

Firstname Lastname

Instructor's Name

Course Number

Date

Would You Trade Paper Books for Digital Copies?

Reading books may not seem like a favorite pastime for most people, but it certainly has not gone down in popularity with the fast developing technologies we see today. We know that there are many pros and cons to using digital and hard copies, but can we estimate how much longer hard copies will continue in use?

If you were a Greenpeace activist, which side would you choose? Paper books are dangerous for the environment, since trees are demolished in order to make paper. On the other hand, electronic devices require energy and when they go out of commission, they become waste that is equally harmful to the environment. Choosing between the two formats is a tough choice.

E-books can be read on a small device, such as a smart phone, tablet or an e-reader, so you can take it with you wherever you go, which can also be said for a hard copy. However, a digital device allows you to take with you whatever number of books you would like, and even purchase books from any location where you have access to the Internet. With an e-reader the situation is not quite the same, since not all of them have Internet access, and you need a computer with which to download the books.

There are other pros and cons to using paper format and electron formats. For example, although paper books generally consume a lot of space, they don't need a charger. With digital copies, if there are no available sockets or you forgot your charger,

you might not be able to read at all. Although an e-reader is far more durable than your average smartphone or tablet, it still needs to be charged.

All in all, it is difficult to say which is decisively better, hard copy or digital. Even so, paper books are still popular, most likely due to the fact that people are used to reading hard copies. Buying a new book, smelling the fresh ink, and listening to the rustle of the pages is quite an engaging experience. So, it is most likely that we will continue to use paper books for many years to come.