➢ **Night reading**: Anyone can read e-books at night as many readers come with built-in reading lights. This is an easy way to study as others are not disturbed.
➢ **Flexible**: E-books are portable, transferable and searchable.
➢ **Attractive**: E-books attract the readers as they also include multimedia files, such as music, movie or image files.
➢ **Rare books:** Rare books or many antique books are difficult to read because the pages are faded or stained. The process of making the e-book from these old documents can often remove these defects, so that we end up with a document that is actually much easier to read than the original.

7.2 Disadvantages of E-Book
➢ **Paper Book**: The e-book cannot be printed. Most e-book producers offer some documents that can be printed and some that cannot be printed. Some people do not like reading from the computer; they prefer to read a paper book.
➢ **Cost:** Commercial e-book readers can cost more. Readers are all commercial devices that cost money to use. E-books also cost more although it is a one-time cost. The initial cost of the e-book is very high.
➢ **Compatible:** There are some software programs that can load directly onto a computer or handheld PDA. Even every e-Book reader will allow different formats of text files to be read. Examples of the format types are PDF, Word, PDB, HTML, BBeB, etc. However, many operating systems and computer devices and programs are not compatible with every computer. The e-books are not fully compatible with all mobile devices.
➢ **Security vulnerabilities.** Any program that is on a computer and can be connected to the internet can be risky to the computer or device by creating vulnerabilities for attackers to exploit. For example, the website bugtraq.com follows new vulnerabilities and bugs reported a vulnerability found in the Acrobat E-Book Reader. Like any program, especially Adobe and Microsoft products, require security patches and updates to protect against these vulnerabilities.
➢ **Anti-Virus, Anti-Malware and Spyware:** These programs may change registry information. The registry is the components that allow a program to work. After an update in a program, allowing the change to the registry will allow the program to continue running, and denying the change will make the program malfunction.
➢ **Power/ battery:** E-Book readers are special devices or programs on a computer that allow the user to access the book electronically. There is absolutely no paper involved. If there is a power outage and the batteries die, the user will not be able to access the book.
➢ **Eyestrain:** E-Books are read on a computer or special device that is viewed on a screen. The screen does not have the same type of resolution like print on paper has so it strains the eyes.
➢ **Defined life:** New technologies are emerging day by day, for example, new computers or hand-held devices. Software and hardware that contain components that can run a user's E-Book reader. When upgrading to newer software, the user runs the risk of losing saved books or losing formatting of the document.

➢ **Hacked.** E-book Readers are able to connect to the internet to shop for different e-books. Hackers are able to use their computers to hack e-book readers and e-books. People are now pirating e-books in every possible way.

➢ **Copyright:** As with other forms of digital content, e-books raise questions about copyright, both for producers and consumers, because electronic content can be duplicated and disseminated. Copyright owners face growing hurdles in protecting their content from unauthorized reproduction. Academics who use e-books in their courses must carefully apply fair use principles. Collective writing or editing of a text, which some e-book tools allow, can introduce new issues of authorship and copyright ownership.

➢ **Registered**: The e-book must be registered on a specific computer before it can open.

➢ **Time:** Libraries order titles as soon as (or before) they are published, but by the time the electronic version is available, libraries have already purchased the print.

8. Conclusion

E-books have been slow to break the pattern of simply being digital copies of paper books with a few added features. As the use of electronic resources becomes more common, and as screen resolutions and other technologies improve, new generations of users may be more willing to trade traditional books for e-books, just as many students have largely abandoned paper and pen in favor of a laptop or a Tablet PC. New opportunities will emerge for co-creation and collaboration, among both authors and readers of e-books. Definitions of exactly what constitutes a book will continue to evolve, and publishers and authors will add new features and tools to electronic texts. Richer media, new ways of organization (or self-organization) and collaboration, and greater access to aspiring authors will accompany the ongoing evolution of e-books. Underlying this process will be the question of authority. By their nature, printed books imply a stringent review process, and e-books must ensure that reader trust is preserved.

9. References

[1]. http://net.educause.edu/ir/library/pdf/ELI7020.pdf

[2]. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/E-book.

[3]. http://www.the-digital-reader.com/2011/03/30/ebook-pricing-problems/#.UTWJ-jfQhZA.

[4]. http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3133895/

[5]. http://www.starpath.com/elibra/about1.htm

[6]. http://schools.natlib.govt.nz/21st-century-literacy-inquiry/sources-resources/e-books-and-issues

[7]. http://blogs.kqed.org/mindshift/2012/09/why-college-students-still-prefer-print-over-e-books/

[8].http://www.gibsonpublishingconnections.ca/www/gibsonpublishingconnections.ca/Collateral/eBook%20Distributors.pdf.

[9]. http://online-bookstores-review.toptenreviews.com/the-advantages-of-ebooks-versus-traditional-books.html

[10]. https://wikispaces.psu.edu/display/IST432TEAM10/Disadvantages+of+E-Books

[11]. 2012. "Survey of E-book Usage in U.S. Academic Libraries", Library Journal – School Library Journal.

[12]. Shen, Julie. 2010. "The E-Book Lifestyle: An Academic Library Perspective", The Reference Librarian, Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group, ISSN: 0276-3877, Vol.52 No.1-2, pp.181-189.

[13]. Walters, William H. 2013. "E-books in Academic Libraries: Challenges for Acquisition and Collection Management", Libraries and the Academy, The Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, Vol. 13, No. 2 (2013), pp. 187–211.