



E-Books, E-Readers and School Libraries

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Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this White Paper is to inform school districts in British Columbia about the state of **E-Books**, **E-Readers** and the implementation issues surrounding the usage of these new technologies and formats. While there is much excitement, engagement and interest in exploring the implementation of E-Books as part of a school district's digital resources, there is also much confusion and frustration over lack of a clear direction on how best to implement and support these devices and formats.

The hope is that by exploring these devices, formats, distribution methods, licensing issues and content available, there will be some suggested solutions and ideas on how to best capture these new technologies for implementation within our schools in the near future.

Current Climate

Over the last few years there has been a growing segment of students and educators who have been exploring the use of E-Books and asking for them to be included within their School District Library Circulation systems, similar to the British Columbia Public Library's "**Overdrive**" system.

Students are eager to read new materials using new technologies, utilizing features never available before. Many consumers are already buying E-Reader devices to use personally, and want these devices to also interface with their school library collections. Publishers are slowly releasing their books and resources into this digital landscape, offering readers the chance to consume E-Books in a format of their choosing, on a device of their own. Teacher-Librarians are being asked more and more about their E-Book offerings and are looking to their districts and to ERAC for advice on implementation, best-practices, recommended vendors and suggested usage.

The current climate of E-Books and E-Readers, despite the excitement and enthusiasm, is muddled and complex:

- The industry surrounding the technology and production of E-Readers is fractured, with many competing formats and devices all vying for the coveted spots as most useful and recommended.
- This landscape of competition is creating confusion around which E-Reader devices are supported, which E-Reader devices allow which formats of E-Books, and also how to support many different E-Reader devices from different manufacturers.
- Further complicating the situation is the competing distribution systems from different content collections.

Consumers, Teacher-Librarians and District support personnel are left stuck in the middle trying to navigate the way forward to provide their students, educators and patrons with the greatest number of resources in the simplest and most manageable way possible.

A good historical comparison for our current situation regarding E-Books and E-Readers is the state of the music industry between 2000 and 2006. Digital music was becoming very widespread, with **MP3** players and digital download services offering consumers and patrons access to music for their own devices. At the time there were dozens of different companies manufacturing MP3 players, and dozens of online companies offering music download services, using different models of distribution and with different levels of **DRM** (Digital Rights Management).

Consumers were never sure if their new device would work with their existing service, or if their own music could be transferred from one collection or device to another. The major music publishing houses were not collaborating, the device manufacturers could not agree on standard formats, and consumers and patrons were unsure of the abilities of different devices in supporting their music and media.

Then, in 2006, one company came along and created a unified ecosystem that provided the music, the devices and the services all in one easy, consistent, predictable and stable environment. While this may not be the direction the E-Book industry is currently heading, the near future looks to be a period of consolidation and expanded access to E-Book services in general.

Future Directions

The future of E-Books and E-Readers cannot be confidently predicted, but we can extrapolate some current patterns today for the directions of tomorrow and assume a few key considerations to keep in mind.

Convergence

Right now, it seems the E-Book and E-Reader industries are moving towards convergence. Just like we used to carry around separate phones, cameras, MP3 players, GPS devices and PDAs (Personal Digital Assistants), we now have the option to carry only one **smartphone**.

The evolution of functions within E-Reader devices from standalone, single-use devices to multi-function and comprehensive tools will come and can already be seen in the new E-Reader models. The **Kindle Fire**, **Barnes and Noble Nook**, and **Kobo Vox** are all able to run and install apps, just like a tablet or smartphone. Just as E-Readers are trying to offer more functionality and uses, the new tablets are also 'coming down' with their functionality, trying to provide useful, free, and comfortable E-Reader apps that users would download and install in order to access and read E-Books.

Do consumers and patrons want to carry around multiple devices? We would argue based on historical evidence that no, in time, patrons, students, educators and consumers will want their E-Books and other digital content on the devices they are already using and have access to and that their preference is one, multi-function device, instead of many, single-use items. It also needs mentioning that almost all of the E-Books currently available through any of the different distribution systems can also be read on any computer/laptop browser, or tablet/smartphone with the required apps installed. The limitations of sitting in front of your computer, or having a laptop in bed, or the small screen size of most smartphones, really limits these types of E-Reading devices for prolonged reading sessions.

