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**“E-readers in Action” – A Summary and Reflection**

Currently, librarians are questioning the future of books. Will it be all electronic? Are our jobs at stake? I for one love the Kindle that I have and could not imagine not having it. I can download a book and read it as many times as I want and carry thousands of books in one little handheld device. However, many people disagree and don’t like to stare at a computer screen for long periods of time.

The Sony E-reader has been on the market for a while and has been piloting programs at several Universities to see how it can help with academics. Sony donated 100 E-Book Readers to Penn State University. However, it did not have as much success as planned. It was hard to check out and it seemed that instead of one book being monopolized at once it was many. The librarians struggled with how to oversee the collection development. They also have many employees at their library because it is open twenty-four hours a day and that was hard for training purposes. There were also many issues reported by the students such as poor battery life and then difficulty recharging, slow refresh time when changing pages, glare on the pages, and just not worth the overall price. Many found that even though patrons would check out the device they would usually never read more than one book.

Another study was done with an honors English course in high school. Students were given a Sony E-reader with an extensive reading list on their readers in a class that required a great deal of reflective writing. Many of the students reported that they felt immersed in the text. The students also created post-it notes to assist in information recall and felt that this part would have been easier with an actual book.

When using my Kindle I only use it for pleasure reading. When teaching a course I did however download one of the required reading books but I don’t use it because when teaching I need the actual book to make notes. I felt it hard to do the reading on the Kindle because I like to highlight when it is for actual information that I will be using. I do think that with time there will be better reading devices to help correct this problem. I think that in the future electronic readers could be perfect for high school classes that have to read a lot of assigned books. Students could all have different copies of the book at the same time and read it at their pace.

I honestly feel that books will never be fully replaced by electronic readers. It is very affordable and convenient to visit the local library and check out books. We are currently in tough economic times and I know my personal library budget can’t afford electronic readers. Right now I am lucky to get a hardcover book. Even though I have a Kindle I still visit the library frequently but I do download my favorite books so I have them to reread. It is very helpful in saving room in our house because it was getting a bit out of control. My son and I visit the library weekly and look forward to browsing through the sections of books and actually seeing the covers and making decisions. I think books will always be here to stay but there will be other options.

Behler, Anne. (2009). *E-readers in Action.* Retrieved February 2010, from American Libraries Magazine: http://www.americanlibrariesmagazine.org/features/09242009/e-readers-action