

Digitizing Libraries: Incorporating Electronic Formats



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Digitizing Libraries

1. Introduction
2. History of E-books and E-readers
3. Current Technology
4. Advantages and Challenges
5. Planned Outcomes
6. Conclusion

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Introduction

“Already we are witnessing the disappearance of familiar objects: the typewriter, now consigned to antique shops; the postcard, a curiosity; the handwritten letter, beyond the capacity of most young people, who cannot write in cursive script; the daily newspaper, extinct in many cities; the local bookshop, replaced by chains, which themselves are threatened by Internet distributors like Amazon. And the library?”

Introduction

“[The library] can look like the most archaic institution of all. Yet its past bodes well for its future, because libraries were never warehouses of books. They have always been and always will be centers of learning. Their central position in the world of learning makes them ideally suited to mediate between the printed and the digital modes of communication.”

~Robert Darnton, 2009

Introduction

The goal of this paper is to serve as a resource for those desiring to understand the unique challenges and advantages presented by the explosive growth in digital media (e-books) and media readers (e-readers). Additionally, the paper will seek to offer practical options for the incorporation of digital media in the modern library.

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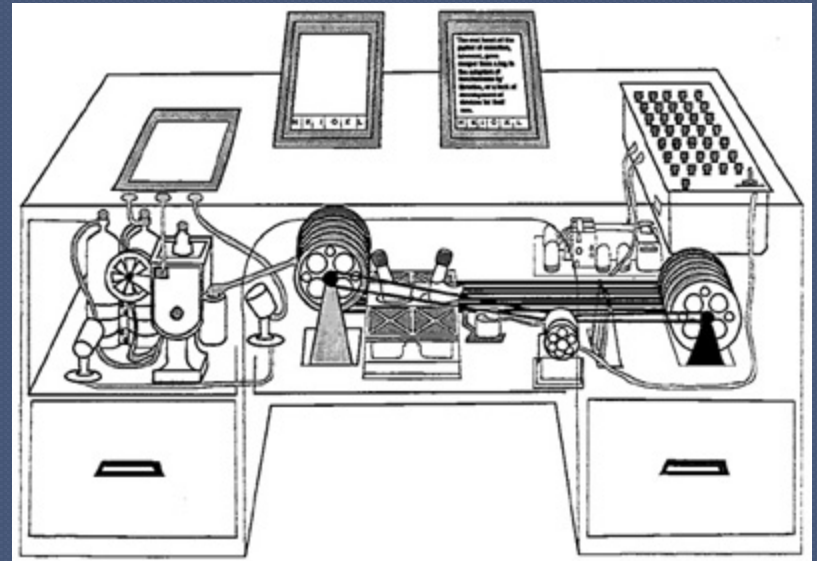
History

“Any attempt to see into the future while struggling with problems in the present should be informed, I believe, by studying the past.”

~Robert Darnton, 2009

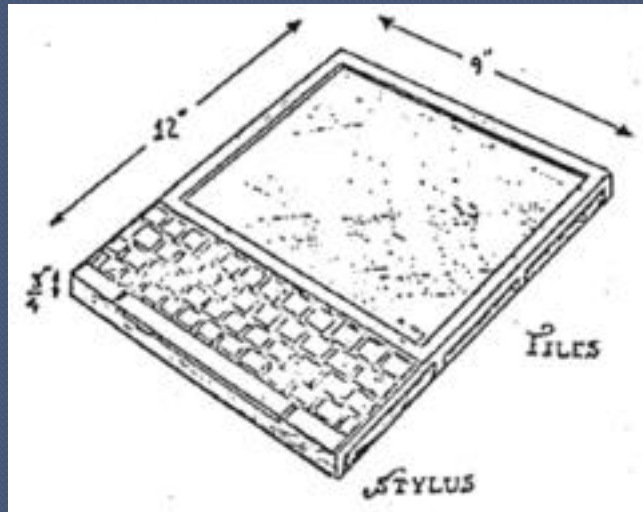
History

- 1945- Vannevar Bush published “As We May Think”
- “Memex”
- Could digitally organize a person’s records and make them searchable.



History

- 1960s- Alan Kay
- “Dynabook”
- Years before his technology would be used
- Credited with the prototype for the notebook.

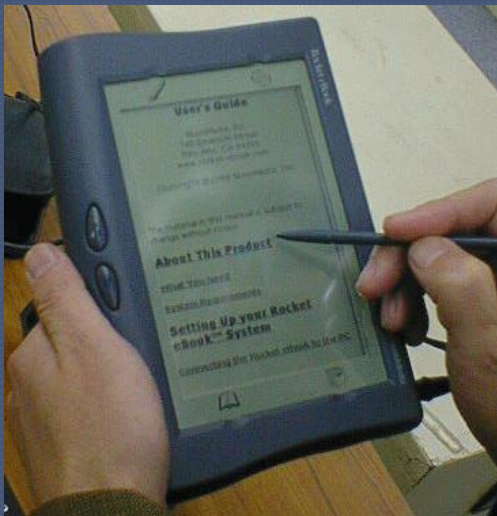


History

- 1971- Michael Hart founded *Project Gutenberg*
- Created digital copies of all material with expired copyrights in Text Only Format
- To date, there are over 30,000 titles

