

E-Books in Academic Libraries: Pro's And Con's



Library Science

KEYWORDS : E-books, Publishers, Directories, Issues, Pros, Cons

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ABSTRACT

Nowadays, E-books are very popular in the academic libraries. Thousands of e-books are available for the subscription as well as free of cost in different subject fields. To access these electronic resources, libraries should be equipped with latest technologies. This paper gives brief description of list of top e-book publishers and freely available directories. And also, the issues relating to selecting the e-books, pros and cons of e-books

INTRODUCTION:

Information technology, especially the internet has profoundly changed the ways of publishing. Newspaper, magazines and periodicals have for years been published online and all kinds of texts are now available in digitized form. Publishing is changing with the increasing importance of computer technology. Publications are appearing with mixed media and increasingly in a completely electronic format. Digital media and networks have created new products and marketplaces; electronic books (e-books) are the books of the network society.

The rising cost of publications, coupled with practically frozen the budget of libraries. The technological advancements offer newer methods of information processing, retrieval and dissemination are the parameters to enforced stakeholders to look into the possible solution. The libraries are supported for teaching, learning, research, promoting educational activities to institution, and available a high quality information to its user.

The resources are found in various formats like E-books, E-journals, online databases, CD-ROMs, Reference sources etc. We found that the uses of e-journals are very popular in academic institutions. The other web resources like online databases are also using in various libraries, but the printed books are not replacing with e-books as compared with e-journals. There are several reasons like technological limitations, tendency of user etc. An attempt has been made here to highlights some issues of e-books and its uses in academic environment.

An electronic book is a text- and image-based publication in digital form produced on, published by, and readable on computers or other digital devices. e-books are usually read on dedicated hardware devices known as e-Readers or e-book devices. Personal computers and some cell phones can also be used to read e-books.

WHY E-BOOKS?

Electronic books and texts have been available for some time for selected public domain titles, only relatively recently have electronic texts been packaged and offered commercially as electronic books. The commercial production, sale, and distribution of e-books that has changed how libraries need to deal with e-books

Electronic books offer creative possibilities for expanding access as well as changing learning behavior and academic research. Content can always be accessible, regardless of time or place, to be read on PCs or on portable book readers. Books need never go out of print, and new editions can be easily created. One can carry several titles at once on a portable reader and, over time, build a personal library. Features such as full text searching, changeable font size, mark-up, citation creation, and note taking will enhance usability. Print text can be integrated with multi-dimensional objects, sound, and film to create a whole new kind of monographic work.

TOP RANKING E-BOOK PUBLISHERS:

The following table gives the list of Top ranking of e-book publishers for the year 2013

Table: 1 Top E-Book publishers list.

Rank	Publisher
1	Hachette
2	Penguin
3	Random House
4	Self-published
5	Simon & Schuster
6	Macmillan
7	Amazon
8	HarperCollins
9	Harlequin
10	Belle Bridge Books

Source: www.forbes.com

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- **Memo Ware** has a unique collection of thousands of documents (databases, literature, maps, technical references, lists, etc.) specially formatted to be easily added to your *Palm OS device, Pocket PC, Windows CE, EPOC, Symbian* or other handheld device.
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- Free e-books in **e-bookLobby** are divided into different categories. Categories range from business, art, computing and education. Select the category appropriate to the e-book you're looking for.
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ISSUES:

Institutions offered a long list of responses about their next steps with e-books, and the future of e-books in their organizations, that indicate that there is still considerable analysis and evaluation needing to be done to fit e-books into future academic library needs and goals. Issue areas identified include:

- What kinds of books and content are most useful in electronic format? What will content look like? Will there be a disaggregating of the printed book package into more marketable saleable parts, such as chapters?
- What collection strategies will be most useful: creating titles

in a given subject area, or acquiring titles regardless of subject on an as-needed basis?

- What value-added features will increase the role of e-books in research?
- How are e-books being used in the academic environment? Not enough is known about how e-books are actually being used, and what potential scholarly and instructional uses may be developed.
- What changes need to be made to local library procedures and policies for acquiring e-books?
- How will e-books be preserved or archived?

PRO's of E-Books:

- It's simple to carry dozens of books at once.
- In some cases, books may cost less per title.
- It is easy to search an entire book by word or phrase, and still have the option of using a Table of Contents or index.
- Write notes or do highlighting without damaging the book.
- Change the size of the text and, in some cases, choose a preferred font.
- The universe of public domain books is rapidly becoming within reach of anyone with access to a device with an Internet connection; lots of 'free' options.
- Academically-oriented e-book sites will often show proper citation format for multiple styles and work with such software as EndNote and Refworks.

Find yourself with time on your hands? (at a doctor's office, on line, etc.) Pull out a small device and access your personal library.

- If you read a lot but don't necessarily want to keep all your books or have room for many books, the reader is a compact storage device or you can delete the books.

CON's of E-Books:

- It can be difficult to print as much as you'd like to - and sometimes you're not allowed to print any pages at all, depending on your e-book format or simply restrictions from the publisher. Which could be a problem for non-fiction, reference and textbooks?
- If your battery dies, your book dies. eInk technology allows you to read much longer -but not forever.
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- A book you want to buy may not be available in a file format that your e-reader can access.
- E-books are hard to cite in academic papers as most do not have standard page numbers.

CONCLUSION:

The role of e-books in academic libraries is still not clear, and there is considerable development of standards, technologies and pricing models needed to make the market for e-books viable and sustainable. Technologies for reading and using e-books are not yet convenient enough for the longer text format to have made much market penetration. It is not clear that academic libraries can replace print with e-books as a long-term collection goal

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