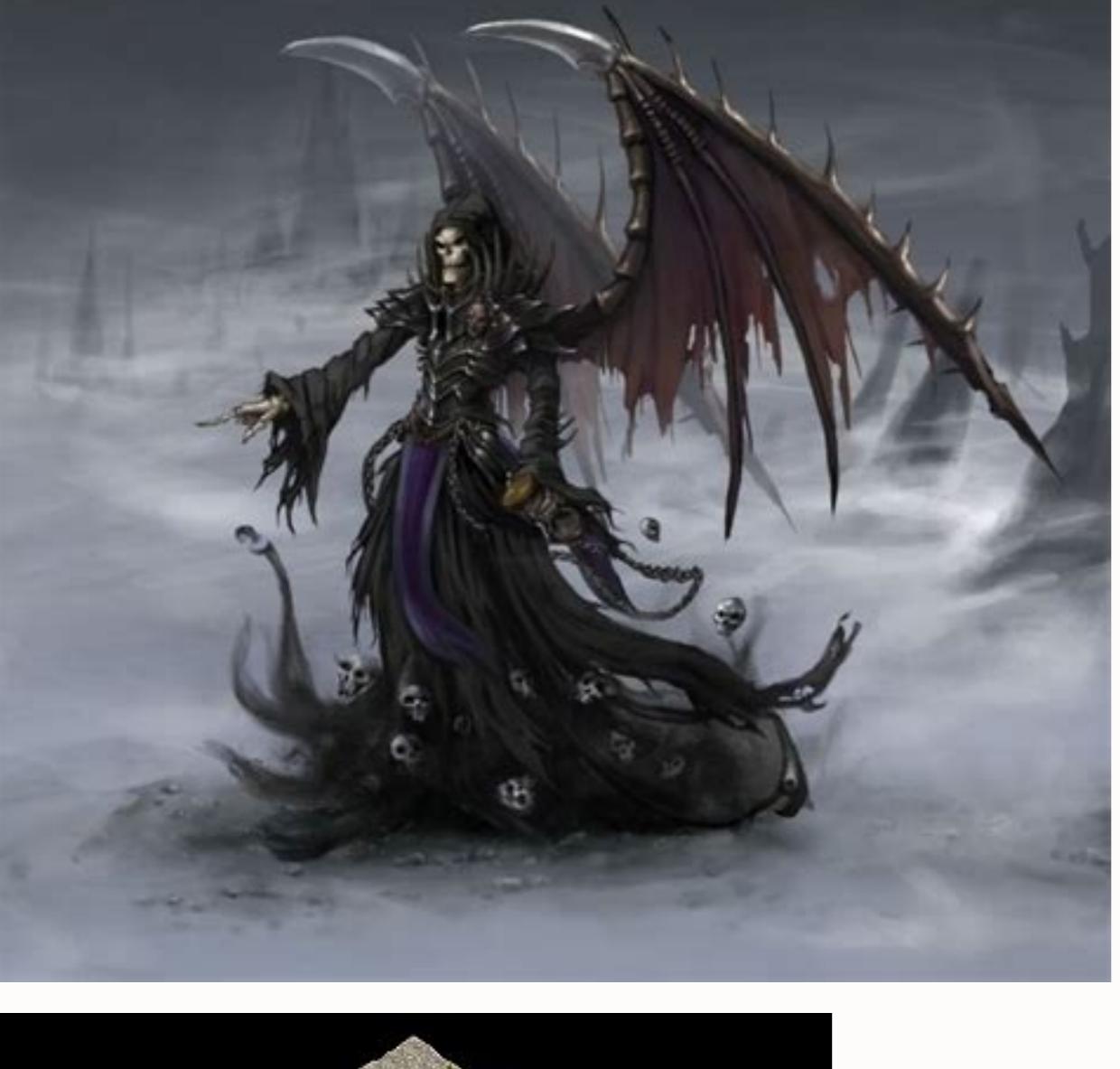


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Part 3

Age of Wonders III Eternal Lords



Book-length publication in digital form E-commerce Online goods and services Digital books Software Streaming media Retail services Banking DVD-by-mail Delivery (commerce) Flower delivery Food delivery Online food ordering Grocery Pharmacy Travel Marketplace services Advertising Auction software Social commerce Trading communities Wallet Mobile commerce Payment Ticketing Customer service Call centre Help desk Live support software E-procurement Purchase-to-pay Super-apps/pte Reading an e-book on an e-reader An ebook (short for electronic book), also known as an e-book or eBook, is a book publication made available in digital form, consisting of text, images, or both, readable on the flat-panel display of computers or other electronic devices.^[1] Although sometimes defined as "an electronic version of a printed book",^[2] some e-books exist without a printed equivalent. E-books can be read on dedicated e-reader devices, but also on any computer device that features a controllable viewing screen, including desktop computers, laptops, tablets and smartphones. In the 2000s, there was a trend of print and e-book sales moving to the Internet.^[citation needed] where readers buy traditional paper books and e-books on websites using e-commerce systems. With print books, readers are increasingly browsing through images of the covers of books on publisher or bookstore websites and selecting and ordering titles online; the paper books are then delivered to the reader by mail or another delivery service. With e-books, users can browse through titles online, and then when they select and order titles, the e-book can be sent to them online or the user can download the e-book.^[3] By the early 2010s, e-books had begun to overtake hardcover by overall publication figures in the US.^[4] The main reasons for people buying e-books are possibly lower prices, increased comfort (as they can buy from home or on the go with mobile devices) and a larger selection of titles.^[5] With e-books, "electronic bookmarks make referencing easier, and e-book readers allow the user to annotate pages."^[6] Although fiction and non-fiction books are in e-book formats, technical material is especially suited for e-book delivery because it can be digitally searched for keywords. In addition to programming books, code examples can be copied. The amount of e-books reading in the United States by 2014, 20% of adults had an e-reader or a tablet, compared to 23% in 2012.^[7] The first e-book was released in 1971.^[8] E-books are often referred to as "eBooks", "e-Books", "iBooks", "eReader", "e-reader", "e-edition", "e-digital books". A device that is designed specifically for reading e-books is called an "e-reader", "ebook device", or "eReader". Hideo Kojima once the creator of an e-reader, a device that would enable the user to view books on a screen, to a 1930 manifesto by Bob Brown, written after watching his "talking" (movies with sound). He titled it The Readers, playing off the idea of the "talking".^[9] In his book, Brown says movies have outmaneuvered the book by creating the "talkies" and, as a result, reading should find a new medium: A simple reading machine which I can carry or move around, attach to any old electric light plug, and read hundred-and-word novels in 10 minutes if I want to and I want to. Brown's notion, however, was much more focused on reforming orthography and vocabulary, than on medium ("It is time to pull out the stopper" and begin "a bloody revolution of the word") introducing huge numbers of portmanteau symbols to replace normal words, and punctuation to simulate action or movement, so it is not clear whether this fits into the history of "e-books" or not. Later e-readers never followed a model at all like Brown's; however, he correctly predicted the miniaturization and portability of e-readers. In an article, Jennifer Schuessler writes, "The machine, Brown argued, would allow readers to adjust the type size, avoid paper cuts and save trees, all while hastening the day when words could be 'recorded directly on the palpitating ether'.^[10] Brown believed that the e-reader (and his notions for changing text itself) would bring a completely new life to reading. Schuessler correlates it with a DJ spinning bits of old songs, as opposed to just a remix of a familiar song.^[9] Inventor The inventor of the first e-book is not widely agreed upon. Some notable candidates include the following: Roberto Busa (1946–1970) The first e-book may be the Index Thomisticus, a heavily annotated electronic index to the works of Thomas Aquinas, prepared by Roberto Busa, S.J., beginning in 1946 and completed in the 1970s.