Therefore, it seems more likely that in the future, tablets and other devices of that size and format, with larger screen size, but smaller form factor, will be the most preferred option for E-Readers of the future.

Digital Distribution

What is much more difficult to predict is the directions of the publishers and the distribution companies, and the copyright challenges that are still unaddressed. Because the internet and digital landscape exist outside of geographical institutions and systems, there are no easy answers to the problems faced.

Publishers and authors, in general, do not seem very eager at this time to explore the new digital formats and distribution options. Just like the music industry, they are wary to 'release the keys' and let their content slip out into the digital realm without safeguards and assurances that their intellectual property and copyright will be protected.

Harper Collins, one of the biggest publishers in the industry, changed its [E-Book policy](#) so that newly purchased E-Books can only be lent 26 times before the E-Book 'expires' and the library must purchase a new digital copy to continue lending out to patrons. It is worth mentioning that subsequent copies are then available at a cheaper price.

Another significant change recently was Penguin Group Publishers deciding to [prevent all of their new E-Books](#) from lending by **Overdrive** through public library circulation systems. There is not much information as to why, nor are there any future directions expressed to help librarians and patrons understand this significant development. This change in policy literally came overnight and shocked the library world.

With two of the major publishers pulling back, and still many others holding their content away from the digital world of E-Books, things are not looking very bright from the perspective of the large publishing houses. This is reminiscent of the music industry, when the major labels were not keen on releasing their catalogues, and did not collaborate in order to provide consumers and patrons with access to their entire libraries. That eventually changed through different

pressures, industry development and legal frameworks that enabled the music industry to evolve. The E-Book industry will most likely follow in these footsteps and will eventually find a way to progressively move forward in their model to embrace digital distribution.

Challenges

The future of E-Books and E-Readers has some very significant hurdles to overcome in order to transition to a predictable and stable environment that consumer and patrons will embrace. There are a few key significant challenges that will need to be addressed, especially in Canada and BC.

1. Industry Standards

One of the most popular E-Readers today is the **Amazon Kindle** and its different models. These are by far the most purchased and used E-Readers, but they have some difficult restrictions that prevent its overall recommendation. One of which is the [lack of ePub support](#), an industry standard format for E-Books.

This is problematic as Amazon is creating a second, separate ecosystem for their E-Readers and E-Books, keeping Kindle users from accessing E-Books from other vendors. All Amazon E-Readers use a special, proprietary format called .AZW and download E-Books through the “WhisperNet” with built in 3G modems.

2. Distribution Systems

Also challenging for British Columbian library patrons is that the distribution system that all public libraries in BC use, Overdrive, [does not support Amazon Kindle E-Readers for E-Book borrowing](#). All other E-Readers from the other major manufacturers are supported by Overdrive and can download Library books from BC public libraries. Also worth noting is that all major smartphones and tablets are also supported by the Overdrive system.

3. E-Reader Maintenance

Some school and public libraries have begun exploring lending programs for both E-Books and E-Readers. They are servicing the demand of patrons by taking on the management, control and purchasing of E-Readers and also the content (E-Books) downloaded onto these devices.

Many are finding significant cost and maintenance issues with this strategy, having devices returned in non-working condition, and increased time in managing the transfer of content to the devices prior to circulation.

There are significant challenges to providing and maintaining a large collection of E-Readers to lend to patrons and this avenue is not preferable in the long run. The evolution of E-Readers, systems and devices is changing rapidly, and it is best to try and remain agnostic of specific devices and systems, providing only the content at this time to as many patrons and devices as possible.

4. Restricted Access

Another significant challenge ahead is that the most popular and most functional distribution system, Overdrive, is not able to provide contracts that guarantee continued and ongoing access to a Publishing house's catalogue. As previously mentioned, Penguin Books pulled all their new E-Book content from the Overdrive distribution system with very little notice to Libraries who already contracted Overdrive to provide distribution services to their patrons.

Overdrive has also [been forced by publishers](#) to restrict access to the E-Book library catalogue with Library circulation policies that maintain strict limits for patrons who can only be from their local geographic region.

