

## Research Paper

## E-Books, e-Journals and e-Portfolio: some pointers

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## ABSTRACT

The paper discusses some modern day innovations in the knowledge arena that helps in the information-seeking activities of a scholar or researcher. Today's electronic world has been depicted in simpler terms. Some key terms has been explained. Terms like E-Books, e-Journals and e-Portfolio have been discussed in detail. Comparisons between e-Books and printed books have been dealt upon.

**Keywords:** E-Books, e-Journals, e-Portfolio, Cyberspace,

**1.Introduction:** The American novelist William Gibson first used the word 'Cyberspace' in his 'Necromancer' (1984). The word gained instant popularity and started to be used in everyman's vocabulary along with another net-term like Information Super Highway<sup>1</sup>.

The introduction of Web and other online resources have created a revolutionary change in every sphere of human outlook and activity. This has been accurately anticipated in the words of Graham Molitor that it will touch and alter virtually every facet of humanity, business and all the rest of civilisation's trappings.<sup>2</sup>

Cyberspace is the amalgamation of all e-things - computer and communication networks, intranet (both corporate and institutional), internet and all other related buzzwords that symbolize the environment for all kinds of electronic activities - be it e-commerce or e-education or e-publishing or whatever. Thus cyberspace symbolizes a worldwide field where all e-activities are churning up at any point of time. In this article, we will discuss three such e-things which in some way or other are relevant to us.

1. E-books and P-books<sup>3</sup>:

Sr. No.	Quality	E-books	Printed Books
1.	Composition	Consists of electronic text and e-book reader: a small hand-held electronic device having memory and display functions	Consists of printed pages
2.	Additional features	Can be plugged to a computer or to a phone jack through a modem	No such addition is needed.
3.	Volume	Usually up to 10,000 electronic pages	Usually within 500 pages. Exceptions may be made for law, accountancy/ reference and some other books
4.	Multiple books	Several books can be accommodated within the space of one e-book	Separate books are to be carried
5.	Audience	Still small but growing everyday	Still gaining the lion's share of the audience approval
6.	Speed of Access	Faster	Much slower. Vary with individual's reading habits
7.	Mode of Access	Random permitted access	Linear and sequential access except Reference Books (like

1.	Ease of Use	Better search ability	Has to depend on printed index (if any)
2.	Extra useful features	Hypertext and HyperCard technology used	Has to depend on printed index (if any)
3.	User friendliness	Readers can do cross-reference, book marking, note-taking with a stylus, under-lining, linking passages from multiple books	Sometimes white pages are left (usually at the end) for taking notes
4.	Interactive-ness	Very Interactive	Not Interactive
5.	Multimedia facilities	High quality e-books may include Audio, Video, Graphics, Text and other features.	Only printed matter included.
6.	Display features	Formatting along with font control is permissible. Therefore can be adjusted to every reader's visibility.	Display is constant and static
7.	Production time	Much less, especially because manuscripts are mostly in 'born digital' format or digitized using scanning process.	Takes more time to produce though the advent of Offset printing has considerably decreased the production time
8.	Portability	Portability is less	Portability is greater
9.	Evolutional stage	Still in their childhood	Has a centuries old legacy behind them
10.	Cost considerations	Still a forbidding factor, gradually coming down	More affordable

## 1.E-journals:

They are the electronic counterpart of their printed brethren. In ancient world, scholarly communication was done in the oral mode where knowledge was transferred from Guru to disciple by the words of mouth. Gradually scripts and writing evolved. Rock edicts, papyrus scrolls, parchment and vellum came along with our very own palm leaves. With the advent of paper, scholars started to communicate through journals which started to be produced as early as in 1665.

In case of electronic journals, all the processes- writing (the article), submitting the manuscript, referring, accepting, publishing, distributing, advertising, etc. are done electronically.

One of the advantages that e-journals have over p-journals is that they considerably lessen the time lag between the creation of an original article and its communication to its target audience. They also offer the reader both the pleasures of sequential and non-sequential reading.

Many e-publishers also offer the scope of reading/retrieving of 'similar articles'. As per their requirement, users can get only bibliographic information (author, title, publisher, etc.) or the abstract or the full text of the article. Users are to pay extra to get a hard (print) copy or some other additional services. Many e-publishers demand payment for providing full text of an article.

Access to e-journals is generally gained to subscribers (often in exchange of monetary payments) through a log-in password given by the publisher of the concerned journal.

#### 2.E-portfolio4:

The institute allots free web space to its teachers & students where they can upload their educational and/or research matters like instruction sheets, study programs, power point presentations, term papers, syllabus, and list of references, curriculum vitae, areas of interest, and areas of research currently undertaken, abstract/synopsis of projects done, preprints/reprints of scholarly articles written by them, etc.

This digital repository may be created with the help of D-Space or E-print software (both of which are open source software) and can be developed as an extension of the existing library system of the institute.

It can help the following groups of persons:

- ØStudents
- ØResearchers
- ØTeachers
- ØProfessionals
- ØMarketing People
- ØTrade & Industry looking for right kind of employees
- ØHeads of the Institutes

**Conclusion:** In this digital day, these e-things have come to stay. But to what extent we will use them to our benefit is obviously left to us to decide and act upon. The responsibility of the information professionals is to mediate in such a way to make the uses of these instruments of e-World easier for the clientele. Only then the dream of a Knowledge Society will become a reality for a developing country like India.

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