^[10] Although originally stored on a single computer, a distributable CD-ROM version appeared in 1989. However, this work is sometimes omitted, perhaps because the digitized text was a means for studying written texts and developing linguistic concordances, rather than as a published edition in its own right.^[11] In 2005, the Index was published online.^[12] Angela Ruiz Robles (1949) In 1949, Angela Ruiz Robles, a teacher from Ferrol, Spain, patented the Encyclopedia Mecánica, or the Mechanical Encyclopedia, a mechanical device which operated on compressed air where text and graphics were contained on spools that users would load onto rotating spindles. Her idea was to create a device which would decrease the number of books that her pupils carried to school. The final device was planned to include audio recordings, a magnifying glass, a calculator and an electric light for night reading.^[13] Her device was never put into production but a prototype is kept in the National Museum of Science and Technology in A Coruña.^[14] Douglas Engelbart and Andries van Dam (1960s) Alternatively, some historians consider electronic books to have started in the early 1960s, with the NLS project headed by Douglas Engelbart at Stanford Research Institute (SRI), and the Hypertext Editing System and FRESS projects headed by Andries van Dam at Brown University.^{[15][16][17]} FRESS documents ran on IBM mainframes and were structure-oriented rather than line-oriented; they were formulated dynamically for different users, display hardware, window sizes, and so on, as well as having automated tables of contents, indexes, and so on. All these systems also provided extensive hyperlinking, graphics, and other capabilities. Van Dam is generally thought to have coined the term "electronic book".^{[18][19]} and it was established enough to use in an article title by 1985.^[20] FRESS was used for reading extensive primary texts online, as well as for annotation and online discussions in several courses, including English Poetry and Biochemistry. Brown's faculty made extensive use of FRESS; for example the philosopher Roderick Chisholm used it to produce several of his books. Thus in the Preface to Person and Object (1979) he writes "The book would not have been completed without the epoch-making FRESS".^[21] Brown University's work on electronic book systems continued for many years, including US Navy funded projects for electronic repair-manuals.^[22] A large-scale distributed hypermedia system known as InterMedia.^[23] a spinoff company Electronic Book Technologies that built DynaText, the first SGML-based file Retrieval and Editing System.^[24] Brown University's work on electronic book systems continued for many years, including US Navy funded projects for electronic repair-manuals.^[22] A large-scale distributed hypermedia system known as InterMedia.^[23] a spinoff company Electronic Book Technologies that built DynaText, the first SGML-based file Retrieval and Editing System.^[24] Brown University's work on electronic book systems continued for many years, including US Navy funded projects for electronic repair-manuals.^[22] A large-scale distributed 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Barnes & Noble releases the GlowLight Plus e-reader, the largest Nook e-reader to date with a 7.8-inch E Ink screen.[149] Formats Main article: Comparison of e-book formats Writers and publishers have many formats to choose from when publishing e-books. Each format has advantages and disadvantages. The most popular e-readers[150] and their natively supported formats are shown below: Reader Native e-book formats Amazon Kindle and Fire tablets[151] AZW, AZW3, KF8, non-DRM MOBI, PDF, PRC, TXT Barnes & Noble Nook and Nook Tablet[152] EPUB, PDF Apple iPad[153] EPUB, iBA (Multitouch books made via iBooks Author), PDF Sony Reader[151] EPUB, PDF, TXT, RTF, DOC, BBeB Kobo eReader and Kobo Arc[154] EPUB, PDF, TXT, RTF, HTML, CBR (comic), CBZ (comic) Android devices with Google Play Books preinstalled EPUB, PDF PocketBook Reader and PocketBook Touch[155][157] EPUB DRM, EPUB, PDF DRM, PDF, FB2, FB2.ZIP, TXT, DJVU, HTLM, DOCX, RTF, CHM, TCR, PRC (MOBI) Digital rights management See also: Digital rights management & DRM and e-books Most e-book publishers do not warn their customers about the possible implications of the digital rights management tied to their products. Generally, they claim that digital rights management is meant to prevent illegal copying of the e-book. However, in many cases, it is also possible that digital rights management will result in the complete denial of access by the purchaser to the e-book.