

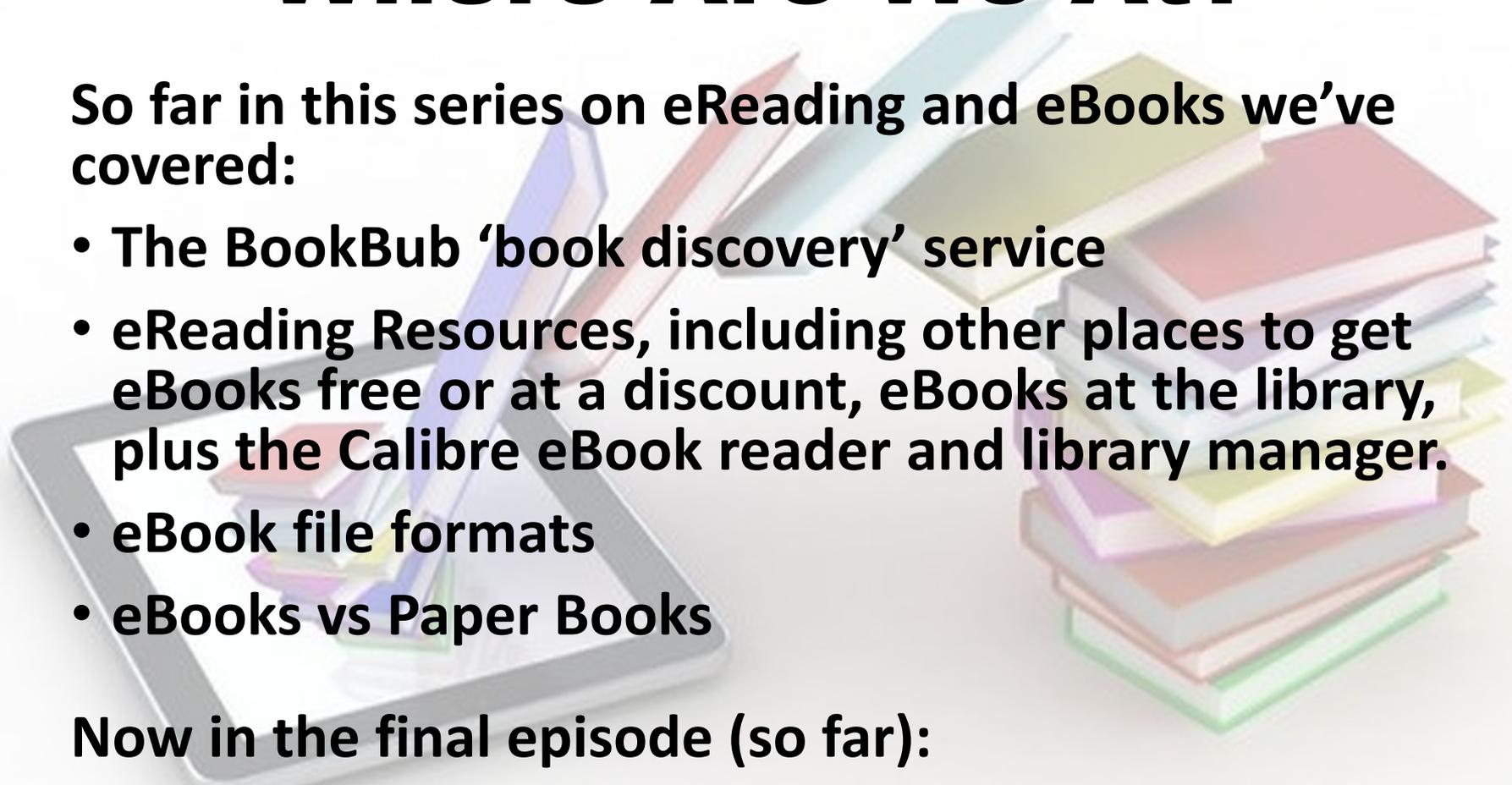
Where Are We At?

So far in this series on eReading and eBooks we've covered:

- The BookBub 'book discovery' service
- eReading Resources, including other places to get eBooks free or at a discount, eBooks at the library, plus the Calibre eBook reader and library manager.
- eBook file formats
- eBooks vs Paper Books

Now in the final episode (so far):

- The eReader Buying Guide



Alternatives to eReaders

FREE apps are available from Kobo and Kindle for reading their eBooks on computers, tablets and smartphones.



