

The Right eReader For You

In April 2012, Pew Internet Research published the results of a study on reading habits. The Reading Habits Survey obtained telephone interviews with a nationally representative sample of 2,986 people ages 16 and older living in the United States.

The report entitled “The Rise of E-Reading” shows that e-books are of growing importance in the US. Among those who have read an e-book in the past 12 months:

- 42% said they read their e-books on a computer
- 41% consumed their e-books on an e-book reader like original Kindles or Nooks
- 29% read their e-books on a cell phone
- 23% consumed their e-books on a tablet computer.”

Source(s): Consumer Reports, Pew Research Center

What to Consider

With the variety of eBook readers available, you really get the opportunity to pick and choose the features and design that fit you best. Here are some factors to take into consideration when ranking and comparing eBook readers.

- **Design**

Some eBook readers offer E-Ink technology that makes you feel more like you are reading an actual book, while others offer LCD color screens that make images and movies come to life. Some offer button navigation and some have touchscreen navigation. Which is better for you? Does screen size matter? Do you want to know how much they each weigh? While some design aspects will depend on the user (E-Ink vs. LCD), we were able to find the eReaders with the best resolution, the easiest navigation and the most impressive build.

- **Content**
Some eReaders have hundreds of thousands of titles available from a dedicated service, while others can support a few files found on the internet.
- **Memory/ Battery Life**
The battery life of your eReader is crucial. Nobody wants their reading devices to run out of power before the climax of their novels. The number of pages that you can turn on a single charge and the amount of memory available for storing books are important for making the eReader experience more enjoyable.
- **Additional Features**
There is always room for extra features to enjoy while reading a book. Some of these include the number of grayscale levels, audio formats, image formats, text-to-speech feature, apps, email, internet surfing and so much more.

Local Libraries & eReaders

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Examples of eReaders



How To Choose An eReader

E-book reader options have changed radically in the past year — some models are priced as low as \$79, and many more now offer opportunities to enjoy music, video, games and all sorts of apps. With an e-reader you can carry hundreds of books with you.

How to choose? The most basic distinction between models today is black-and-white or color. With this in mind, here are eight questions to ask when considering a purchase.

1. Are you planning to read outdoors?

The black-and-white screen models are far less susceptible to glare than color e-readers. They look fine under modest lighting (such as the overhead light on a plane) but remain entirely readable while sitting on a beach or a park bench, where the overhead sun will turn a color screen into a solar reflector — that's great for getting a tan, but not much use for reading.

2. Are you planning to read in bed?

Most monochrome e-book readers don't have a built-in light, and while some include accessory lights, a color model that uses a standard color LCD screen could be a better choice if your plan is to do a lot of bedtime reading. There is one intriguing new exception among monochrome readers, though: the new Nook Simple Touch with GlowLight.

3. How often will you recharge the battery?

Battery life is a key advantage for black-and-white e-book readers, which can run a full month or more without recharging. The e-ink display used in these devices uses some power to change pages, but not to keep them visible. Color e-book readers, on the other hand, with their LCD screens, will last just a day or two with heavy use before needing a recharge.

4. Will you be reading magazines or children's books?

Magazines and children's books look drab at best on a black-and-white screen, while the vivid colors of a color LCD capture all the graphic goodness of the original publication. Most magazine pages don't fit comfortably on a small e-book reader screen, though, so expect to do some scrolling around to see everything.

5. Do you want to watch videos or play games on your e-book reader?

The color e-book readers from Amazon and Barnes & Noble double as limited-purpose, seven-inch tablets. They're certainly not as flexible as an iPad or full-on Android tablet — no cameras, no GPS, a comparatively limited selection of apps — but they do a very nice job playing video and MP3 music files, and offer a selection of games and other diversions.

Source: AARP

Discussion Questions

- How will eReaders affect children in school?
- What are advantages of using an eReader?
- What are the benefit/advantages of owning traditional print books?

Compiled by : Beth Wolfe, Extension Agent

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