

Article- 12: What is E-books and E-Journals : An Introduction**ToC****Ravindra S Kale**

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Librarian, Shree Somnath Sanskrit**University, Veraval, Gujarat.****Ravindra S Kale****E- Books : An Introduction**

According to International Encyclopedia of Information and Library Science. 2nd ed. edited by John Feather and Paul Sturges, 2003: “The results of structure, or rather the familiar concept of a book, with features that can be provided within an electronic environment is referred to as an electronic book (or e-book), which is intended as an interactive DOCUMENT that can be composed and read on a computer”.

According to Connaway, “An E-Book is based both on emulating the basic characteristics of traditional books in an electronic format, as well as

leveraging internet technology to make an e-Book easy and efficient to use. An E-Book can take the form of a single monograph or/a multi-volume set of books in a digital format that allows for viewing on various types of monitors, devices, and personal computers. It should allow searching for specific information across a collection of books and within a book. An E-Book should utilize the benefits of the internet by providing the ability to embed multimedia data, to link to other electronic resources, and to cross reference information across multiple resources". (1)

Electronic books offer creative possibilities for expanding access as well as changing learning behavior and academic research. Content can always be accessible, regardless of time or place, to be read on PCs or on portable book readers. Books need never go out of print, and new editions can be easily created. One can carry several titles at once on a portable reader and, over time, build a personal library. Features such as full text searching, changeable font size, mark-up, citation creation, and note taking will enhance usability. Print text can be integrated with multi-dimensional objects, sound, and film to create a whole new kind of monographic work. (2)

E-book to mean any piece of electronic text regardless of size or composition (a digital object), but excluding journal publications,

made available electronically (or optically) for any device (handheld or desk-bound) that includes a screen. (3)

As per American Library Association (ALA) E-Books means, "An e-book is a written work readable on the screen of a PC, PDA (personal digital assistant), or a reader specifically designed for that purpose. The titles may be older public domain titles, out-of-print titles, or copyrighted titles that continue to be available in print. A very few have been written expressly for e-book publication" (4)

This article is base/part of my Mphil thesis title "E-RESOURCES IN MANAGEMENT WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO OPEN ACCESS: AN EVALUATION"

1 Types of E-Books:

There are different types of e-books available in the market. Some of the types are explained as below:

1.1 Downloadable E-Book:

The contents of e-book are available on a website for downloading to the user's PC. The users do not have to purchase any special reading device and can employ standard and well-known web techniques to

obtain the book. The disadvantages of downloading e-book include the problems of reading from PC screens, unattractive formats, and the time required to carry out downloading operation, particularly in the absence of high-speed data lines. Many consumers have only 56K nodes and dial up connections that can be slow, overloaded and unreliable.

1.2 Dedicated E-Books:

The contents of the books are downloadable to a dedicated hardware device, which has a high quality screen and a special capability for book reading. Much of the activities of dedicated e-book arena centers around the emergence of dedicated e-book readers-hardware devices specially built and designed to improve the reading experience and they incorporate special control to make book reading easy and simple. They have also the facilities for book marking a page, move through the book in a nonlinear fashion. Some readers also incorporate links to dictionaries or thesaurus so that the user can look up the meaning of the words. There is no need for PC or Internet access facilities, because the readers incorporate modems that dial directly into the e-book publisher's server to download books.

1.3 Web accessible E-Books:

The book remains on the providers' web site and can be accessed on a fee basis. Readers can purchase the books to receive indefinite access. Users require PC to access this kind of e-book.

1.4 Print -on-Demand Book :

The content of a book is stored in a system connected to a high speed, high quality printer from which printed and bound copies are produced on demand. The contents may be accessible chapter-by-chapter basis, to enable the creation of single copies of customized books.

1.5 Advantage of E-Books:

It is observed that e-books have great potential and bright future to attract users. In addition to this fact, there are some other major factors, which also motivate S&T institutions to consider developing e-books as are listed below:

- Can be updated and, stored very easily
- Can be downloaded instantly the contents of the latest and most updated information.
- Users can read an e-book any time

