

The future of reading

Electronic Books



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A few big-name authors such as Stephen King, Anne Rice, Frederic Forsyth, Diana Gabaldon, 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.

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**.

Some promise to make the experience better than paper with multimedia readers. Others produce audio versions where the author reads it to you.

Ah, indulgence.

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.

A) Say who or what the underlined words in the text refer to.

1. their _____
2. they _____
3. you _____
4. it _____
5. them _____
6. them _____
7. their _____

B) Match the opposite words.

1. inexpensive a) minority
2. retail b) upload
3. many c) wholesale
4. download d) expensive
5. big-name e) few
6. majority f) less well-known

C) Answer the questions about the text.

1. What's the difference between traditional books and e-books?

2. Where can we buy e-books?

3. What are the advantages of e-books compared to printed books?

4. Explain the meaning of the expression "put a toe in the e-book waters".

5. Is it possible to read some chapters of an e-book before you buy it? Quote from the text.
