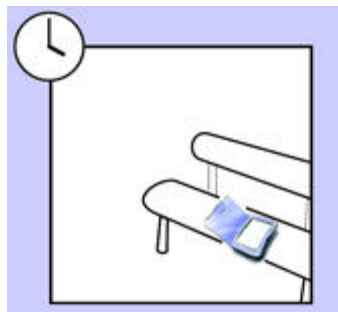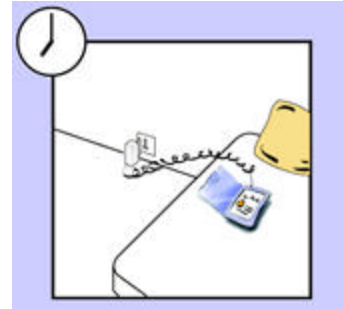# Ebook Devices

An increasing number of devices designed to read electronic books are hitting the market. These range from dedicated devices like the RCA eBook Reader to software designed to be read on personal digital assistants (PDA) and Pocket PCs.

Advantages

1. Easy battery charging. Batteries last up to 35 hours for the black and white models, and 5-15 for color models.

2. Internal modem allows direct downloading of titles. Alternatively, titles can be downloaded to your computer and then transferred to the device. For example, the RCA eBook comes with software that allows users to "manage" their electronic book collections, adding or removing books from the reader itself.

3. Expandable memory in the form of memory cards identical to

    those used by such devices as digital cameras. Prices of these memory cards have fallen dramatically.

4. Some publishers release ebook versions several weeks before hardbacks hit the shelves.

5. Portability!

Disadvantages

1. Difficulty of reading from an LCD screen, particularly when the size of a PDA.

2. Encryption to a particular machine.
    When an ebook title is purchased from, for example Powell's Bookstore [http://www.powells.com/ebook/ebookeditions.html], it is formatted for a particular type of reader (RCA eBook). When the title is downloaded, it is encrypted for use on ONLY one reader. This means that, while the title may be erased and re-loaded onto

the reader, it may not be loaded onto any other reader owned by the individual or library. eBook editions only work on RCA eBook Readers.

3. Technical difficulties.

4. Diverse formats, platforms, and encryption models.

5. Cataloging a reader and the titles it contains.
   Centralia has chosen to catalog the ebook reader as follows. (Catalogers please note that I am a cataloger because I drew the short straw, not through training or vocation!)

   At present, it is not possible to link individual bibliographic records to the reader in such a way that, when the device is checked out, each title would show up as "Checked Out." So, the reader itself is cataloged with added entries for each title.

   Algonquin Area Public Library was a pioneer in the circulation of ebook devices. Their website offers extensive information about their circulation policies and cataloging procedures [http://www.nslsilus.org/alkhome/faq.html]. This site also discusses the process for loading text files from such sites as Project Gutenberg onto the RCA eBook.

   245 00 |**a** RCA eBook REB 1100 |**h** [electronic equipment (eBook reader)]

   246 30 |**a** eBook reader

   250 __ |**a** Version 2.0.240

   260 __ |**a** [Mountain View, CA]: |**b** NuvoMedia, Inc., |**c** c2000.

   500 __ |**a** eBook ID: philmean34140.

   500 __ |**a** includes reader w/cover, stylus, a/c adapter, cleaning cloth, carrying case

   505 0_ |**a** A visit to Iceland and the Scandinavian north / Ida Pfeiffer -- Eva's kitchen confidence / Eva Kende -- The mission district murders / Michael D. Kelleher -- Around the world in eighty days / Jules Verne -- A wizard scorned / Particia White -- Where there's a will / Mary Roberts Rinehart -- ABC murders / Agatha Christie -- The bat / Mary Roberts Rinehart -- Death wears a white gardenia / Zelda Popkin -- Lost in Mongolia / Tad Friend.

   655 _7 |**a** Electronic books. |**2** lcsh

   700 12 |**a** Pfeiffer, Ida. |**t** A visit to Iceland and the Scandinavian north.

   700 12 |**a** Kende, Eva. |**t** Eva's kitchen confidence.

   700 12 |**a** Kelleher, Michael D. |**t** The mission district murders.

   700 12 |**a** Verne, Jules, |**d** 1828-1905. |**t** Around the world in eighty days.

   700 12 |**a** Rinehart, Mary Roberts. |**t** Where there's a will.

   700 12 |**a** White, Patricia. |**t** A wizard scorned.

   700 12 |**a** Christie, Agatha, |**d** 1890-1976. |**t** ABC murders.

700 12 |**a** Friend, Tad. |**t** Lost in Mongolia.

700 12 |**a** Popkin, Zelda |**d** 1898- |**t** Death wears a white gardenia.

