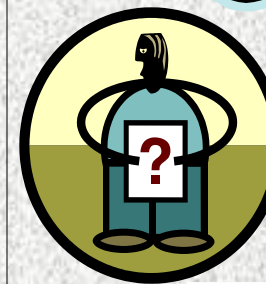


eBOOKS, e-READERS & DOWNLOADING eBOOKS

AN INTRODUCTION

WHAT'S
AN
eBOOK?



What are some basic eBook reader devices?

There are several current ebook reader devices on the market with newer ones being introduced continually. Some are intended solely for reading ebooks and others are more auxiliary devices.

Amazon Kindle – Amazon’s own ebook reader, the Kindle, was introduced in 2007 with subsequent models, Amazon Kindle 2, Kindle DX & Amazon Kindle 3, put on to the market recently. All Kindle devices use the “e-ink” screens which are essentially electronic paper. What initially made the Kindle unique is instant streaming accommodation which allows users to purchase or acquire books and read them instantly.

Sony Reader – Sony has several e-reader devices, all them utilizing the PRS (Portable Reader System) supporting a wide variety of formats like EPUB though not MOBI or AZW. Sony Readers are readily accessible on the traditional market and are available for purchase at most traditional outlets like Target or Wal-Mart.

Barnes & Noble Nook – The nook supports many of the same formats as the Sony Reader (i.e., epub, pdf, html) but not Mobi. Probably the nook’s most unique feature is its touch pad operating screen and light sensitive design.

Smart Phones & Cell Phones (w/ apps) – Many of today’s cell phones and other digital communication devices contain applications capable of downloading ebooks. Some ebooks are even published especially for use on cell phones.

Ipad & Iphone - Ipad are essentially the next new wave of e-reader technology facilitating the user with multiple interface capabilities and even a larger screen with optional touch-pad menus.

*Most tablet computers will have the same compatibility with ebook software as larger PC’s and will be able to act as e-readers.

Where can I find free ebooks?*

Free ebooks are not always easy to find. Many of the best online resources for free ebooks may require the user to register with the site in order to access an item. In many cases, free ebooks will be contained within a site which will also feature titles for purchase (*see the Reference desk about some good websites to obtain free ebooks).

What are eAudiobooks?

Audiobooks which can be downloaded and played on computers or personal devices would count as electronic audiobooks. These types of audiobooks will come in several different formats making them compatible with different types of audio devices. Two primary file types exclusive to eAudiobooks are WMA and MP3. WMA (Windows Media Audio) audiobooks are digitally protected by DRM and are designed to be listened to on devices which support DRM protected files like iPads or iPods. MP3 (MPEG Audio Layer 3) audiobooks can be played on virtually all devices though not all files downloaded will be protected by DRM.

How can I get eAudiobooks?

Downloadable audiobooks operate much like regular ebooks and can be obtained through the library’s OneClickDigital membership.

Can I “burn” eAudiobooks to a CD?

While some publishers allow certain eAudiobook titles to be burned to a CD, many are protected by copyright and just like regular audiobooks may not be duplicated.

**MOORE MEMORIAL
PUBLIC LIBRARY**

**1701 9TH AVENUE NORTH
TEXAS CITY, TX 77590
(409) 643-5977**

www.texascity-library.org

EBOOKS & E-READERS

What is an ebook?

An **ebook** is an electronic book. Any book published, accessed or distributed in an electronic format is an ebook. Typically the term refers to a book-length printed text republished within a digital format. Today however, many ebooks are written purely for digital publication and distribution. Also, many self-published works are being made available through the ebook medium.

What is an ebook reader?

Essentially an ebook reader, or **e-reader**, is any device used for reading ebooks. E-readers are often specialized software programs which allow users to read full-length books on their personal computers. Recently, however, e-readers have been most closely associated with portable devices which offer more ergonomic and compatible ways to access ebooks.

How are library ebooks the same as print library books?

The library gets licenses for digital content through certain providers. These licenses are contracts protected through copyright laws pertaining to legal distribution of the content.

How can I "Check Out" and ebook like I would a regular book?

Just like regular print books, most titles can only be checked out by so many people at one time. If an ebook you are looking for is checked out, you can usually place a digital hold using your library card. An email will be sent to you as soon as that title is ready. When you download an ebook to your PC or portable device, you are downloading a file of that title.

What do I need to read an eBook?

How do I read an eBook?

- Ebooks can be read on **personal** computers or they can be read on **portable e-reader devices**. Ebooks are downloaded from the source distributor or website to the computer and then to portable devices or, in some cases, directly to the device.
- In order to be able to read ebook texts on any type of e-reader, a proper reader program or **file format** is needed. There are currently several types of file formats through which ebooks can be accessed as well as several different technologies and devices which support such file formats. As of now, no single format has arisen that is both universally compatible for all e-readers and universally accepted by all e-reader and ebook distributors.
- A list of common file formats used to transmit ebook content can be seen at the right. Many but not all e-reader devices will support one or more of these file formats while others will correspond to only one format.

What is Digital Rights Management?

Digital Rights Management or (DRM) is meant to ensure that copyrights of an author and publisher are secure and protected to prevent fraud or piracy. With digital files, DRM regulates what users can and can't do with a certain file such as an ebook. It prevents the use of files to be freely distributed and it's why ebook readers can't simply abscond with free ebooks at will. DRM also prevents the transference of a digital file from one device to another or from one computer to another. It also prevents many ebooks from being printed out.

COMMON EBOOK

FILE FORMATS

EPUB – The EPUB (.epub) is the most common ebook file type. It is the closest thing the eBook industry has to an open and standardized file format. Basically it's a file combining XHTML, XML & Zip file formats into a language standard specifically designed for ebooks & e-readers.

OEPUB - Open EPUB files are digital book files that are not protected by digital rights management (DRM) and can be viewed without restrictions or software authorization on the same devices as EPUB files can.

PDF – Most people are familiar with PDFs (Portable Document Format) and many will be familiar with how such files are accessed through Adobe Acrobat reader software accommodating most computers. PDF is reliable and generally one of the easiest formatting standards to work with being compatible to most desktop computers and e-reader devices like Nook and Sony Readers. The only drawback is that PDF files are less visually flexible and font type & size are generally unalterable.

HTML & Plain Text – Many ebooks are still formatted within the language of the internet, or HTML, which is accessible to users of computers and e-readers and any platform with an internet browser. The Plain Text format (.txt) is one of the oldest formatting standards around that remains transferable through computer technology. The flexibility of the language is the common reason why many if not all e-reader devices are compatible with it.

AZW/Mobi – These two file formats are almost exclusively associated with the Amazon Kindle e-reader (both are technologies owned by Amazon). Each are file formats which are basically an older version of XHTML, a more versatile web language than HTML.

eReader Palm Media - eReader (.pdb) is a freeware program for viewing Palm Digital Media electronic books on devices such as iPhone, PalmOS, WebOS, Android, BlackBerry, Smartphone, Windows Desktop and MacIntosh. Text content is shown one page at a time and allows hyperlinks and images to be displayed.