

E- BOOK Vs AUDIO BOOK E-RESOURCES, A COMPARATIVE STUDY WITH OVERVIEW OF TRADITIONAL RESOURCES

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ABSTRACT

The present environment is completely involved with e-resources and online materials. Technology has cope-up the all kind of generations. Users are the ultimate decision makers of this era. The latest technology has offered anything and everything to the users' hand only in the form of smart phones. There are massive of information made available on the internet and most of them are available as free for end users. Similarly, there is an information/applications over the internet, which can facilitate to read and listen the e-content as well, basis on the user needs. The article tries to through the light over some of the most useful e-reader and audiobook applications which are available as free of cost with lots of user friendly features like, services, compatibilities and interoperability's etc. A key features over the traditional resources also discussed.

KEY WORDS

E-Book, E-Reader Application, Audiobook, Traditional/Print Resources, Compatibility, Encryption.

INTRODUCTION

Resources are the strength of the humans to gain the knowledge as well as it motives to think further to explore more. Each individual has their own strategies to think and act to the particular topic. There was an era the people were try hard to pass their ides to another person's. It takes lot of time/days to reach the other side of the person. The most importantly, the new inventions are spreads within the nearby geographical areas and they took years of time to cross the nations.

An electronic book [e-book] is a book which is made available in digital format, containing the texts, images, or both, readable on the flat-panel display of computers or other electronic devices like, computers, laptops, tablets and smartphones. With print books, readers are progressively browsing through images of the covers of books on publisher or bookstore websites to shortlist and order the titles through online. The ordered paper books were delivered to the customer through the available transport service and the same e-book copy being sent to the customer by electronically [Floppy, cd, mail, through publisher website to download]. The present study aims to understand E-Book Vs Audiobook, E- Resources application features, services, compatibilities and interoperability's with overview of traditional resources.

HISTORY OF E-RESOURCES

The electronic resources came into the lime light of 1970 to 1980 and resources can be affordable to the upper level scientists, researchers and leading universities etc. due to rapid technological growth of 1980 to 1990. The online resources are become even popular and stretched to the middle class communities with high cost and limited time. The uninterrupted electric supply is also the quite challenging on those days, especially, the rural places of India. Majority of the researcher are depended on either the R and D [Research and Development] centers, Laboratories or Higher education sectors etc.

Beginning of 1990s the more number of reasonable computers came into the market, which even enhance the use of electronic resources to the desired researcher's community. This opens the new gate ways to the younger generation of researchers. Where they can look-up what's going on all over the world with selected topics and this begins a new mandate trend for the research scholars and discoverers to glance and move further on particular topics. With the help of internet, the entire world become a home and can be communicated each other in very short span of time through e-mail on need based. Internet and computers are provided the wings to the humans to explore further their research activities and offered a shape for their projects/assignments. The internet browsing centers are offered an excellent service to the all kind of users.

In the year 2000 and upcoming decades are called technological eras, since from the computer devices the patrons are started using the smart phones/tabs. The information was coming even closer to the humans from desk top to hand held devices. There is no worry

about long and bulky wires to connect and browse the particular data, everything on user hand and things can be done either by sitting at home OR on the go. The advancement of the technological trends in the present life, Electronic resources are become an essential part of the life of researcher's scholars, scientist, educationists, students, entrepreneur's and so on. Presently, majority of them are using the smart phones, which plays all in one role for their day to day activities. As telecommunication services are offered their customers on quite competitive and affordable pricing packages to opt easily their services to a common person, due to which majority of them are using the internet services on their smart phones. Electronic devices are handy and comfortable to use, when it comes to the research activities and surveys, the patrons begin their work either from smart phones or computers. Most of the patrons are satisfy with search engines only, since they expect the limited/partial information which search engines provides them through their simple keyword search. One can print the desired useful material according to the need. The scientists and research scholars search is quite differing from the normal search patrons, since, they are looking for something unique and identical things which will help them to go further or motives them to narrow down their search further. The above process immediately happens in the electronic resources and produce the results on immediate basis on the screen. Wherein the same process will take a day or a weeks' time to find-out in the traditional resources with more of manpower.