5. Lifespan

Also contrary to the capabilities of digital E-Books, which can be infinitely copied, easily distributed, and do not require physical resources, publishers are trying to maintain existing economic models of sale and distribution.

- Publishers are denying libraries the ability to dynamically manage the number of copies of an E-Book in circulation, and in the case of Harper Collins, limiting the "lifespan" of an E-Book to only 26 circulations before destruction.
- Libraries are forced to maintain long wait-lists of patrons for the few copies of an E-Book they have the rights to circulate.
- Also, libraries are no longer granted "ownership" over the E-Book and are only granted a license to distribute, based on terms and conditions of the publisher.
- Libraries must purchase multiple copies of popular E-Books multiple times in order to maintain their existing E-Book collections.

6. Cost

Another drawback to the current economic model of E-Books is the higher cost and restricted release schedule that publishers currently employ. Most new books are not released as E-Books until well after the first-run, hard-cover editions are sold.

They are also usually sold at the same price as the hard-cover edition, a premium price for a digital artefact. This does not reflect the increased savings from not having to physically print, ship, and distribute these new digital versions.

7. Copyright

There will also be new and significant challenges for public and school libraries in the near future as Canada is expected to adopt a new Copyright law, [Bill C-11, the Copyright Modernization Act](#), which has some significant changes for Inter-Library Loans, as well as rules regarding Distance Learning materials.

The Canadian Library Association as prepared a [comprehensive statement](#) regarding the implications this new copyright bill will have on Libraries and their abilities to serve patrons in a digital realm.

Report on current E-Reader options in Canada

There are three mainstream options for E-Readers currently available in Canada.

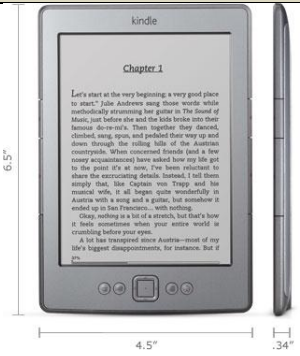
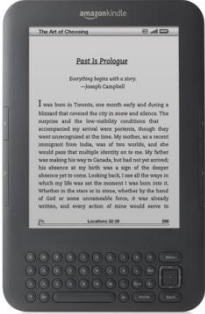
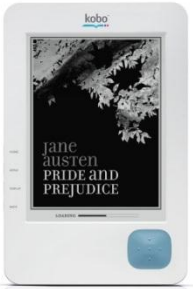
- low-end, single use devices that only support E-Books and reading
- mid-range devices that are multi-functional, in that they can install basic applications, like tablets, and can display some multimedia, but are much lower cost and have reduced abilities when compared with full tablets
- high-end full range multi-functional tablets, that have high-quality screens and multiple E-Reader applications available to install


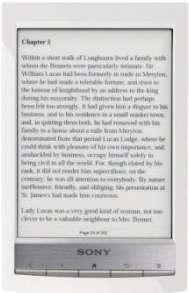
Within each level, there are options from most of the major manufacturers. The dominant E-Reader manufacturers in Canada are **Kobo**, **Amazon**, **Sony** and **Apple**. This table compares the most likely and recommended options available for purchase and support among the different grades of features available in Canada during December 2011.

Low-End Single Use E-Readers

These devices are all very inexpensive, offer long battery life, and work simply and easily. They offer only one single use, to read E-Books, and only support a few formats of E-Book types. They are a limited option as these devices will likely be obsolete soon, and may not carry ongoing support.

What they lack for in functionality, they make up for in simplicity and ease of use and support. One important note is that the Amazon Kindle devices do not currently work with Overdrive, the public library circulation system. The Kobo and Sony E-Readers are enabled for library borrowing.


