The battle to define the future of the book in the digital world

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Abstract

Commercial publishing interests are presenting the future of the book in the digital world through the promotion of e-book reading appliances and software. Implicit in this is a very complex and problematic agenda that re-establishes the book as a digital cultural artifact within a context of intellectual property rights management enforced by hardware and software systems. With the convergence of different types of content into a common digital bit-stream, developments in industries such as music are establishing precedents that may define our view of digital books. At the same time we find scholars exploring the ways in which the digital medium can enhance the traditional communication functions of the printed work, moving far beyond literal translations of the pages of printed books into the digital world. This paper examines competing visions for the future of the book in the digital environment, with particular attention to questions about the social implications of controls over intellectual property, such as continuity of cultural memory.
This growing focus on the accessibility of digital resources will undoubtedly impact the role of library professionals. Librarians will be challenged to “learn new skills to be able to implement the new technologies for learning, research and information for their patrons”. This could lead to an increased focus on learning and development within libraries, a shift in what is taught in Library & Information Science courses or perhaps simply an expectation of librarians to extend their professional development. Innovations will also lead to advancements in digital data management that will revolutionise the book industry. Twenty years from now, students will no longer use printed books. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer. Some scientists say that people (or specifically students) will not use printed books in the future. I agree with them. In fact, I think twenty years from now, students will no longer use printed books. The concern about deforestation will compel people to stop making books, and computer technology will encourage them to replace books with laptops. Share this: Twitter. Books have provenance. Your favorite books define you, and digital versions don’t seem to impart connections that are quite as deep. Queenan again: Books as physical objects matter to me, because they evoke the past. This piece of the experience doesn’t translate to the electronic format. Someday in the distant future, maybe David Eggers’ Kindle will be sold by Bauman Rare Books on Madison Avenue, but it’s unlikely that digital books will ever be personal artifacts the way that their physical counterparts can be. “I think print and paper has a lasting value that people appreciate. Pixels are too temporary,” said Praveen Madan, an entrepreneur on the Kepler’s 2020 team, via email. Learn about book trade and production in the early modern period and explore the social impact of reformation and the scientific revolution on the book industry. You’ll discover how books were made, bound and illustrated, and will study rare treasures including the engravings of Anthony Van Dyck, and early editions of Aesop’s Fables. You’ll also consider how books were read and how the invention of printing impacted on religion, medicine, science and politics. Download video: standard or HD. 0:11Skip to 0 minutes and 11 seconds We’re living in the great digital revolution which presents us with many opportunities and challenges for sharing information with one another. But this isn’t the first revolution of this kind that our world has faced.