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E-books Have Many Advantages Compared to Traditional Books

*Jason Cross and Melissa J. Perenson*

E-books offer many benefits. For example, they are paperless, do not take up physical space, resizable, and completely portable.

E-books Have Great Benefits for Academic and Research Libraries 26

*Sue Polanka*

E-books can be beneficial to academic and research libraries by reducing libraries’ storage needs and maintenance costs while giving library users round-the-clock access.

E-books Allow Authors to Self-Publish Easily 32

*Bethany Ramos*

Authors can self-publish e-books simply and quickly by uploading an edited manuscript onto Amazon, an online book publisher, thereby sharing their writing worldwide without a traditional publishing company.

No: E-books Are Not Better than Paper Books 34

Paper Books Are Still the Best Way to Read Books

*Eric Sammons*

Paper books are far superior to e-books and will continue to be the favored way to read books. However, e-books are useful for certain types of publications, such as magazines and textbooks.
E-books Will Widen the Digital Divide

Christopher Mims

E-books destroy the flexibility and control that readers and libraries have historically had with printed books. E-books require the purchase of an e-reader—something that children in poverty may not be able to afford.

E-books Are Not Greener than Paper Books

Sierra Club Green Home

Whether e-books are more ecological than printed books is debated variously, but this viewpoint concludes that borrowing books from the public library is the best ecological choice.

Chapter 2: Should Libraries Buy and Lend E-books?

Chapter Preface

Yes: Libraries Should Buy and Lend E-books

There Should Be a Vibrant Rental of E-books by Libraries

Martin Taylor

Library e-book lending has not taken off, largely because of concerns by publishers and authors. There should be a library rental system for e-books, perhaps with delayed e-book release dates, similar to the film release model, which would keep libraries relevant and compensate authors and publishers fairly.

The E-book Market Must Open to Facilitate E-book Usage by Libraries

Tim Kambitsch

The e-book/library market should be more open. E-book purchases should be separate from the hosting formats of those materials on e-readers, allowing libraries and their patrons more flexibility.

E-book Sellers Should Listen to the Concerns of Libraries

Kate Sheehan
When HarperCollins announced it was limiting library e-book purchases to twenty-six circulations, many librarians boycotted the publisher. The boycott served as a demand for publishers to hear the concerns of libraries for a tiered e-book plan.

Both Libraries and Book Publishers
Should Respond Creatively to the Public
Demand for E-books

Kent Anderson
Publishers should not limit the supply of e-books when demand is skyrocketing. E-books are changing the way books are made and sold, and both publishers and libraries should avoid clinging to the past.

No: Libraries Should Not Buy and Lend E-books

Libraries Should Get Out of the
E-book Business

Bobbi Newman
Even though about 30 percent of the public wants e-books, libraries should not spend tax money on them right now. The whole e-book market is in flux, so libraries should put their money elsewhere until solutions are found.

There Are Good Reasons for Libraries
Not to Use E-books Yet

Evan Williamson
The e-book market is new and still in transition, so libraries should hold off from entering the fray for now.

Many Libraries Cannot Afford
E-book Prices

Michael Kelley
When Random House significantly increased its prices for e-books sold to libraries, many librarians protested. Libraries are already facing budget problems, and many librarians agree that the new prices are not affordable.
Chapter 3: How Should E-books Be Priced?

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E-book Pricing Should Be Decided by E-book Publishers 81

TendersInfo News
Amazon inhibits the free market by meddling in e-book pricing. The publishers should be able to set the pricing of their products. This allows the market to decide what it is willing to pay for e-books.

E-book Consumers Prefer Amazon’s Low E-book Prices 83

Charles Cooper
American e-book consumers thought that e-readers would save them money, but publishers are trying to maintain higher e-book prices by changing the distribution system from a wholesale model to an agency model.

Public Libraries Should Root for Amazon to Win the E-book Pricing War 87

PublicLibraries.com
Amazon stopped selling e-books published by the Independent Publishers Group, which wanted its e-books sold at a higher price. Public libraries should hope Amazon prevails because it will mean significantly lower e-book prices.

Publishers Must Price E-books Higher than Amazon to Cover Publishing Costs 89

Curt Matthews
Although e-books have no printing, shipping, or storage costs, they do require editorial and marketing services just like printed books. E-book prices must reflect the true publishing costs.

E-book Publishers May Lose by Keeping E-book Prices Artificially High 93

Mathew Ingram
Book publishers’ fight for the agency model of e-book pricing—in order to keep e-book prices and profit margins high—may be a losing proposition.
Amazon’s Predatory Pricing Could Destroy Bookstores and Print Book Publishers

Husna Haq

The US Department of Justice has proposed an antitrust lawsuit against Apple and five book publishers for using an agency model for e-book pricing that could actually decrease competition. With the wholesale model, Amazon’s artificially low e-book prices could destroy bookstores and publishers.

The US Department of Justice E-book Lawsuit Will Have Little Effect on Price Competition

Matthew Yglesias

The US Department of Justice lawsuit against Apple and book publishers claiming that they colluded to raise e-book prices will not have much impact. The publishing revolution that is being driven by e-books will continue.

Chapter 4: What Is the Future for E-books?

Chapter Preface

The Future of Writing Is Digital

Sam Harris

Writers and publishers are facing a big problem as a result of the popularity of social media and e-books: readers are increasingly expecting digital writing to be free. The future for writers may be digital, but they must find a way to be paid.

E-books and Paper Books Will Coexist

Jan Swafford

E-books, like every new technology, change the way people perceive and understand. E-books offer different options than print books do, and in the end they will coexist with print books, not replace them.

E-books Are Already Creating a Self-Publishing Revolution

Deirdre Donahue
E-books are dramatically changing the publishing industry, allowing authors to circumvent traditional publishers and self-publish their books online. This self-publishing revolution, however, may not mean the end of traditional book publishers.

**Five E-book Trends That Will Change the Future of Publishing**

*Philip Ruppel*

E-books are rapidly growing in popularity, and the future e-book market will involve e-books that offer many interactive features and can be read on a few winners in the e-reader war. Publishers will have an important role in providing the content of interactive e-books.

**E-books Will Change the Textbook Business**

*Jeffrey R. Young*

An e-textbook revolution is on the horizon. Textbook publishers and college leaders are proposing a new model that involves colleges buying e-textbooks in bulk and then charging students a course materials fee.

**E-books May Result in the End of Libraries as Book-Lending Institutions**

*Jonathan Rochkind*

Libraries must get publishers’ permission to lend out e-books, and publishers can charge what they want for this—a scenario that threatens the existence of libraries as book lenders.

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