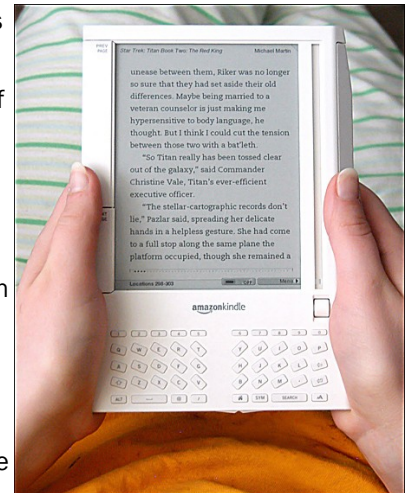


In a typical Boston bookshop customers move their way through the corridors and rooms to browse through thousands of books that are spread over two floors. "It's a lot of paper" says one of the shop assistants. She admits that the store could get much smaller if the digital revolution gets to the bookshelves.

The catchword is e-book , or electronic book - something you read on screen instead of on paper. You can load books onto small computers to read while you are on the move.

There are lots of different e-books. Some are really computers and may even be bound in leather to look like a real book. The *RocketBook*, for example, is a portable that can display pages. Others are just computer programs which you can use to display books on your computer or notebook.

Then there are PDAs, or pocket computers, that can be used as an e-book if you have the right software. They are portable and have wireless connections to libraries or book-stores.



The Amazon Kindle

- E-books have many advantages:
- You can store lots of books on one computer.
- You can mark your book with an electronic bookmark.
- You can change the size of the type or font
- Some e-books have built in dictionaries so you can click on a word and find out what it means.
- And of course e-books can also include pictures, sound clips or small videos.

Some people think that e-books will replace printed books in the near future. For dictionaries and encyclopaedias this is already true. Wikipedia, for example, gives you more than a multivolume encyclopaedia can give you.

The e-book industry, however, still faces many problems. There are many different types of formats for e-books, and the book you may want to read may not be available in a certain format. Publishers develop their own format so that the reader has to download their books.

Microsoft Reader is one of the e-book formats that allow you to get books from other companies to read on your machine.

Recently Sony has started a worldwide campaign on the digital book sector. The Sony Reader is a handheld device that has been on the market for just about a year. It is about the size of a paperback and can also store PDFs, photos and music. The battery lasts about 7500 pages before you have to recharge it. It can hold 80 books in its memory. Sony's new invention weighs about 200 grams , is 2 cm thick and has a 15 cm long screen. It costs about 240€.

Amazon has developed a small device called the Kindle. It can display books, magazines and newspapers . Users can download thousands of books found in the Amazon store.

Major publishers, like Random House, think that as consumers are doing more work on computers every day, they may also be reading more books on screen as well. Right now the company offers about 6,000 e-books. They cost about 2€ a book which is much lower than the price of a paperback. The high costs of paper books are caused by printing and distribution.



admit = to say that something is true

advantage = good side of something

available = on hand, exist

bookmark = a place that tells you where you have stopped; you can go there any time you like

bound = covered on the outside with leather

browse = to look at the things in a shop without wanting something to buy

built-in = you cannot take it out

campaign = actions that lead to more people buying the item

catchword = slogan, motto

cause = lead to

claim = say

consumer = a person who buys things

corridor = hall or small places that connect rooms

customer = a person who buys things in a shop

develop = design, create

device = machine

display = show

distribution = to bring books from the publishing plant to book stores around the country

encyclopaedia = many books or a single book that has information on many topics in it

face = here: has

font = set of letters and numbers used for printing books

however = but

include = to have in it

instead of = in something's place

invention = a new machine or device

library = a place where you can borrow books

load = move from a distant server to your computer

memory = a part of an electrical machine where you can store information

multivolume = more than one part

offer = here: to have for customers to buy

on the move = if you are not at home

pain = the feeling you have when part of your body hurts

paperback = a book that has a soft cover and is cheaper than leather bound books

portable = it does not have a fixed place; something you can take with you anywhere

publisher = company that prints and sells books

recently = during the last few weeks or months

recharge = to fill with energy again

replace = to use instead of

spread = lay out over

store = save

topic = theme, subject

weigh = how heavy something is

wireless connection = to transmit data without using a wire