

# OPCUG – October 10, 2012

## E-Book Readers

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- Different Brands
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- How to manage them

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What is an E-book Reader?

“An e-book reader is a portable electronic device that is designed primarily for the purpose of reading digital books and periodicals.

E-book readers are similar in form to a tablet computer. A tablet computer typically has a faster screen capable of higher refresh rates which makes them more suitable for interaction. The main advantages of e-book readers are better readability of their screens especially in bright sunlight and longer battery life. This is achieved by using electronic paper technology to display content to readers.

Any device that can display text on a screen can act as an e-book reader, but without the advantages of the e-paper technology.”

Reference: Wikipedia

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## Most Popular Brands of E-Book Readers

Kindle (Amazon)

Kobo (Chapters/Indigo)

Libre

Nook (Barnes and Noble)

Sony Reader

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## Files for E-Book Readers

The myriad e-book formats are sometimes collectively referred to as the "Tower of eBabel". Nonetheless, some eBook formats are demonstrably more popular, and more widely supported than others.

The EPUB format is the most widely supported vendor-independent XML-based (as opposed to PDF) e-book format; that is, it is supported by the largest number of e-Readers.

The popularity of Amazon.com's Kindle devices in America has led also to the prominence of KF8 and AZW formats; Kindle does not support EPUB.

The file size for texts without images depends on the file format, but is always relatively small compared with a richly illustrated text.

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The .epub or OEBPS format is an open standard for e-books created by the International Digital Publishing Forum (IDPF).

The EPUB format has gained some popularity as a vendor-independent XML-based e-book format.

The only notable device lacking integrated support for the EPUB format is the Amazon Kindle, although there has recently been speculation that the Kindle will soon support this format.

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Older Kindle eBook readers use the proprietary format, AZW. It is based on the Mobipocket standard, with a slightly different serial number scheme and its own DRM formatting.

With the release of the Kindle Fire reader in late 2011, Amazon.com also released Kindle Format 8, their new file format. The new data is stored within a container which can also be used to store a MOBI content document (allowing limited backwards compatibility).

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## How to get E-Books

- Borrow (from the Public Library)
- Buy (from book vendors like Amazon or Chapters) Pricing can be “exotic”.
- Free Download from on-line libraries such as [epubbooks.com](http://epubbooks.com), [ebooks.adelaide.edu.au](http://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au) or Project Gutenberg

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There are many ongoing projects to preserve books in electronic format. Project Gutenberg is one of the largest and is up and running in many jurisdictions around the world. The following excerpt is from [www.gutenberg.ca/](http://www.gutenberg.ca/)

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Current free trade talks threaten extensions to copyright.



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## How to manage E-Books

Software is required to download and manage your e-book library. E-Book devices come with software (Adobe Digital editions, Whispernet) but it is not essential to e-book management.

Using an internet browser to download files there are a variety of products you can use to manage your E-Book library.

One of these products is called Calibre. It is a free and open source e-book library management application developed by users of e-books for users of e-books.

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Calibre (<http://calibre-ebook.com>)

It has a cornucopia of features divided into the following main categories:

- Library Management
- E-book conversion
- Syncing to e-book reader devices
- Download news from the web & convert into e-book form
- Comprehensive e-book viewer
- Content server for online access to your book collection

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Stop Talking Mark!!

Lets see Calibre in action via an 8 minute video.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bB7CF2bwhs0&feature=related>

Note that this demo is a few years old and utilizes Version 6 of Calibre. The current version is version 9 which contains all of these features and more!

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Thank You for your attention & interest.

Questions ??

Comments ??