

The Future of the Books

Institution

Course

Professor

Date

The Future of the Books

The rapid technological development has indeed impacted the future of books by revolutionizing the forms of books used by individuals and organizations today. Before the digitalization of books, people used traditional books printed using ink and made physically available in libraries and stores for leasing or purchase. However, the integration of technology in the book industry has resulted in digital books that can be downloaded and accessed using digital devices such as smartphones and computers. Currently, digital books have taken over the traditional books in most research and learning institutions because of the numerous benefits they come along with (Borcoman, 2019). The advantages of e-books replacing paper books outweigh the disadvantages because E-books are more environmentally friendly than paper books, which reduces the burden on the earth. It is small and easy to carry, and its price is lower than that of paper books.

The environmental friendliness of the e-books reflects on the point that no more trees get cut down to provide raw material materials for paper milling industries. E-books are available in softcopy and can be downloaded and accessed on digital devices such as phones and computers (Borcoman, 2019). This helps to conserve the trees that would have been used to make papers for traditional books. The paper milling factories also release toxic waste to the environment, resulting in environmental pollution. E-books are available in soft copy, and this saves the environment from pollution by paper milling factories.

According to Borcoman (2019), e-books solve the burden of carrying heavy and bulky traditional books to school and back home daily. Millions of e-books can be accessed online and stored for later access on the same smartphone. However, only a limited number of traditional books can be carried because of the weight burden (Cuiñas & Valle Moreno, 2017). E-books are

more suitable for individuals living far from learning institutions and have to commute daily to school. When it comes to access to information, the e-book is undisputed. It takes less than ten seconds to access the specific information required from an e-book, compared to the traditional book that can take even a whole day or more (Furenes et al., 2021). A user simply types or speaks the keywords, and the specific information required from the book is displayed on the screen immediately. In other words, e-books reduce the search time for information and prove better than traditional books.

Based on cost, the e-book takes the lead by a massive gap. Numerous e-books allow the readers to access information free of charge, unlike traditional books, which must be paid for to compensate for the material and printing costs. There exist numerous summarized versions of books online that can be accessed in the form of e-books. Individuals who cannot pay for the premium subscription e-books can opt for the summarized versions and still access the required information without paying a single penny. However, there is no shortcut for acquiring the traditional physical books that must be literally purchased from the book stores.

E-books suit all people regardless of the nature of disabilities we have. The visually impaired and physically challenged people can use the same e-book used by a person without any disability with no difficulty at all (Furenes et al., 2021). For instance, a visually impaired person can use the voice input feature of the smartphone to search for a specific book and narrow it down to a specific chapter through voice command. The speech output device can then speak the information, thereby facilitating learning without literally seeing the book. On the other hand, the visually impaired cannot use the same textbook the ordinary person uses because they cannot see. The fact that e-books support all types of disabilities makes them better than traditional books.

The font size and style of e-books can be adjusted to users' preferences to allow individuals with vision disabilities to read the book's contents easily. The traditional books have a fixed font size and style, and people with vision problems must strain to read; otherwise, they have to purchase magnification equipment, and all these cost money (Ketron & Naletelich, 2016). Every organization races to catch up with technology in contemporary societies, and no one wants to be left behind. Even academic and research institutions have embraced technology by transforming from manual to digital book systems. Physical books are slowly vanishing in the libraries as computers are replacing traditional books. Institutions have introduced the Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC) system, allowing learners to virtually access e-books across world libraries. The e-book has become a habit and trend in modern society, and everybody is racing to embrace it (Ketron & Naletelich, 2016). In a few years, the bookshelves in libraries will be empty as all books will be available as e-books.

The e-books are durable and can never be lost once made available on the internet. As it goes, "the internet never forgets," an already posted e-book remains available even if it's deleted from the major databases. On the contrary, the traditional books have relatively shorter lifespans and can be permanently lost in case of disasters such as fire. The durability advantage of the e-book makes it a better option for schools and individuals, including myself (Borcoman, 2019). Smartphones are nowadays easily accessible, with almost every household possessing a smartphone. This makes it easy to access e-books remotely rather than having to travel long distances to access traditional books in distant physical libraries.

Although e-books have many advantages over traditional books, not everybody has access to digital equipment, and even if they have, not all of them are computer literate. This limits the ability of some people to use digital devices like computers to access e-books. Some

people also reside in very remote areas, out of the internet or electricity connection. This makes it challenging for them to own the digital devices used for accessing e-books. In such cases, the traditional books suit them due to no need to charge or connect to the internet to access the book's content.

In conclusion, the future of books is shifting from traditional to e-books. The E-book is more advantageous than traditional books because they are environmentally friendly, less costly, and easy to access. E-books eliminate the need to cut down trees for paper milling, thereby conserving the forest reserves and reducing the carbon footprints. Most e-books have lower costs and require no delivery costs like the traditional books. Besides, e-books are readily available on screens, and the content can be easily accessed by searching for information using keywords, unlike the traditional books that take time to access the necessary information. E-books are easy to carry and save space and eliminate weight burden, unlike the traditional books that are bulky and heavy. The rapid technological development has created a habit of digital transformation; therefore, e-books are the current trend everybody aims to achieve. Based on my experience, I consider e-books the better option and consider them the book industry's future.

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