

“Lose that Bulging Bookbag: E-Books in the Academic Setting”

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Key Points:

1. Some E-book Advantages

- + An e-reader can store many books in a small space.
- + E-books can be less expensive than those in print.
- + Many e-books are free (Classics etc.) or can be purchased for a very low price. (.99 to \$10.00).
- + Sample chapters of recently published books can be downloaded gratis, so readers can preview the writing style and content before purchasing.
- + All of these things translate into one key advantage: EASE OF AVAILABILITY.

2. Some E-book Disadvantages

- ▲ E-book reader has to be charged in order to work.
- ▲ Perceived difficulty in annotating.
- ▲ Not as aesthetically pleasing or user-friendly as print media.
- ▲ Low handicap accessibility.
- ▲ Eye strain reading the screen.
- ▲ Not all books are available in e-format

3. Many e-books can be downloaded for free; others can be acquired through libraries or purchased. They can be read using a PC, e-book reader such as Kindle or Nook, or on an iPad or iPhone.

4. Both students and faculty have mixed views on using e-books, according to survey results.

5. In surveys conducted by *Chronicle of Higher Education*, faculty members predict there will be increased uses of e-books for classroom instruction and as textbooks.

6. E-book distribution platforms have been unveiled by JSTOR, Project Muse, Cambridge and Oxford Universities.

7. Significant e-book content is available through online providers, such as Ebsco, Gale, and Proquest.

8. E-books may be slow to penetrate the marketplace, but are becoming more acceptable as textbook adjuncts.

9. The quality of e-books and readers will continue to improve and become more accessible to readers, at lower prices.

10. Much speculation and discussion will be sure to ensue regarding the future of academic publishing, student motivation to study, and the use of e-textbooks, and their overall effect upon colleges and universities.