Device	Image	Cost	File Types Supported	Screen	Battery
Kindle	 <p>6.5"</p> <p>4.5" .34"</p> <p>Engadget Review</p>	\$109	Kindle (AZW), TXT, PDF, unprotected MOBI, PRC natively; HTML, DOC, DOCX, JPEG, GIF, PNG, BMP through conversion. NO ePUB SUPPORT	6" diagonal advanced E Ink display, 600 x 800 pixel resolution at 167 ppi, 16-level gray scale.	Read for up to one month on a single charge with wireless off and a half hour of reading per day
Kindle Keyboard	 <p>Engadget Review</p>	\$139	Kindle (AZW), TXT, PDF, Audible (AA, AAX)), MP3, unprotected MOBI, PRC natively; HTML, DOC, JPEG, GIF, PNG, BMP. NO ePUB SUPPORT	6" diagonal electronic paper display, 600 x 800 pixel resolution at 167 ppi, 16-level gray scale.	A single charge lasts for up to two months with wireless off based upon a half-hour of daily reading time.
Kobo	 <p>Engadget Review</p>	\$99	ePub, PDF, Adobe DRM	6" E Ink® Pearl with Directional Pad navigation	2 weeks or 10,000 page turns

<p><u>Kobo Touch</u></p>	 <p><u>Engadget Review</u></p>	<p>\$119 (Special Holiday price)</p> <p>\$139 (regular price)</p>	<p>ePUB, PDF, Adobe DRM, JPEG, GIF, PNG, BMP, TIFF, TXT, HTML, RTF, CBZ</p>	<p>6" E Ink® Pearl Multi-touch Screen</p>	<p>1 month or 10,000 page turns</p>
<p><u>Sony 6" Touchscreen eReader with Wi-Fi</u></p>	 <p><u>Engadget Review</u></p>	<p>\$119</p>	<p>ePub, PDF, Adobe DRM, JPEG, PNG, GIF, BMP, MP3, AAC, TXT</p>	<p>6" E Ink Pearl™ with Clear Touch Infrared Technology, 16 level gray scale 600 x 800 pixels</p>	<p>Single charge lasts over a month with wireless off based upon a half-hour of daily reading time. Up to 14,000 continuous page turns</p>

Mid-Range Devices

This class of device is going to grow over the next few years as many different manufacturers are looking at bringing down the cost of the tablet devices to become more affordable and more useful than the single use E-Readers explored in the previous table.

At the time of writing, the [Kindle Fire](#) is not available in Canada and was not included in this comparison table. Also not available in Canada is the [Barnes and Noble Nook E-reader tablet](#).

Device	Image	Cost	File Types Supported	Screen	Battery
<p><u>Kobo Vox</u></p>	 <p><u>Engadget Review</u></p>	<p>\$199</p>	<p>ePub, JPG, PNG, GIF, BMP, MOBI, MP3, ACC 3gp, mp4, flac, ogg, wav, mid, 3go, mp4, webm</p>	<p>7" Display Infrared Touch Screen</p>	<p>Up to 7 hours with Wi Fi turned off</p>

High-End Devices

There are many different models and devices in this category that can all serve as E-Readers with the appropriate App installed. We have selected some of the most representative, but still basic, models from each family of tablet.

Device	Image	Cost	File Types Supported	Screen	Battery
<u>Apple 16gb iPad 2</u>	 <p><u>Engadget Review</u></p>	\$498	Apple supports E-Books using the iBook app pre-installed. Amazon, Kobo and Overdrive have free Apps available for download to access their libraries.	9.7 Inches 1024 x 768 Touchscreen	Up to 10 Hours
<u>Android Samsung Galaxy Tab 10.1</u>	 <p><u>Engadget Review</u></p>	\$449	There are dozens of E-Reader apps available for free for install from the Android Marketplace. Amazon, Kobo and Overdrive all have free apps available supporting this device as a functional E-Reader	10.1 Inches 1280 x 800 Touchscreen	Up to 10 hours
<u>BlackBerry Playbook 16gb</u>	 <p><u>Engadget Review</u></p>	\$499	All file types and distribution systems supported (Kobo, Amazon, Overdrive, EPub)	7" LCD display, 1024 x 600 screen resolution Multi-touch, WSVGA, capacitive screen	About 7hrs of continuous use on a single charge.

Licensing options

There are few options right now for school districts and libraries who want to offer E-Books via digital distributions systems online that are robust, easy to use and to implement, and offer a wide range of collections.