Alternatives to eReaders

While the Kobo and Kindle eBooks can't be read on the other company's eReaders, **BOTH** of their apps can be on your other devices at the same time.



Alternatives to eReaders

Computers, tablets and smartphones can display images in colour at high resolutions, eReaders can't.



Why An eReader?

- Most eReaders use E Ink* screen technology that makes the screen look like a paper page to reduce eye strain and read like real paper.
- Unlike reflective computer, tablet and smartphone screens, the high contrast touchscreen E Ink display eliminates glare in any setting, even direct sunlight.
- However, the E Ink technology used in most readers has little or no support for colour**.

* - E Ink is a brand of electronic paper display technology by the E Ink Corporation

** - E Ink had a colour version for a while but it wasn't very satisfactory

Why An eReader?

- eReaders don't need power to maintain a page of text, allowing you to do a lot of reading on a single charge*.
- Dedicated e-readers allow you to indulge your love of reading without interruptions like social media, email alerts, text messages and push notifications.
- eBooks save trees!

* - Using the backlight significantly reduces charge time.

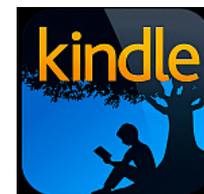
Why An eReader?

- When reading from screens (TV, computer, etc.), most people's eyes tend to skim and dart, constantly hunting for the specific bits of information they're after - a non-linear behavior called 'surface reading'.*
- When reading from a paper book, by contrast, their brains switch to a more concentrated form of information processing called 'deep reading'. It's a mode that actually helps us better absorb and comprehend what's on the page, even if it's a digital page that mimics the real thing.

* - 2014 report from the Stanford Center for Teaching and Learning



Market Share



- In Canada, Kobo (Indigo/Chapters/Coles) has ~45% of the dedicated eReader market, Kindle (Amazon) has ~25 to 30%, Sony (now supported by Kobo) is a distant third place and the balance is shared by a number of other brands (2016).
- Worldwide, Kindle has ~54% of the market with Kobo being second at ~14% (2020).
- We'll focus this buyers guide on the Kobo and Kindle eReaders currently available in Canada.

Features To Look For

Some models are waterproof so you can read in the bathtub, and they won't be damaged by rain.



IEC standard 60529 rating: Waterproof for up to 60 minutes in up to 2 meters of water

Features To Look For

- All models have touchscreens.
- Some models have page turn buttons. The buttons to turn the pages are within easy reach of the thumb, and the eReader can be turned upside down for use with either hand, with the pages swapping automatically to suit.
- Models with page turn buttons can also operate in landscape mode.



Features To Look For

A woman is shown in profile, looking down at a tablet device. The scene is dimly lit, with a strong blue light emanating from the tablet, which is filtering through a lens. The woman's face and hair are illuminated by this blue light, creating a soft glow. The background is dark, making the blue light from the device the primary light source.

- All the models have backlighting so you can read in the dark or in dim light.
- Some studies have shown that evening exposure to blue light from backlit screens like tablets and smartphones can suppress the body's production of melatonin, a naturally occurring hormone that helps the body fall asleep. In some models the backlight can be set to reduce the blue light.
- Some of these blue light filters allow you to adjust the color temperature and the intensity of the filter, and have a timer for when the filter comes on.

Features To Look For

- **Kobo models have OverDrive support and integration. OverDrive is the eBook system that most libraries use*.**
- **Kindle does not currently support Overdrive in Canada**.**
- **You may find that the library might have only a very few digital copies of some popular books available so you may have to wait months for a specific book. You can't renew the digital copies so you have to read them in the allotted rental time.**

* - We are trying to confirm whether the Ottawa Public Library is still using OverDrive

** - This may be subject to change at any time.

Features To Look For

- **Some Kindle models have audiobook support, but you need Bluetooth headphones or speaker.**
- **There are some issues with Kindle support for their Audible audiobooks in Canada. You may need an American Audible account*.**
- **Your smartphone, tablet, computer, Amazon Echo (Alexa), etc. may be more suitable platforms for listening to audiobooks.**

*** - This is based on the best information available at the time of this writing and is subject to change at anytime.**

Features To Look For

When Wi-Fi is unavailable, some Kindle models have 3G/4G/LTE support, paid by Amazon, which allows you limited access to connect to the Internet. You can access the Amazon website and browse and download books, and you can access Wikipedia.



