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# E-book

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

An **electronic book** (also **e-book**, **ebook**, **digital book**) is a text and image-based publication in digital form produced on, published by, and readable on computers or other digital devices.<sup>[1]</sup> Sometimes the equivalent of a conventional printed book, e-books can also be born digital. The *Oxford Dictionary of English* defines the e-book as "an electronic version of a printed book,"<sup>[2]</sup> but e-books can and do exist without any printed equivalent. E-books are usually read on dedicated hardware devices known as *e-Readers* or *e-book devices*. Personal computers and some cell phones can also be used to read e-books.

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## History

Among the earliest general e-books were those in *Project Gutenberg*, started by Michael S. Hart in 1971. An early e-book implementation were the desktop prototypes for a proposed notebook computer, the *Dynabook*, in the 1970s at PARC, which would be a general-purpose portable personal computer, including reading books.<sup>[3]</sup> Similar ideas were expressed at the same time by Paul Drucker.<sup>[*citation needed*]</sup>

Early e-books were generally written for specialty areas and a limited audience, meant to be read only by small and devoted interest groups. The scope of the subject matter of these e-books included technical manuals for hardware, manufacturing techniques and other subjects.<sup>[*citation needed*]</sup> In the 1990s, the general availability of the Internet made transferring electronic files much easier, including e-books.



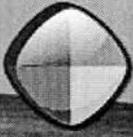
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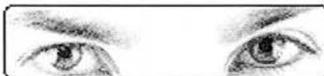
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