700 12 |**a** Rinehart, Mary Roberts. |**t** The bat.

246 33 |**a** Bat.

246 33 |**a** Death wears a white gardenia.

246 33 |**a** Lost in Mongolia.

246 33 |**a** ABC murders.

246 33 |**a** Wizard scorned.

246 33 |**a** Where there's a will.

246 33 |**a** Around the world in eighty days.

246 33 |**a** Mission district murders.

246 33 |**a** Eva's kitchen confidence.

246 33 |**a** Visit to Iceland and the Scandinavian north.

RCA eBook Readers

Formerly Rocket eBook (NuvoMedia) and Softbook, these companies were purchased by Gemstar eBook Group [http://www.ebook-gemstar.com/index.htm], which is a division of Gemstar-TV Guide International. The eBook Readers are sold through another division, RCA. Two models are currently available:

1) REB1100
   This black and white model is able to run much longer (up to 35 hours) than the color model (5 hours) without recharging the batteries. One concern for the future is battery replacement. The internal battery is not removable and the device would have to be sent back to the company. Price from RCA: $299.00. Also available at such outlets as Circuit City.

Specifications:
- Weight - 17 ounces
- Memory - 8MB (enough for about 20 books) upgradeable with SmartMedia™ cards (8MB - 128MB) so it can hold several hundred books
- Communications - internal V.34+, 33.6K modem, USB port for PC connection, Infrared port (IrDA 1.0)
- Battery Life - rechargeable Lithium-Ion internal batteries capable of 15 hours with the back-light on and 35 hours with the back-light off
- Screen - Back lit (4.75" x 3") Monochrome STN LCD Touch screen

2) REB 1200

The larger, color version has greatly reduced battery life, but provides the most realistic screen size. Cost from RCA: $699.00.

Specifications:
- Weight: 33 ounces
- Memory: 8MB Compact Flash (enough for 5000 pages); expandable to 128MB (up to 130,000 pages)
- Battery: Rechargeable Lithium Ion battery lasts 6-12 hours depending on the back-light level
- Screen: 8.2" diagonal; 480 x 640 (VGA); 32,768 colors; 97.3 DPI
- Touch screen: resistive, approximately 400 x 400 resolution
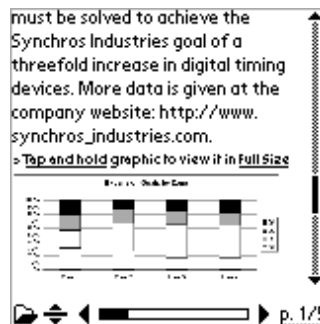- Communications: 56K Modem and 10 Base T Ethernet (RJ-45)

PDAs

It is relatively easy to purchase and download ebooks to PDAs and Pocket PCs. The first step is to install free reader software. Books may be purchased from a variety of sources; some are listed below.

When a user purchases a book, it is downloaded to either a Windows OS computer or directly to the PDA. Before the title can be read, it must be "unlocked." In the case of Peanut Press, the key consists of the credit card number used to purchase the title. Peanut Press does offer some free titles.

Recently Adobe released Acrobat Reader for Palm OS [http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readerforpalm.html].

Acrobat Reader for Palm OS includes two components that work together:

