

## E-book Readers

Mobile devices are the fastest growing area in the technology world. Since the introduction of the Amazon Kindle e-reader in 2007, the number of devices capable of displaying e-books has exploded on the scene. Although devices designed specifically for e-texts still exist, often at fairly low prices, most users opt for devices that do far more than display books. In addition to traditional laptops, smartphones and tablets with Internet access, media and word processing apps, also can be used for e-books. These other features make these devices excellent tools for educational purposes, other than just reading electronic books.

Explore the following types of mobile devices, but be aware that the landscape in this area is constantly changing, so you should do some research before deciding on a device.

### **BYOD (Bring Your Own Device, or BYOT, Bring Your Own Technology)**

Many students have personal devices, such as smartphones or tablets, which some schools are allowing them to use in school for educational purposes. A BYOD program comes with many policy and infrastructure challenges for schools, but they can provide a low-cost option for using e-books.

### **iPad\***

Apple's line of iPad\* tablets are a popular choice for schools who want to enter a one-to-one learning environment. These tablets have access to several different apps that can be used to read e-books, including those of competitive products, such as the Amazon Kindle\* and the Barnes and Noble nook\*. Some schools have used the iPod Touch\*, a wi-fi-only device similar to an iPhone, as a tool for students. The number of apps available for these devices is almost unlimited, and new educational apps are being developed all the time. Read more at [www.apple.com/ipad](http://www.apple.com/ipad).

### **Amazon Kindle\***

The first e-book reader to gain widespread popularity has now expanded to a line of a variety of devices at a range of prices with different capabilities. The Kindle Fire\* a low-cost tablet, when compared to the iPad, has a touch screen and access to numerous apps in the Amazon App store. Read more at [www.amazon.com/kindle-store-ebooks-newspapers-blogs/b/ref=topnav\\_storetab\\_kinh?ie=UTF8&node=133141011](http://www.amazon.com/kindle-store-ebooks-newspapers-blogs/b/ref=topnav_storetab_kinh?ie=UTF8&node=133141011).

### **Barnes and Noble nook\***

Like its predecessor in the e-book, the nook began as an e-reader, but has now become more like a tablet with a Web browser and access to an app store. Different versions of the nook are available at different prices and with a variety of features. Read more at [www.barnesandnoble.com/nook](http://www.barnesandnoble.com/nook).

### **Android Tablets**

Numerous tablets using the Android operating system are available, and more are entering the market each year. These tablets vary by cost, features, and storage, but all are capable of adequate display of e-texts through downloadable apps.

- Asus Transformer Pad Infinity\* Read more at [http://reviews.cnet.com/tablets/asus-transformer-pad-infinity/4505-3126\\_7-35338329.html](http://reviews.cnet.com/tablets/asus-transformer-pad-infinity/4505-3126_7-35338329.html).
- Google Nexus 7\* Read more at <http://reviews.cnet.com/google-nexus-7/>.

## **What to Look for in a Mobile Device**

The purchase of any type of e-reader for all students, whether it is a full-fledged tablet or a device more limited in functionality, is a big decision for a school or district. Consider the following points when investigating options.

- Cost
- Hardware durability
- Storage capacity and ability to add storage
- Ease of use
- Available apps
- Display