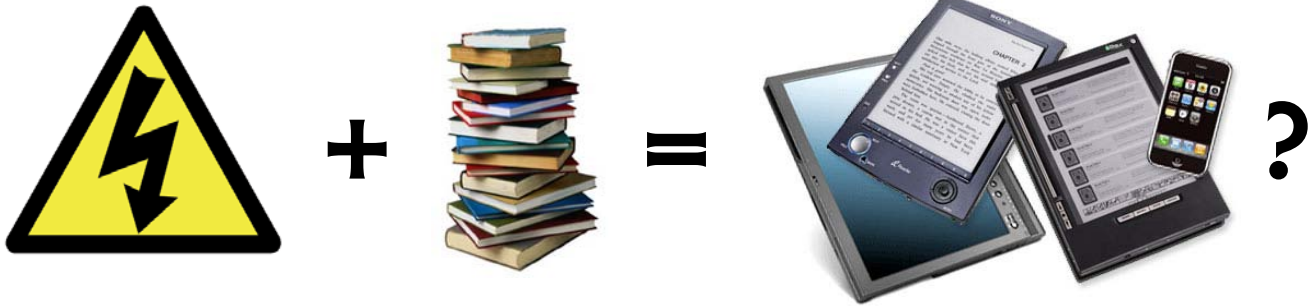


The New York Society Library Presents:



An Introduction to

E-books

Thursday, May 12, 2011 ~ 2:00 p.m.
The Whitridge Room, New York Society
Library

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Course overview:

E-book: *electronic file containing the text of a book.*

E-Reader: *Electronic device used to read e-books.*

This course is primarily for new or prospective **e-book** users, or anyone curious about e-books. The course will provide an overview and comparison of currently available **e-readers**, and demonstrate how to find e-books and read them on an e-reader, along with some discussion of broader trends and issues in e-books.

Over 500 years ago, moveable type technology revolutionized literacy and the written word, and spawned new industries of publication and printing. Today, e-books are similarly reshaping the industries and culture of books. Though some earlier attempts have not caught on, many more recent e-readers, along with reading functions on devices such as “smartphones” and tablet computers, have achieved broader success. With this new popularity, many libraries, publishers, journalists, booksellers, collectors, and readers alike are attempting to adapt to these changes, some more willingly than others.

E-books provoke strong reactions from fans and critics, as well as intense speculation about the future of e-books and printed books. While the merits or faults of e-books (and of the reactions to them) may be a matter of personal judgment, here are some common arguments both for and against e-books.

Why E-books?

Size: One small portable e-reader can provide access to many e-books at home, work, and while traveling, also saving space on bookshelves and cutting down on discarded newspapers and magazines.

Speed: Most e-readers allow for nearly instantaneous, automatic electronic download of books, newspapers, and magazines from the bookseller or library to your device.

Selection: Some e-books are unavailable or not easily acquired in print, such as out-of-print, small-press, or self-published authors who don’t have wide print distribution, or content never published in print. Some providers also offer free sample chapters before purchase.

Cost: In many cases, e-books cost less than their print equivalent; many public domain e-books are free.

Searchability: Most e-readers allow full-text searching, along with other features such as dictionary look-up, annotation, bookmarking, and excerpting of small passages.

Accessibility: Most e-readers allow for re-sizing of the text, and some will even read the text in a computerized voice, essentially turning an e-book into a large print book or audiobook, for those with visual impairments, or while in low-light environments, for example.

Other bells and whistles: Some devices include added functions like reference tools, software applications, file storage, video or music playback, Internet access, and possibility for multimedia enhancements to books such as a soundtrack, video clips, and so on.

...Why not?

Cost: e-readers come at a range of prices, usually \$100 or more, in addition to the cost of the e-books. They are susceptible to theft, damage, wear and tear, and loss. While printed books are also susceptible to damage, theft, or loss, they are cheaper to replace.

Complexity: While e-readers meant to be user-friendly, they may be confusing to beginners, and other functions may distract from the immersive experience of reading. Also, they can malfunction. Meanwhile, printed books essentially don't malfunction or go obsolete, and don't require user manuals, cases, charging cables, batteries, user accounts, or Internet access.