- Due to portability, e-Books can be taken any where on portable computer
- Business and recreational travelers can load e-books on their portable computers without adding weight or taking up space in their luggage
- Font size can be changed suitably.
- Provide facility to hold and turn pages easily
- Physically disabled users can hear audible e-book
- In buying e-books, the overhead charges like shipping, postal, handling are totally ruled out
- No cost of technical processing and maintenance
- Link can be created in the record of OPAC
- No risk of book theft, tearing, and mutilation of pages
- E-books have background music and animations.
- Hyper linking enables users to communicate directly with authors
- E-books save library space
- E-books do not require bindery and repair
- E-books save human resources for shelving and rectification
- Users can not misplace e-books. (5)

E- Journals: An Introduction

E- Journals are called by various names as E-Journals, Electronic Journals, Internet based serials, Online Journals, E-Serials, and Electronic Serials, but the term E-Journal has become more popular standard name for all and generally available in HTML and PDF format. Electronic journals are primarily those journals that are published and distributed in electronic format as offline products such as CD-ROMs, DVD or Online on the Internet.

According to the ODLIS –Online Dictionary for Library and Information Science E-Journal is : “A digital version of a print journal, or a journal-like electronic publication with no print counterpart (example: E-Journal), made available via the Web, e-mail, or other means of Internet access.” (6)

According to ALA Glossary " a journal is a periodical especially one containing scholarly article and/or disseminating current information on research and development in a particular subject field." If this task is done by electronic media then it may call e-journal. If the contents of a journal are produced and stored only in electronic form then it is called e-journal. When the content of a journal produced and stored and scanned in a database and then retrieved through on line then the same thing is called "on-line" journal. (7)

1. Features of E-Journals :

- They can be delivered to the desktop.
- More than one person can read them at a time.
- The entire text can be searched.
- They can include multimedia and graphics, in colour, at marginal cost.
- They can be published more quickly than paper publications.
- They can be interactive; they can foster an online exchange of ideas by e-mail.
- They can make use of hyperlinks, both internally and to other publications.
- Articles can be retrieved directly through links from abstracting and indexing database.
- The contents can be reproduced, forwarded, and modified. (8)

2. Types of E-Journals:

The Electronic Journals available online can be classified as follows:

3. Free Online Journals:

Some Organizations and publishers allow accessing their online Electronic Journals without any subscription charges or membership. The full text of all articles published in the current and past issues can be accessed by any users any time and from anywhere. In case of some journals, only few

articles are available in full text and rest available in abstract form.

4. Subscription Based Online Journals:

These types of Journals are available on Internet with subscription charges. On subscription, publishers provide user name and password to access full-text of articles from the journals. Institute libraries can access these titles through their IP address.

The access is restricted only to year(s) of subscription. User can access contents and abstracts of most of such E-Journals free of cost. User can access individual articles by making use of pay-per-review i.e. pay only for the required articles if they do not want to subscribe to the entire volume/s of Journals.

5. Free Access with Print Subscription:

Some Journals, which are published in both versions print as well as Electronic, are available for access on Internet without any charges, if user have to registered themselves by using registration form available on publisher's website. The prerequisite to get online access in this case is 'Subscription Number', which needs to be given while registering. This numbers is generally mentioned on mailing label of each print issue of Journal. After registration, individual users can access these titles using there

user name and password. Institute libraries may get access to such titles through their IP (Internet Protocol) address.

In case of some Journals, which are published in both version, user have to pay for both version or they can select print or electronic version as per their choice.

There is also another category where, users have to pay only some additional charges to access their electronic version on Internet. (9)

6. CD- ROM / DVD Journals:

These are full-text journals published and distributed in the form of CD-ROM / DVD with regular updates, along with search software to access and print. Like Online journals, the vast majority of CD-ROM / DVD based journals are electronic version of printed journals.

7. Formats of E- Journals:

The Electronic documents appear in a number of different types, formats like:

1. ASCII (American Standard Code for Information interchange):

Articles may be captured in part with the text available as an ASCII or TEX title and images in one of the many graphic formats such as Graphic Interchange Format (GIF).

2. HTML (Hypertext Markup Language):

Is available on most web browsers, like Netscape navigator and Internet Explorer, for text, but may give different output results on different configuration. It also offers more possibilities such as advanced graphics, frames, and tables.

3. PDF (Portable Document Format):

These can be downloaded using Adobe Acrobat software, which reproduces the original print format, for viewing and printing. PDF is a document standard, which can be enhance as searchable but does not lend itself to tagging fields for searching or linking to other sources.

4. SCML (Standard Generalized Markup Language):

SCML is a publishing standard that provides greater flexibility in accessing data and repackaging it for multiple uses or linking to other sources. (10)

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