- **The desktop application** (and conduit during HotSync®) runs on the Windows platform. It prepares PDF files for the Palm OS and transports them to the user's handheld device.
- **The reader** is the Palm OS application, designed to accommodate the characteristics of small-screen devices.
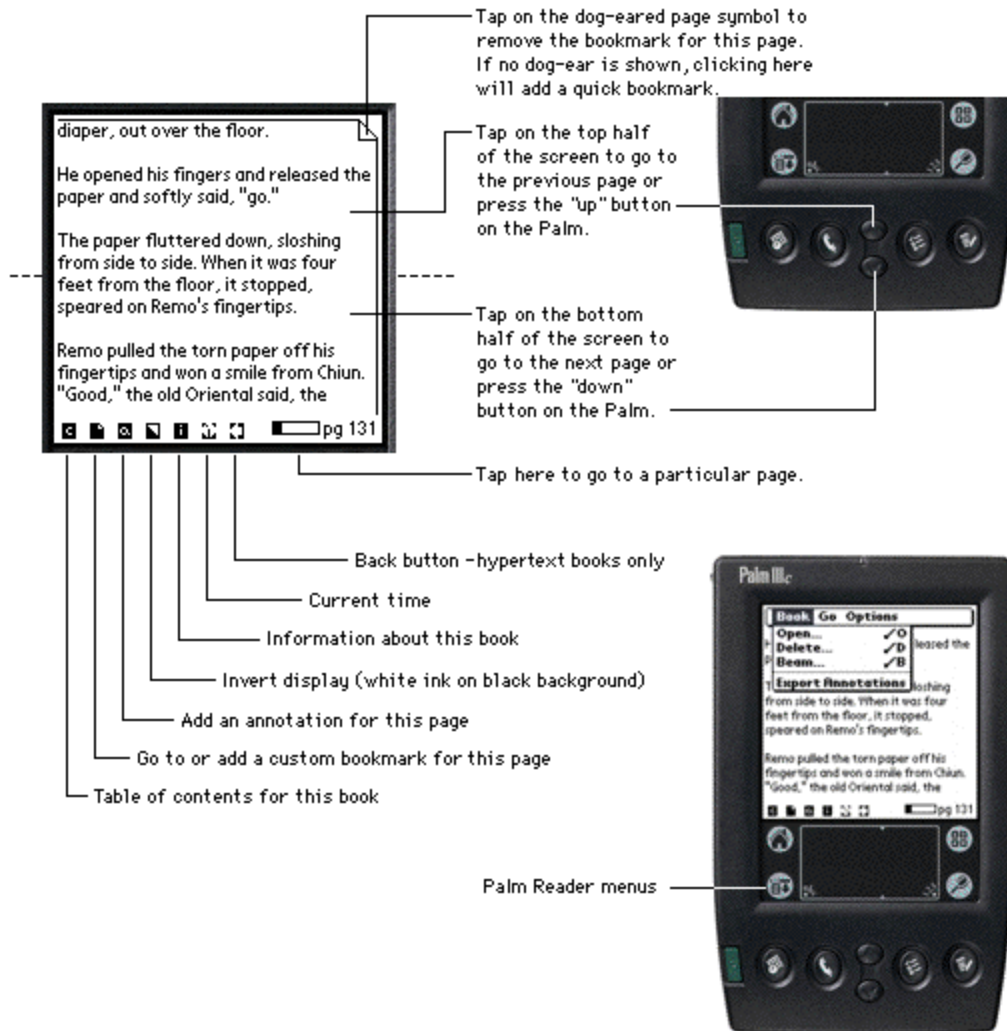
Tagged Adobe PDF files created with Adobe Acrobat 5.0 provide the best reading experience on handheld devices because the contents can be easily reflowed to fit the screen size. Results for non-tagged PDF files will vary depending on the quality and complexity of the source files.

Sources for PDA-formatted ebooks include:

Peanut Press [http://peanutpress.com]
Recently sold to Palm by netLibrary, Peanut Press is one of the main vendors for Palm OS/Pocket PC format ebooks. The Palm Reader must be installed onto the PDA in order to read the ebooks.

Palm™ Reader Screen Navigation

diaper, out over the floor.

He opened his fingers and released the paper and softly said, "go."

The paper fluttered down, sloshing from side to side. When it was four feet from the floor, it stopped, speared on Remo's fingertips.

Remo pulled the torn paper off his fingertips and won a smile from Chiun. "Good," the old Oriental said, the

pg 131

Tap on the dog-eared page symbol to remove the bookmark for this page. If no dog-ear is shown, clicking here will add a quick bookmark.

Tap on the top half of the screen to go to the previous page or press the "up" button on the Palm.

Tap on the bottom half of the screen to go to the next page or press the "down" button on the Palm.

Tap here to go to a particular page.

Back button –hypertext books only

Current time

Information about this book

Invert display (white ink on black background)

Add an annotation for this page

Go to or add a custom bookmark for this page

Table of contents for this book

Palm Reader menus

CyberRead (see last section for more information)

Skipwire [http://www.skipwire.com]

Skipwire has partnered with Qvadis, McGraw Publishing, Inc., and DiskUs Publishing to provide "ebooks & etexts."

"With SkipWire, you can wirelessly browse, purchase, and download your favorite Palm OS applications or eBooks anywhere you are, at anytime of the day, without dependence on your desktop cradle."

SkipWire works with any Palm OS 3.3 or later device. For non-wireless users, SkipSync software lets users HotSync files (including programs, data, and ebooks) from the Internet to any device.

Other Devices

Franklin eBookMan

eBookMan combines the best of PDAs with built-in ability to play music and listen to audiobooks (using Audible) without purchases of extension modules. The small screen (5.17" x 3.39") is a drawback, making the eBookMan best for quick reference or audio.

eBookman is available in three versions: The 900, 8MB internal memory, SRP $129; the 901, 8MB internal memory, SRP $179; the 911, 16MB internal memory, SRP $229.

The Franklin ebookstore carries titles formatted for Palm OS and Windows CE. Microsoft Reader for eBookMan will also become available during 2001.