Compatibility: Currently, it is not possible to convert your existing print collection into e-books without repurchasing the books and most e-readers and e-bookstores don't allow their e-books or accessories to work on competing devices, nor is there always a guarantee that your purchased content will always be supported, if for example, the company goes out of business or a new device or file format is developed.

Selection: Not every print book is available in an e-format from all sellers, and some publishers delay the release of e-books in order to maximize sale of hardcover books.

Immateriality: E-books do not have a physical manifestation equivalent to printed books as tangible, objects that can be owned, shared, and collected. There may also be loss or distortion of illustrations, layout, typography, or other technical and aesthetic characteristics in an e-format.

Privacy: most e-readers and e-bookstores require registration with the company, including credit card information to purchase e-books, making it difficult or impossible to read anonymously.

Digital Restrictions: Unlike printed books, most paid e-books include Digital Rights Management (DRM) software. DRM is a software encryption meant to prevent unauthorized copying and distribution. It is also usually necessary to agree to a license agreement before downloading e-books. DRM and license agreements supersede copyright, so even copying that would have been considered "fair use" (such as educational, non-profit, review and parody etc.) is impossible and even illegal. Free public domain e-books typically do not have DRM.

Of course, these arguments may not apply equally to all e-readers, or to the needs and tastes of every user. E-books are not for every user or for every reading situation; many people who do own e-readers still read printed books and periodicals, too. For those who are considering purchasing an e-reader, there are common features among most devices, but also important differences, not only from brand to brand but also between different models of the same brand, and newer models are released frequently. Each user has different needs and preferences, but here are some factors that may be helpful when making a decision:

E-Readers: Basic features and considerations

Functionality: *Dedicated vs. Multifunction.* Some devices are only (or primarily) dedicated to reading books/newspapers/magazines (like the Kindle or Nook), and others offer reading among a variety of other functions (like the Nook Color, Apple iPad, or other tablet computers).

Screen: E-ink displays are low-glare, high resolution, black-and-white, and reminiscent of newsprint. There is a slight delay as the e-ink display resets

***E-Ink:** Electronic charge controls tiny capsules filled with ink.*

***LCD:** Electronic charge controls tiny colored lights.*

when turning pages. Without a backlight, e-ink displays require an external light source, but achieve long battery life. Also, e-ink is reportedly easier on the eyes. **LCD** displays offer color and backlighting, and ability to display video content or animated page turns, but drain batteries faster and may experience glare in sunlight. A few models include both types of screens.

Size: E-readers differ in screen size and proportion, and in overall weight and dimensions, which may influence ease of holding, portability, resolution, and compatibility with accessories such as cases.

Controls: *Buttons vs. Touch-screen:* to select a book, turn pages, and perform other functions, some e-readers have various buttons and keys, while others have touch-sensitive screens; some have both.

File compatibility: The most common file types for e-books include .EPUB, .AMZN, .PDF and .MOBI. Not all e-readers support all e-book file types. Some are proprietary and not compatible with other e-readers, while others are more open-source. However, some readers also enable

Menu options: Each e-reader has its own menu layout and functions for searching and organizing your e-book collection, changing the text size, etc. Some are more intuitive and customizable than others.

Memory: e-readers typically have some form of memory on board for storing e-books. The total amount varies, and some devices allow for additional expansion through a memory card slot.

Adding (and removing) books: many e-readers allow their bookstore to be browsed directly on the e-reader, and purchases downloaded wirelessly either through a local Wireless network or hotspot, or over Cellular data networks (service charges may or may not apply for cellular data). Others require that the e-books be downloaded to the computer and transfer to the e-reader via a cord. Some models allow both types of download.

Power management: E-ink devices boast battery life of up to a month on a single charge, while LCD displays have much shorter battery lives. Most devices have a rechargeable battery with a charging cord, and an on/off switch, and a low-power or “sleep” mode while not in use. Some devices do not have replaceable batteries. Disabling wireless functions can also increase battery life.

Price: Typically, dedicated e-readers cost \$100 to \$300, while multifunction tablets range from \$300 and up, depending on the manufacturer and the features described above.

Amazon Kindle and Kindle DX



Amazon.com sells the Kindle (on the right), has a 6” screen, and is the third generation of the Kindle device. It comes in 3 options: WiFi + 3G, WiFi only, and WiFi with “special offers” or advertisement content displayed on menus and screensavers. The Kindle DX (left) has a 9.7” screen and is the second generation. Previous generations are no longer available for purchase but have similar functions.