HISTORY OF E-BOOKS

The spoken audios were available in schools and public libraries and a limited extent in music shops before 1930s. On 4 July 1971, Michael Hart is a person who invented the e-books concept into the world when he was a student of the University of Illinois. Michael S. Hart left a major mark on the world. Many spoken word albums were made prior to the age of videocassettes, DVDs, compact discs, and downloadable audios. After the 1980s the medium began to attract book retailers and they started displaying audiobooks on bookshelves rather than in separate displays.

The invention of e-books was not simply a technological innovation or precursor to the modern information environment. A more correct understanding is that eBooks are an efficient and effective way of unlimited free distribution of literature. Access to e-books can even provide an opportunity for increased literacy and which creates the ideas contained in literature and creates opportunities. This is how the concept of e-books has begun and expanded to all over the world. The year 2000 there was a trend of print and e-book sales

moving onto the Internet, where readers are buying the traditional paper books and e-books over the websites using e-commerce systems. Beginning of 2012 in the U.S., more electronic-books were published and distributed through online than the traditional books.

HISTORY OF AUDIO BOOKS

Spoken words recording first became possible with the invention of the “Phonograph” by Thomas Edison in 1877. "Phonographic books" were one of the original applications envisioned by Edison which would speak to blind people without effort on their part. In 1878, a demonstration at the Royal Institution in Britain included a line of “Tennyson's” poetry accordingly this is the very beginning of the technology associated with spoken literature.

WHAT IS AN E-READER APPLICATION?

Any device that can display text on a screen may act as an e-reader, but specialized e-reader devices may optimize portability, readability and battery life for this purpose. Their main advantage over printed books is portability: an e-reader is capable of holding thousands of e-books in a single device without so much of heavy weight and convenient to provide the add-on features in the devices.

WHAT IS AN AUDIO-BOOK APPLICATION?

An audiobook (or talking book) is a recording of a text being read. A reading of the complete text is noted as "unabridged", while readings of a reduced version, or abridgement of the text are labeled as "abridged".

AMAZON KINDLE

Kindle is one of the best free e-book reader, no matter whether you use amazon or not, the e-books are the great way to relish the literature. The bookstore contains a millions of books, publications and blogs, most of them are absolutely unrestricted. The Kindle store even offers the new releases and bestsellers. A flashcards are extremely beneficial for students using digital textbooks especially for revision add annotations, or refer to online resources etc.

The following few of the good features user can expect from the Kindle app,

- ❖ Compatibility between the various plat-forms
- ❖ A vibrant layout and facilitates to synchronize the user bookshelf
- ❖ Compatible between the numerous formats of e-books

- ❖ Automatically synchronizes the Bookmarks and notes across the devices
- ❖ Listen the e-book as well etc.

The application is available in iOS [International Organization of Standardization] android, Mac [Macintosh] and Windows versions.

GOOGLE PLAY BOOKS

Google play books has been established by Google, the app is by default available in android phones. The application permits to adjust the appearance like, reading look with size and color of the lettering etc. One of the major advantage is to understand the meaning of problematic word along with the dictionary lookup option. The one more advantage about the Google play book is user can effortlessly download the free books and can purchase desired books also. The Google play book store not incorporated the hardware reader directly to it. The application is available in iOS and Android versions.

CALIBRE

It's an open source e-book application with a user-friendly features and compatible with Amazon's AWZ [Kindle Uses] format as well. However, the DRM [Digital rights management] protected files will not open and some of the commonly used e-book file formats. The missing metadata can also be added by the reader while using its bookshelf's options menu. The Caliber's one of the best option is "Reference Mode" it offers the existing chapter and passage number at the top left to cite the references basis on the user needs. Even the "Flow Mode" avoids flipping through rearward and frontwards of the pages. Switch over between the varieties of reading modes.

SONY READER

Sony was manufactured a first profitable E Ink reader namely, Sony Librie in 2004. This was used for electronic paper display established by E Ink Corporation. Which is directly viewable on sunlight without the requirement of the power to maintain a static image, and it was usable in portrait or landscape alignments.

