

THE FUTURE OF READING

Electronic Books

By Rick Sutcliffe

(1) Electronic books, or e-books, provide a new, cool, environmentally-friendly, and inexpensive way to read. Differing from their paper cousins only in the binding, e-books are stored and used as computer files rather than as ink on paper.

(2) One arena that might soon see the leap to e-book use is the classroom. Students would take their handheld e-book readers to the electronic bookstore, load their texts, carry the lot in their bookbag, and not notice the extra weight of a dozen full-length texts.

(3) E-books can be purchased directly on the Internet from hundreds of publishers or retail e-bookstores. In either case, pay with your credit or debit card, then download it directly as with a free book, or wait for it to arrive as an email attachment, a disk or a CD.

(4) E-books can be viewed on a computer screen or using a book reader. About the size of a large trade paperback, these handheld e-book readers have high-resolution, easy-to-read screens, and a computer or telephone connector to obtain files. Better yet, they have enough memory to store many book files at once.

(5) Few conventional bookstores carry e-books yet, but it's a simple matter for a savvy person to find them. The best bet is an Internet search engine, directory, or specialty information centre. There, e-books are located by author, subject, genre, ISBN, or title. The online versions of some giant bookstore chains also have searchable e-book sections.

(6) E-publishers and many of their authors have web pages. These have further information, plot summaries, reviews, pictures, and other good stuff. **They** usually provide several chapters to read free so you can try-before-you-buy, just as in a paper bookstore. If you read a book and like it, you could always write a review and send it to the author. Maybe it'll get published on the net with your name and website attached.

(7) A few big-name authors such as Stephen King, Anne Rice, Frederic Forsyth, Diana Gableton, and Colleen McCullough, as well as some large paper houses like Simon and Schuster have already put a toe in the e-book waters, and the field gets more crowded all the time.

(8) If you love paper books to death and just can't imagine reading any other way, don't panic. So far, e-books are an alternative to the traditional ones. They haven't replaced them ... yet. However, you don't have to be much of a prophet to note that since distributing books electronically is easier, faster, cheaper, and offers greater variety, we should soon see a lot more of them.

(9) Keep in mind, you take the same chances buying an electronic book as a paper one. Maybe you won't like it after all. But the majority of electronic publishers screen their books carefully, insist on professional editing, and publish only the best. If you read an excerpt first and buy only from reputable publishers, you won't often be disappointed.

22 In PARAGRAPH 2 the author states the students would soon.

- A carry less stuff in their schoolbags
- B use new holders for their full-length texts
- C visit electronic bookstores more often
- D hand in their e-books to the electronic bookstore

23 All of the following are mentioned in PARAGRAPH 3 EXCEPT

- A E-books can easily be ordered online.
- B You can't download an e-book for free.
- C E-books are to be paid for in advance.
- D E-books are easy to be shared by email.

24 Which of the following is TRUE according to PARAGRAPH 5?

- A Head customers can easily find the bookstore they need.
- B All modern bookstores can boast their e-book section.
- C Conventional bookstores have their online versions.
- D A practical person knows how to find the relevant e-book.

25 The underlined word they in the PARAGRAPH 6 refers to

- A e-publishers
- B authors
- C web pages
- D e-book reviews

26 According to the author, in future the e-books would

- A be prepared for publishing the best way possible
- B increase the number of big-name authors
- C definitely limit the use of printed editions
- D become available from all large paper houses

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