Size: Kindle is 6” screen, 8.5 ounces; DX is 9.7” , 18.5 ounces.

Capacity: All Kindle models have 4GB of memory, for up to 3,500 books, and do not have expandable memory.

Battery Life: The Kindle’s battery life is up to one month, and the DX is two to three weeks, with wireless functions turned off. A USB charging cable is provided. Installed rechargeable battery is not replaceable.

Screen type: All models have an e-ink display, and no touch-screen. There is a QWERTY keyboard and other buttons for turning pages and navigating menus.

Download options: Kindle DX: 3G cellular only. Kindle Wifi+3G: Wireless internet, 3G cellular. Kindle WiFi only and Kindle with “special offers” have Wireless internet only. 3G cellular service is free and provides downloads wherever a mobile phone would work. All devices also allow e-books to be added via provided USB cord.

Selection: The Kindle Bookstore currently has about 900,000 titles for sale from 99 cents and up, and about 1.3 million free e-books available on their site. Only e-books from the Kindle store can be downloaded wirelessly. E-books from other sources must be added via the provided USB cable. Free sample chapters are available for most books.

Compatible file formats: .AMZN, .MOBI (unprotected only) .PDF, .DOC, .HTML, .TXT, and various audio and image files.

Other features: all models include Text-to-Speech, which reads the e-book in a computerized voice over a built-in speaker or headphones (not included). Some books may be shared with other Kindle users for free (depending on the Publisher). Applications are available for reading Kindle e-books on PC, Mac, iPhone, iPad, Blackberry, Windows Phone, and Android phones, with “Whispersync” technology to keep your reading progress synchronized across multiple devices.

Information about Kindle e-readers: <http://www.amazon.com/kindle/>

Kindle e-Bookstore: <http://www.amazon.com/Kindle-eBooks/>

Price: \$114 for Wifi with special offers; \$139 for WiFi only; \$189 for WiFi + 3G; DX for \$379. Available on amazon.com and various electronics retailers.

Barnes and Noble Nook and Nook Color

Barnes and Noble bookstores sell the Nook (right), and the newer Nook Color (left). B&N recently announced a new device to be released at the end of May 2011.

Size: The Nook is 6" e-ink screen, and a 3.5" Color touch screen, and 11.6 ounces; the Nook Color is a 7" color LCD touch screen, 15.8 ounces.

Capacity: The Nook has 2GB (about 1500 e-books) and is expandable via SD card (sold separately) up to 16GB. The Nook Color has 8 GB (up to 5000 books) built-in and is expandable via SD card (sold separately) up to 32 GB.

Battery Life: The Nook has a battery life of up to 10 days before recharging, and the rechargeable battery is replaceable by the user. The Nook Color has up to 8 hours of use before recharging, and the rechargeable battery is not replaceable.

Screen type: The Nook has an e-ink display for reading, with a color touch-screen below for navigation and control, and buttons on the side for turning pages. The Nook Color has only one button, and a full color LCD touch-screen for control, input, and page turns.

Download options: The Nook has a WiFi only version and a WiFi+3G version for free wireless download wherever mobile phones would work. The Nook Color is WiFi only for download at home networks and hotspots. All models allow e-books to be added via the provided USB cable.

Selection: The Barnes and Noble bookstore has 2 million e-books for sale including about 1 million free e-books. Free sample chapters are available for most books, and free reading inside Barnes and Noble Stores up to one hour a day.

Compatible file formats: Nook: .EPUB, .PDF, various image and audio files. Nook Color: .EPUB, .PDF, Microsoft Word, Excel, and Powerpoint, various audio, video, and image files.

Other features: Exchangeable back panel for color options on Nook. The Nook Color also has video playback, e-mail, internet, games, and applications. Some books may be shared with other Nook users for free. Nook Color supports enhanced content and full-color magazines and children's books, and animated page-turns, and customizable screen-savers. Applications are available for reading Kindle e-books on PC, Mac, iPhone, iPad, Blackberry, and Android phones.

Information: <http://www.barnesandnoble.com/nook/>

Nook e-bookstore: <http://www.barnesandnoble.com/ebooks/index.asp>

Price: \$149 for Nook WiFi only; \$199 for Nook WiFi + 3G; \$249 for Nook Color. Available in Barnes and Noble stores, bn.com, and other electronics retailers.



iBooks on Apple iPad



The iPad is a multifunction tablet device, which includes e-reading functions. The 1st generation iPad is still available from some retailers, but the iPad 2 is described here.