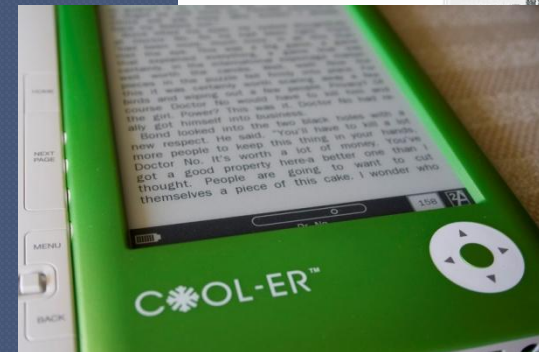
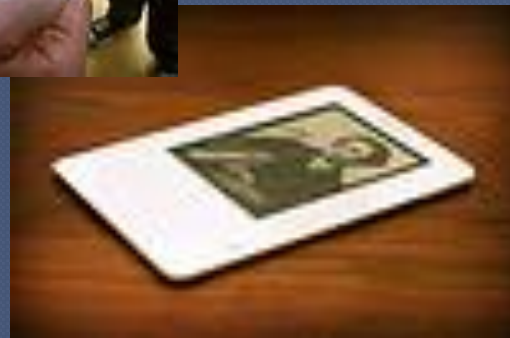
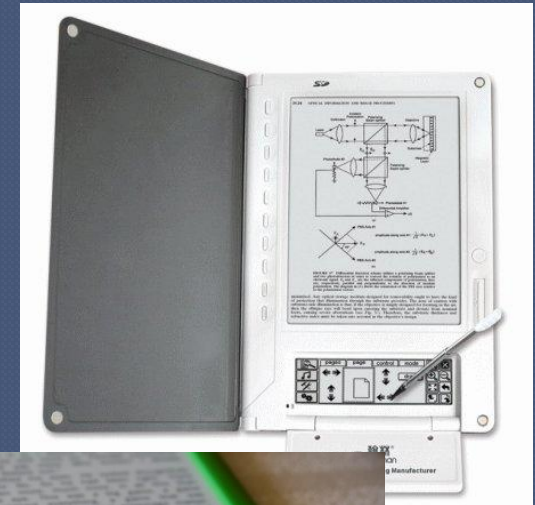
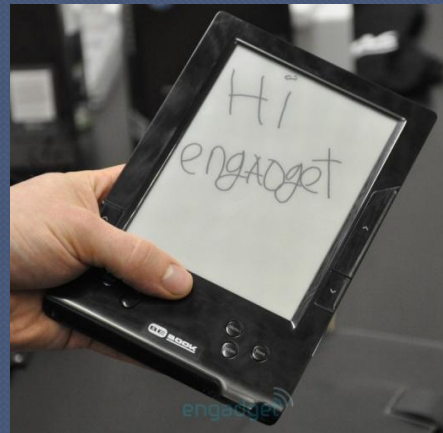
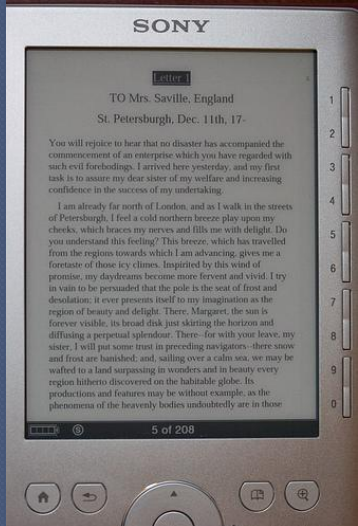
History

- 1998- First true eReaders were marketed:
 - The Rocket eBook by NuvoMedia, Inc.
 - The SoftBook by SoftBook, Inc.



History

Since 2000, many other e-readers have been offered for commercial usage with mixed results



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Current Technology

- ⦿ E-books have been available to PC users since Project Gutenberg in the 1980s.
- ⦿ The recent emergence of successful e-readers has transformed the marketplace.
- ⦿ The following are the top-rated e-readers from ConsumerSearch.com

Current Technology

Amazon's Kindle 2

Supported Format	Limited file format support PDF Compatible Text-to-Speech
Battery Life	1 Week
Display	E-Ink- Sharp, crisp text and images 6" Display
Size	1/3" thick, 8" x 5.3" 10.2 ounces
Connectivity	Wireless 3G
Storage	2 GB – 1500 e-books
Cost	\$260