Sony has marketed its e-books to the many developed countries, like, US, Germany, Austria, UK and many more. The reader could exhibits Adobe PDFs, ePub format, RSS newsfeeds, JPEG, and Sony's trademarked BBEB ("BroadBand eBook") format. Some readers even could play MP3 and un-encrypted AAC [Advanced Audio Coding] files as well.

AUDIBLE

Audible is the most comprehensive and leading audiobook service, it is one of the world's largest and advanced audiobook service. It offers titles, book series and audio shows. The application is free and it synchronizes the audiobooks in the account among all the associated devices. It offers compact playback features, like, chapter navigation, bookmarks, a sleep mode, and multitasking support for background playback and downloading. Even, the user can listen the audiobooks over offline. The application offers uninterrupted and high quality audio service which allows users to fine-tune the listening speed and allows to swiftly switch over between backward or forward move. The app provides the world's biggest collection of audiobooks and it is very much enhanced for audiobooks. It also offers the original shows, comedy, and other audio channels

KOBO

Kobo audiobooks to their e-bookstore begun in September 2017. The audiobook player was designed attractively, with one touch, user can navigate through the book due to a nice slider makes it easy. User can adjust the play speed accordingly and be able to check the left out time as well. It arises with specific online store with numerous free as well as paid books. PDF, e-pub, CBZ, and CBR the supported formats. The major advantages of Kobo audiobooks are one can have the access of e-books and audiobooks and excellent audiobook player with free of cost.

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MAJOR FEATURES

ELECTRONIC-BOOKS	AUDIO BOOKS
The bookstore are comprises millions of books	Audio book offers chapter navigation, bookmarks, sleep mode, and multitasking support for background playback and downloading
One can add annotations and refer online resources	Through offline user can listen the audiobooks. The application offers high quality audio service with fine-tune the listening speed
First inventor of the commercial e-reader application	Application could play in MP3 and un-encrypted AAC [Advanced Audio Coding] files as well.
Compatible to various formats of e-books	User can quickly switch over between backward or forward move
Adjust the appearance of the application as well as reading look, size with colour of the script etc.	One can adjust the paly speed and be able to find the left-out time
Dictionary lookup option to understand the meaning of the difficult words	It supports PDF, e-pub, CBZ, and CBR formats
“Reference Mode” offers chapter and passage number at the top left corner to the users and “Flow Mode” offers flip the rearward and frontwards of the pages	The visually challenged can effectively use the audiobooks, which helps to fill-out the gap and attain the knowledge like normal reading people and gain the desired knowledge with least efforts

COMPATIBILITIES BETWEEN THE FORMATS AND ITS EFFECT

[ELECTRONIC AND AUDIO BOOKS]

Since, the advancement of the software technology, applications are constituted to identify the texts as well as capable enough to listen the content. They are designed in such a way, which is automatically identifies the type of file format and supports accordingly, besides majority of the format converters are available over the internet free of cost, which will convert according to the need of the users and its requirements. This is an outstanding method to make use of the resources the way we want and this would not expect any more in the traditional format. Electronic reading and listening resources have been created mammoth impression on the users, due to which the users are always try to find out the information according to their needs. If the data is high in size, their preference would be for electronic versions only. To avoid the space as well as carry the heavy data. Which itself is great and massive advantage over the traditional resources. Moreover, the bigger the data leads to damage the material especially during the travel time. The accuracy about the search techniques as well as vast user friendly options are created high value in the users’ perspective and stands electronic resources at topper level.

The multimedia and hypertext information's are considered as most advanced services and offers enormous related content connections and attracts user concentrations and more.

SERVICES FOR THE USERS

Even electronic reading and listening resources are less expensive with comparison of the traditional resources, this is also one of the major advantage to attract the generations towards it. Though specific materials are available as complimentary with purchase of limited items, which encourages users to move forward towards the electronic resources.