Size: 9.7" screen, 1.33 lbs.

Capacity: iPads come in 16, 32, or 64 GB models, holding as many as several thousand books. The memory is not expandable.

Battery Life: up to 10 hours before recharging. Built-in rechargeable battery is not replaceable.

Screen type: All iPads have a 9.7" color LCD touch-screen. Touch controls are used to turn pages, purchase books, and navigate your collection.

Download options: Wireless via home network or via 3G data service (charges apply from Verizon or AT&T). PDFs can also be added via provided USB cable and using the iTunes software on your computer.

Selection: 200,000 books in iBooks store including many free books.

Compatible file formats: .EPUB and .PDF. Other file types supported in other applications. Books from the Apple iBookstore cannot be read on any non-Apple device.

Other features: Search, bookmarking, dictionary lookup, font resizing options, and VoiceOver technology to read the text in a computerized voice. The iPad includes a variety of other functions beyond the scope of this description, including audio and video playback, Internet, games, email, camera, maps, word processing, and more.

Information about iBooks on iPad: <http://www.apple.com/ipad/built-in-apps/ibooks.html>

iBooks e-bookstore: e-books are purchased using an iTunes account through the device only.

Price: \$499 to \$829, depending on memory and Wireless or 3G options. Monthly service charges apply for 3G data service from AT&T or Verizon.

iPod and iPhone: The **iBooks Application** (icon at right) on the iPad is also available on Apple iPhone and iPod Touch. The iPhone and iPod touch have 3.5" color touch screens and a range of storage capacity. The iPod touch includes WiFi only downloads, while the iPhone includes WiFi and 3G cellular data (Contracts and service charges from AT&T or Verizon apply).



Other e-book applications are available from the **Appstore** (icon at left) on the iPad, iPhone, or iPod Touch, or via the iTunes software on your computer. This includes **apps for Kindle, Nook, and Google e-Books**, and an app called **Stanza**, for free public domain books. There are also **separate apps for many magazines and newspapers**, including *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *The Economist*, *Wired*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Nation*, and *The Daily*, which allow paid subscription and wireless download of issues.

Sony e-Readers

Sony offers three e-readers: the Daily, Pocket, and Touch editions (left to right).

The Sony e-readers come in a variety of colors.

Size: Pocket is 5" screen, 5.4 oz. Daily is 7" screen, 9.6 oz.; Touch is 6", 7.5 oz.

Price: Pocket ed. Is \$179; Daily is \$299, Touch is \$229.

Capacity: 2 GB (1,200 books) on Pocket ed., not expandable; Daily and Touch eds. have 2GB with expandable memory card slot.

Battery Life: Up to 2 weeks on Pocket and Touch eds.; 3 weeks on Daily ed.

Screen type: All have e-Ink screens and external controls, while the Touch and Daily Eds.' screens are touch-sensitive.

Download type: Pocket and Touch eds. via USB cable only; Daily ed. Includes Wi-Fi, free 3G cellular, and USB Cable.

Primary store selection: thousands of books plus millions of free books from Google.

Compatible file formats: EPUB, PDF, Microsoft Word, other text and Image files. Daily ed. Also allows audio playback.

Other features: Adjustable font-sizes, note-taking, dictionary lookup.

Information about Sony e-readers: <http://ebookstore.sony.com/reader/>

Sony Readerstore for ebooks: <http://ebookstore.sony.com/>



Others:

A large selection of other e-readers exist with various prices and features, including the Kobo, Literati, Pandigital novel, and others.

<http://www.literatireader.com/>

<http://www.koboereader.com/>

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There are several other reading apps for Apple, Android and Blackberry Smartphones and Tablet devices, and new apps and devices released constantly. See the application directories from the phone suppliers for the most updated information and applications.

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Google eBook store: <http://books.google.com/ebooks>

Selection: Google eBooks has “hundreds of thousands” of books for sale, and 3 million free titles.

Can be read on: PC, Mac, Tablet computers, iPad, Nook, Nook Color Sony e-readers, and smartphones.