Current Technology

Sony Reader Touch Edition PRS-600

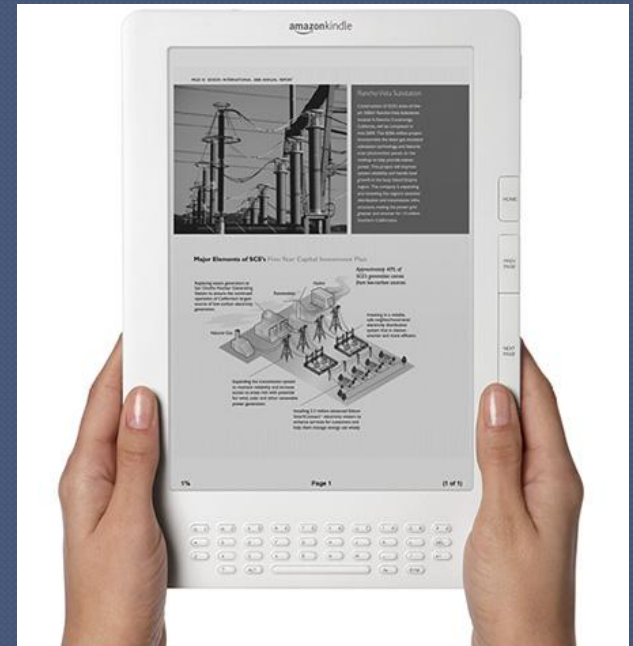
Supported Format	Greater file support and touch screen
Battery Life	2 Weeks
Display	6" touch screen Features E Ink Technology
Size	0.4" thick, 10.1 ounces
Connectivity	No- wireless
Storage	350 E-books, Expansion slots available
Cost	\$300



Current Technology

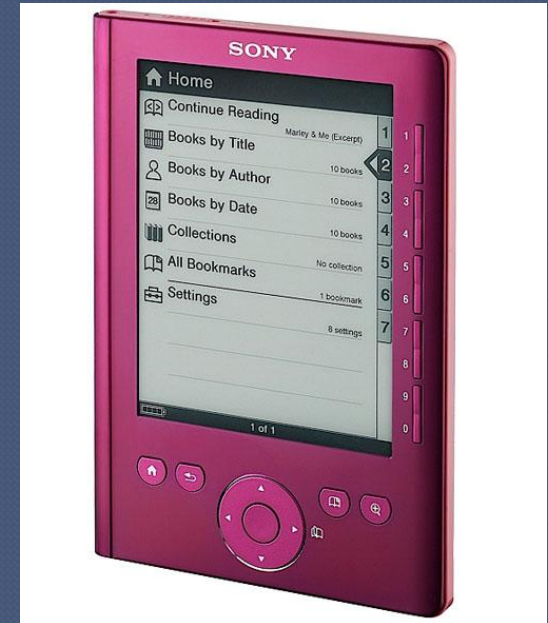
Amazon Kindle DX

Supported Format	PDF compatible Text-to-Speech
Battery Life	1 Week
Display	9.7" Display E Ink
Size	1/3" Thick 10.4" x 7.2"
Connectivity	Wireless
Storage	4 GB- 3500 e-books
Cost	\$490



Current Technology

Sony Reader Pocket Edition	
Supported Format	Several formats
Battery Life	2 Weeks
Display	5" Display E Ink
Size	Small and portable
Connectivity	No wireless
Storage	350 E-books
Cost	\$200



<http://zishan.ca/EBook+Reader/>

Current Technology

4 Types of Sources:

Free Websites	Subscription Websites
<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Project Gutenberg (www.gutenberg.org)•On Line Books Page (www.digital.library.upenn.edu/books)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Netlibrary (www.netlibrary.com)•Ebrary (www.ebrary.com)
Bookstores	Publishers
<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Amazon.com•Barnes and Noble (www.BarnesandNoble.com/eBooks)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Simon & Schuster (www.saysshop.com)•Springer (www.springer.com)

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Advantages and Challenges

“We may not see the full effects of e-books... until a generation or two has grown up with them and accepts them as readily as television and video games have been accepted by earlier generations.”

~T. W. Leonhardt, 2000

Advantages and Challenges

Electronic Book and Reader Challenges

- ◉ Cost
- ◉ Compatibility
- ◉ Sharing
- ◉ Loss/Damage
- ◉ Cataloging e-readers
- ◉ Cataloging e-books

Advantages and Challenges

Electronic Book and Reader Advantages

- ◉ Light weight
- ◉ Storage space
- ◉ Annotation & bookmarking
- ◉ Links to reference sources
- ◉ Less paper use
- ◉ Durability

Advantages and Challenges

Electronic Book and Reader Advantages

- ◉ Instant downloads
- ◉ E Ink technologies
- ◉ Saving money
- ◉ Control of Font Size

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Planned Outcomes

- Since it is impossible to continue to ignore the e-media environment. Can we:
 - Learn from the mistakes of others.
 - Learn new ways of utilizing these medias to serve currently underserved populations.

Planned Outcomes

- Explore the Experiences of at least four Libraries with e- books and readers.
- See how it has impacted:
 - Circulation
 - Selection size
 - Challenges overcome
 - Challenges they are still facing
 - Overall Impact
 - Other experiences

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Conclusion

“For most modern history, wandering, relearning, and changing are the typical, not the atypical experiences.”

~Andrew Abbott, sociologist

Conclusion

*“Whatever the future may be,
it will be digital.”*

~Robert Darnton, 2009