Features To Look For

There is a wide range of accessories available for both brands of eReader, including stands, covers that turn the eReader off when you close them and covers that turn into stands.



The (6) 11 Models Available In Canada

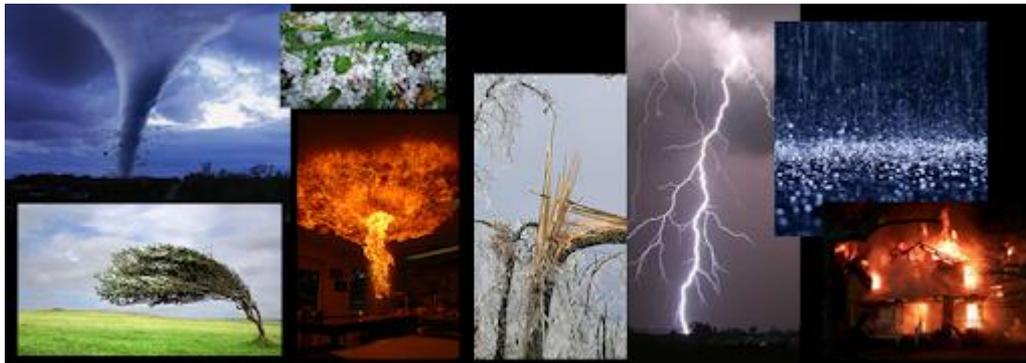
	Memory	4G LTE	Price	Water Proof	Screen Size	Blue Light Filter	Page Turn Buttons	Over Drive	EPUB	Weight*	Screen Resolution	Bluetooth
Kobo Nia	8GB	N	\$130	N	6"	Y	N	Y	Y	172g	212ppi	N
Kobo Clara HD	8GB	N	\$150	N	6"	Y	N	Y	Y	166g	300ppi	N
Kobo Libra H2O	8GB	N	\$200	Y	7"	Y	Y	Y	Y	192g	300ppi	N
Kobo Forma (8GB)	8GB	N	\$300	Y	8"	Y	Y	Y	Y	197g	300ppi	N
Kobo Forma (32GB)	32GB	N	\$325	Y	8"	Y	Y	Y	Y	197g	300ppi	N
Kindle Paperwhite (8GB)	8GB	N	\$140	Y	6"	N	N	N	N	209g	300ppi	Y
Kindle Paperwhite (32GB)	32GB	N	\$170	Y	6"	N	N	N	N	209g	300ppi	Y
Kindle Paperwhite (32GB 4G LTE)	32GB	Y	\$240	Y	6"	N	N	N	N	209g	300ppi	Y
Kindle Oasis (8GB)	8GB	N	\$330	Y	7"	Y	Y	N	N	188g	300ppi	Y
Kindle Oasis (32 GB)	32GB	N	\$360	Y	7"	Y	Y	N	N	188g	300ppi	Y
Kindle Oasis (32GB 4G-LTE)	32GB	Y	\$430	Y	7"	Y	Y	N	N	188g	300ppi	Y

* - Weights range from 0.40 to 0.44 Pounds

- Other models are available in other countries.
- Discontinued models may be available at a discount.
- Information and pricing is from amazon.ca, chapters.indigo.ca and techradar.com on 15 March 2021.
- See techradar.com/best/best-e-reader for complete reviews.

Disaster Recovery

- If you lose or sell your eReader, or if it dies, all of the Kobo or Kindle books on it can be re-downloaded from your Kobo or Kindle account.
- Any EPUB or other books you acquired elsewhere will be lost unless you have backups (*you DO have backups, don't you?*)



Proprietary Library Services

- **Amazon has the 'Kindle Unlimited' and Kobo has the 'Kobo Plus Read' services, each for CDN\$9.99 per month, which gives you access to around a million eBook titles as well as a selection of magazines each month.**
- **You can 'borrow' up to 10 books (Kindle) or 15 books (Kobo) at a time with no time limit.**
- **However, most of the books are from self-published authors and small publishers. Most major publishers won't allow their current and recent bestsellers on these services.**

Note: Kindle Unlimited has some audiobooks as well.

Gotchas

- Kindle eReaders and apps do NOT support the very popular EPUB format, Kobo does.
- Amazon Kindle tries to corral you into the Amazon ecosystem, and doesn't like you getting your books elsewhere.