Sony ReaderStore: <http://ebookstore.sony.com/>

Selection: thousands of books and millions of free books via Google.

Can be read on: Sony e-readers, PC, Mac, Apps for Apple and Android devices.

Kindle e-Bookstore: <http://www.amazon.com/Kindle-eBooks/>

Selection: The Kindle Bookstore currently has about 900,000 titles for sale from 99 cents and up, and about 1.3 million additional free e-books available on their site. Only e-books from the Kindle store can be downloaded wirelessly. E-books from other sources must be added via the provided USB cable. Free sample chapters are available for most books.

Can be read on: Kindle and Kindle DX, and apps for Apps for Apple, Android, and Blackberry smartphones and tablets.

Apple iBookstore: on the device only.

Selection: 200,000 books in iBooks store including many free books.

Can be read on: iPad, iPhone, iPod touch.



Nook e-bookstore: <http://www.barnesandnoble.com/ebooks/index.asp>

Selection: The Barnes and Noble bookstore has 2 million e-books for sale including about 1 million free e-books. Free sample chapters are available for most books, and free reading inside Barnes and Noble Stores up to one hour a day.

Can be read on: Nook, Nook Color, Mac, PC, Apps for Apple, Android, and Blackberry smartphones and tablets.

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Personal documents: In addition, your own PDFs and Microsoft Word, Excel, and Powerpoint documents are readable on many devices.

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Calibre: For advanced users, Calibre e-book software allows management of e-book files on your computer, including conversion of different file types, provided the files do not have Digital Restrictions.

For more information and to download the free Calibre software, visit: <http://calibre-ebook.com/>

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also offers a Media Console application for iPad, iPhone, iPod Touch, Android, and Blackberry devices, as well as Mac and PC computers. Overdrive recently announced support for the Kindle later in 2011.

Typically, a library purchases a package of books from Overdrive, and each purchased title can be downloaded by one user at a time for a specified period before the download expires; the next patron can then download the e-book. Some publishers have not authorized their e-book titles to be circulated, while Harper Collins recently restricted their titles to 26 circulations before requiring the library to repurchase the e-book.

E-book circulation via Overdrive requires a library account and an Internet connection to browse titles from your computer and download and transfer books to your device.

1. On the library's e-book website, you will be required to log-in with your library card number and pin.
2. You can then search available titles, and select titles to add to your "Digital Cart" or to place a hold.
3. When available, the file will then download to your computer, for use on your computer or transfer to a supported device via USB cable.
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New York Public Library: <http://ebooks.nypl.org>

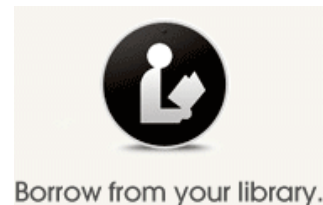
Queens Public Library: <http://queenslibrary.lib.overdrive.com>

Brooklyn Public Library: <http://digitalbooks.brooklynpubliclibrary.org>

You can search for other libraries who use Overdrive by ZIP code or State, and find other information and support at <http://www.overdrive.com>

A step-by-step instructional guide is available here:

<http://www.overdrive.com/Solutions/Libraries/tour/MenuWelcome.html>



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In order to self-publish an e-book with any of these companies, you will need a user account with that company, and may need to submit tax information, acquire ISBNs for your books, agree to certain pricing, content, and formatting guidelines, and meet minimum technical specifications on your computer in order to upload your books and cover art. These companies will convert your submitted book to the proper format, and provide your books for sale in their e-book store, and keep a specified percentage of sales in exchange for the service. See the websites above for more information.

Further reading:

In the NYSL Collection:

Darnton, Robert. *The Case for Books*. New York: PublicAffairs, 2009. Call no. 002 D

Gomez, Jeff. *Print Is Dead: Books in Our Digital Age*. London: Macmillan, 2008. Call no. 070.5 G

Levine, Mark L. *The Fine Print of Self-Publishing*. Minneapolis: Bascom Hill, 2011. Call no. 070.5 L

Online:

Consumer Reports Reviews of E-readers: <http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/electronics-computers/phones-mobile-devices/e-book-readers/index.htm>

Engadget Reviews of E-readers: <http://www.engadget.com/reviews/#/hardware/e-readers/n2o/>

Gizmodo's Latest news on E-readers: <http://gizmodo.com/ereaders/>

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