[158] The e-books sold by most major publishers and electronic retailers, which are Amazon.com, Google, Barnes & Noble, Kobo Inc. and Apple Inc., are DRM-protected and tied to the publisher's e-reader software or hardware. The first major publisher to omit DRM was Tor Books, one of the largest publishers of science fiction and fantasy, in 2012. Smaller e-book publishers such as O'Reilly Media, Carina Press and Baen Books had already forgone DRM previously.[159] Production See also: Book scanning Some e-books are produced simultaneously with the production of a printed format, as described in electronic publishing, though in many instances they may not be put on sale until later. Often, e-books are produced from pre-existing hard-copy books, generally by document scanning, sometimes with the use of robotic book scanners, having the technology to quickly scan books without damaging the original print edition. Scanning a book produces a set of image files, which may additionally be converted into text format by an OCR program.[160] Occasionally, as in some projects, an e-book may be produced by re-entering the text from a keyboard. Sometimes only the electronic version of a book is produced by the publisher.[example needed] It is possible to release an e-book chapter by chapter as each chapter is written.[example needed] This is useful in fields such as information technology where topics can change quickly in the months that it takes to write a typical book. It is also possible to convert an electronic book to a printed book by print on demand. However, these are exceptions as tradition dictates that a book be launched in the print format and later if the author wishes an electronic version is produced. The New York Times keeps a list of best-selling e-books, for both fiction[161] and non-fiction.[162] Reading data All of the e-readers and reading apps are capable of tracking e-book reading data, and the data could contain which e-books users open, how long the users spend reading each e-book and how much of each e-book is finished.[163] In December 2014, Kobo released e-book reading data collected from over 21 million of its users worldwide. Some of the results were that only 44.4% of UK readers finished the bestselling e-book *The Goldfinch* and the 2014 top selling e-book in the UK, "*One Cold Night*", was finished by 69% of readers; this is evidence that while popular e-books are being completely read, some e-books are only sampled.[164] Comparison to printed books Advantages LiPad e-book reader equipped with an e-paper display visible in sunlight in the space that a comparably sized physical book takes up, an e-reader can contain thousands of e-books, limited only by its memory capacity. Depending on the device, an e-book may be readable in low light or even total darkness. Many e-readers have a built-in light source, can enlarge or change fonts, use text-to-speech software to read the text aloud for visually impaired, elderly or dyslexic people or just for convenience.[165] Additionally, e-readers allow readers to look up words or find more information about the topic immediately using an online dictionary.[166][167][168] Amazon reports that 85% of its e-book readers look up a word while reading.[169] Printed books use three times more raw materials and 78 times more water to produce when compared to e-books.[170] A 2011 study found that even when accounting for the emissions created in manufacturing the e-reader device, substituting more than 4.7 print books a year resulted in less greenhouse gas emissions than print.[171] While an e-reader costs more than most individual books, e-books may have a lower cost than paper books. [172] E-books may be made available for less than the price of traditional books using on-demand book printers.[173] Moreover, numerous e-books are available online free of charge on sites such as Project Gutenberg.[174] For example, all books printed before 1923 are in the public domain in the United States, which enables websites to host ebook versions of such titles for free.[175] Depending on possible digital rights management, e-books (unlike physical books) can be backed up and recovered in the case of loss or damage to the device on which they are stored, a new copy can be downloaded without incurring an additional cost from the distributor. Readers can synchronize their reading location, highlights and bookmarks across several devices.