The internet and online payments are even open the gate ways and buy/rent the desired resources through 24 X 7, as per the need of the user's. The track record of the purchased/rented books invoice/agreement etc. can be maintained easily and effortlessly documentation also can be done, which can further have retrieved basis on the need. Though the electronic books usage not in so upper level which they supposed to be. As technology grows time by time the number of users also increase drastically. The major change over can be seen with regard to the electronic resources in another decade of time.

The higher education sector of Indian government should come forward and initiate/implement the use of electronic resources with comparison to the traditional resources, the change can be seen effectively in a massive group of users. All the government and private sector libraries should encourage the electronic resources, which will help to create awareness towards the electronic resources. E-resources unique features and advancement services can boost in the generations and encourage them to use more wisely.

Government sectors, research centres, universities and education sectors must offer equivalent weightage to the electronic resources and encourage the users with providing the necessary orientation programs basis on the need, which would help them to gain the technical knowledge to brows/retrieve the desired material on the e-environment. A practical training programs will increase the user's technological savvy as well as confidence towards the access of online resources.

Pay per article is another best possible service which we cannot expect in the traditional resources, in this service the user can buy the desired article merely with paying the assigned amount of it. The payment either can be done through the online/internet banking OR through

mobile payment applications, where user can instantly pay the amount to the service provider and article will be delivered either the registered mail id OR the support of OTP [one-time password] user can download the same over the system/smart phone. Such kind of services we cannot except from the traditional resources.

KEY FEATURES OVER PRINT RESOURCES.

Majority of the user communities are even preferring the print resources as the primary source for their various activities, namely, projects, seminars, assignments, paper/poster presentations, conferences etc.

There are even varies for collection of the information for above activities, which is again depends on the need of the users for what kind of information they are looking for. Though most of them start something from OPAC and expecting the data in electronic format it-self, since this will save the patrons time as well as reappearance of the work. Data searching over electronic environment will be faster and accurate, one can complete the bibliography of the retrieved data while collecting over the desired information. The vast number of data can collect minutes of time with very accurately and precisely, this is also one of the most common features of electronic resources.

Similarly, users can collect the images, multimedia images, videos, photographs, tunes, animations, URLs, and etc. which gives an additional value for their work and help to understand and express in better way for their concern. The alignments and quality of the material has improved drastically due to software's and electronic resources. One can save the lot of stationaries along with printing expenses with help of electronic gadgets/resources. The one more major advantage about the electronic resources is, it consumes very limited space for enormous data, whether it may be a text, image, audio/video material, multimedia images, animations etc. Anything can be shift into a small device and can be carry hassle freely. Even segregation of the files in the gadgets are very simple and time saver.

E-resources can be accessible at any point of time through devices, a multiple access can be done and it can be accessible all over the world without the barrier of any geographical area. E-resources are available in various files and formats and made available immediate after uploading the server. The multimedia stuffs attract the user attentions and offers the self-explanatory information according to the need, the e-resources contains the massive amount of information, which includes mixed media like, Images, video, audio, animations etc. which

cannot be expected in the print materials. Linking feature facilitates to reach the desired information within and outside of the documents. Electronic resources can be browse so quickly to extract the information; a cross reference search can be done between the different sites/publications for extraction of the data. Even the usage statistics of the electronic resources can be generating according to the requirement without spending additional time/man power. The electronic resources are largely accepted due to comfort of usability, readability, affordability and accessibility.

CONCLUSION.

As article expressed through some of the most useful e-reader/e-listening applications which are helpful to the majority of the user groups. The electronic reading and listening applications offers quite awesome features which user cannot expect in the traditional book. A partly visual handicapped can listen the book easily according to the convenient and can be configure the background screen of the book as well as text color, size and style of the font etc. Which cannot expect in the traditional items. Listening the book is also one of the great feature which gives relief to the tired eyes and the content will directly approach to the mind through ears. Mode of the listening speed can be adjusted accordingly.

Overall, electronic resources are become so popular in limited time and majority of the users are accessible due to its enormous user-friendly features, compatibilities and interoperability's. Hence, not only the younger generations, e-resources are attracting all the age group people without the gender barriers.

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