Did you know that your eBookMan can read to you? With Audible.com it can! Audible has thousands of audiobooks available for download, ranging from Oprah's picks and best-sellers by Stephen King and John Grisham, to books on spirituality, self-help, or science, to subscriptions to *Forbes* and *The Economist*.

How to Get Started: Visit Audible.com and download Audible Manager 3.1, the PC software that will manage your audiobook library and sync titles to eBookMan. eBookMan can play any audiobook on Audible's site that is in Format 2, indicated by this icon .

MobiPocket
MobiPocket™ has recently announced that a beta version of "MobiPocket™ Reader" is now available for eBookMan® in English, French, and German. eBookMan® customers around the world can now read an ever-growing library of MobiPocket™-ready eBooks, and seamlessly download up-to-date eNews and other HTML or TXT files.

hiebook

Slated to become available during 3rd quarter of 2001, the hiebook [http://www.ebookad.com/hiebook/] acts as an ebook reader, records audio, syncs with Microsoft Outlook, plays games, and stores addresses, notes and appointments.

According to the company webiste, "The price has not been officially announced. You can expect the device to be less expensive than similar products which have the same sized LCD display."

hiebook supports Windows 95, 98, 2000, ME and NT. Support for Mac OS is currently under development.

Specifications:
- 480 X 320 pixel touch screen LCD Display with 16 shades of gray (5.6 Inches Diag.)
- Backlight
- 16 MB of Flash ROM
- 2 MB of RAM
- Accepts up to 128 MB of SMC memory
- Includes rechargeable lithium-ion battery
- USB Connection
- Weight: 280g (Approx 10 oz.)
- Size: 125(W) x 150(L) x 18(T) mm
- Voltage: 110~240 V
- Operating System: EMOS

EveryBook

According to the EveryBook Inc. website [http://www.everybook.net], "Everybook, Inc. has recently sold the intellectual property rights of DocAble Organizer to Estari Software, Inc." Their product was to have opened to 2 large screens, similar to facing pages of a printed book. Each screen was to be 13-inch diagonal, high-resolution, backlit, full-color, passive LCD.

However, a reader called EveryBook is being sold through Discovery Store [http://shopping.discovery.com/product/1114-1474-178780.html]: "The EveryBook is based on the TRGpro™ handheld computer running the Palm™ operating system and comes equipped with 2 MB of flash memory and 8 MB of internal RAM memory as well as an industry standard CompactFlash™ slot. The CompactFlash slot allows the addition of memory cards up to 340 MB, the IBM Microdrive™ up to 1 Gigabyte, as well as other standard CF™ devices including wireless modems and network interface cards. And since the EveryBook is based on the industry-leading Palm OS®, it comes with all the functions of a personal digital assistant including Date Book, Address Book, Mail, To-do List, Memo Pad, Expense Calculator and more."

European Market

Cytale's **Cybook** [http://www.cytale.com]
appears to be one of the few European efforts to
move into the market. According to the
company's website, "As of January 2001,
Cytale proposes the first European electronic
book." This color model is expected to cost
5700FF (approximately $800). In addition to the
cost of the book, users must pay the per minute
telephone connection charges. The Cytale has
committed to apply open ebook standards.

On June 8, Cytale announced a partnership with Computed Air Services, producer of
technical manuals for pilots and aeronautics, to provide these manuals via the Cybook.

Available on the market from summer 2001,
Myfriend originates from a partnership with
Microsoft and Bsquare
[http://www.ipmgroup.com/index_novita-eng.htm].

The device runs on the Windows CE operating
system and Microsoft Reader application software

Sources of Ebook News

CyberRead [http://www.cyberread.com]
In addition to acting as an ebookstore for ebooks
formatted for the Adobe eBook Reader software,
this site links to Palm OS ebooks and further information about ebooks in general.

eBook-Time.com [http://perso.club-internet.fr/khoua/]
Although a French language site, this is one of the best sources for industry news.
Frequently, news links lead to English language articles. Also provides short lists of free
ebooks in various formats.

eBookAd [http://www.ebookad.com/]
This vendor of ebooks and ad space also lists current news in the ebook world.

Coming Soon! **eBookWeb**
When Gemstar purchased Softbook and Rocket, the firm closed down eBookWeb.
According to a June 13 press release, "Glenn Sanders and Wade Roush have announced
their new eBook Venture, eBookWeb.org. Wade Roush, editor-in-chief of the new site,
has stated that eBookWeb aims to be "a central source for news and information on all
aspects of electronic publishing and a community center for eBook enthusiasts and
industry professionals." This site is slated for launch on July 4.