[176] Disadvantages The spine of the printed book is an important aspect in book design and of its beauty as an object. There may be a lack of privacy for the user's e-book reading activities; for example, Amazon knows the user's identity, what the user is reading, whether the user has finished the book, what page the user is on, how long the user has spent on each page, and which passages the user may have highlighted.[177] One obstacle to wide adoption of the e-book is that a large portion of people value the printed book as an object itself, including aspects such as the texture, smell, weight and appearance on the shelf.[178] Print books are also considered valuable cultural items, and symbols of liberal education and the humanities.[179] Kobo found that 60% of e-books that are purchased from their e-book store are never opened and found that the more expensive the book is, the more likely the reader would at least open the book.[180] One Queenan has written about the lifelong love affair with books. Books that we can touch; books that we can smell; books that we can depend on.[181] Apart from all the emotional and habitual aspects, there are also some readability and usability issues that need to be addressed by publishers and software developers. Many e-book readers who complain about eyestrain, lack of overview and distractions could be helped if they could use a more suitable device or a more user-friendly reading application, but when they buy or borrow a DRM-protected e-book, they often have to read the book on the default device or application, even if it has insufficient functionality.[182] While a paper book is vulnerable to various threats, including water damage, mold and theft, e-books files may be corrupted, deleted or otherwise lost as well as pirated. Where the ownership of a paper book is fairly straightforward (albeit subject to restrictions on renting or copying pages, depending on the book), the purchaser of an e-book's digital file has conditional access with the possible loss of access to the e-book due to digital rights management provisions, copyright issues, the provider's business failing or possibly if the user's credit card expired.[183] Market share United States According to the Association of American Publishers' 2018 annual report, ebooks accounted for 12.4% of the total trade revenue.[184] Publishers of books in all formats made \$22.6 billion in print form and \$2.04 billion in e-books, according to the Association of American Publishers' annual report 2019.[185] Canada Market share of e-readers in Canada by Ipsos Reid as of January 2012[186] Sellers Percent Kobo 46.0% Amazon 24.0% Sony 18.0% Others 12.0% Spain In 2013, Carreño estimates that e-books would have a 15% market share in Spain in 2015.[187] UK e-book share went up from 20% to 33% between 2012 and 2014, but down to 29% in the first quarter of 2015. Amazon-published and self-published titles accounted for 17 million of those books (worth £58m) in 2014, representing 5% of the overall book market and 15% of the digital market. The volume and value sales, although similar to 2013, had seen a 70% increase since 2012.[188] Germany The Wischenbart Report 2015 estimates the e-book market share to be 4.3%. [189] Brazil The Brazilian e-book market is only emerging. Brazilians are technology savvy, and that attitude is shared by the government.[189] In 2013, around 2.5% of all trade titles sold were in digital format. This was a 400% growth over 2012 when only 0.5% of trade titles were digital. In 2014, the growth was slower, and Brazil had 3.5% of its trade titles being sold as e-books.[189] China The Wischenbart Report 2015 estimates the e-book market share to be around 1%. [189] Public domain books Main article: Public domain Public domain books are those whose copyrights have expired, meaning they can be copied, edited, and sold freely without restrictions.[190] Many of these books can be downloaded for free from websites like the Internet Archive, in formats that many e-readers support, such as PDF, TXT, and EPUB. Books in other formats may be converted to an e-reader-compatible format using e-book writing software, for example Calibre. See also Accessible publishing Book scanning Blook Cell phone novel Digital library Braille e-book Electronic Publishing List of digital library projects Networked book Online book Tex and LaTeX Web fiction Braille translator Perkins Braille Comparison of e-readers References ^ Gardiner, Eileen and Ronald G. Musto. "The Electronic Book." *In Suarez, Michael Felix, and H. R. Woudhuysen (eds.)*, *The Oxford Companion to the Book*. 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