There are several good options for non-fiction resources, in the form of **Digital libraries** from [EBSCO](#) or [Gale Cengage Virtual Reference Library](#). While these collections are easy to use, integrate well with existing union catalogues, and contain many E-Books, they are heavily focused on non-fiction resources, and carry only basic, public domain fiction titles.

There are individual publishing houses starting to offer their collections online through mostly browser based access to the digital versions of their titles. One good example of this is [Orca Publishers](#), who not only offer their E-Books through the usual digital distributors (Amazon, Kobo, Overdrive and Tablet Apps), but also offer browser based access to class sets of their books through their own website.

The difference is that using the distribution systems of the E-Reader manufacturer (Kobo, Amazon) or distribution company (Overdrive), allows patrons to download an E-Book directly onto any E-Reader device, while using a “browser based” download limits patrons to reading the E-Book or digital resource on a full computer, laptop, smartphone or tablet, but not a single-use low-end E-Reader.

Today, the most utilized and contracted digital distribution system used by public and school libraries across North America is called [Overdrive](#). This digital distribution system takes care of managing your digital collections, lending, and maintaining access for your students and patrons 24/7. As described on the Overdrive.com website:

“Give your students access to digital books and more — anytime — with School Download Library. Students can check out titles online, and read or listen offline on PC or Mac®, smartphones, MP3 players, and eBook readers including Sony® Reader and Kindle® (US only). You build this digital collection based on grade level or school curriculum with digital titles available in virtually every subject.”
[\(http://www.overdrive.com/Solutions/Schools/\)](http://www.overdrive.com/Solutions/Schools/)

As the description implies, Amazon Kindle E-Readers are not supported in Canada, which is a significant drawback for any of the Kindle E-Readers, as they cannot borrow books from any OverDrive distribution system. Every other device, from all levels, basic to tablet, including all smartphones are supported, but no Amazon Kindle products are at this time.

All of the public municipal libraries across British Columbia already use the Overdrive system, and have implemented an easy to use check-out system that allows patrons, using their library card barcode and password, to check out any of their [E-Books currently available](#).

The Overdrive collection within the BC Public Library System is currently at 13,120 titles and growing. Many of the more popular and newer fiction titles have extensive waitlists, despite multiple copies of each title.

A couple of challenges already mentioned regarding the Overdrive distribution system warrant reminding here, that Penguin Publishing has pulled all new E-Book releases from the Overdrive system, and that Overdrive does subtly restrict Library and patron access to collections based on geographic limitations. Individual libraries also lose control and ownership of their digital collections when signing up with Overdrive. They no longer own any of the E-Books they lend, and they no longer control how long they are in circulation, as is the case of Harper Collin's E-Books and their 26 times lending limit.

Another example of a digital distribution system for British Columbia school districts and libraries is [Follet Shelf](#), a system that offers similar functionality as Overdrive and a significant catalogue of available fiction and non-fiction titles. Follet Shelf also has unlimited access in a browser based environment, allowing entire classes to explore these digital E-Books simultaneously with unlimited checkouts available on select non-fiction titles. There are a few examples of school libraries, mainly secondary school libraries that have implemented this distribution system on a trial basis and are currently evaluating their experiences.

One last distribution system available to British Columbia libraries to enable basic E-Book lending functionality is the [Canadian Electronic Library](#):

"as of December 2010, the Canadian Electronic Library has released over 30,000 Canadian monographs to libraries (of which over 12,000 are current in-copyright titles from 65 Canadian publishers,) making the service Canada's largest collection of online books for libraries. The service is in use in every university in Canada." (<http://canadianelectroniclibrary.ca/celhome.html>)

There is a lot of Canadian content available through this distribution system and they do offer competitive pricing, which can allow smaller library collections to more easily embed this digital distribution system into their catalogue, using MARC record integration with their online union catalogue. The Canadian Electronic Library only offers **browser based** access to their collection. At this time they do not support any of the low end single-use E-Readers. Also worth mentioning is that this Electronic Library is heavily focused on Post-Secondary resources and will not be as functional and useful as other options for K-12 environments.

Comparison Table of Different Distribution Systems

Distribution System	Major Features	Limitations	Best Usage
<u>Overdrive</u>	24/7 access to newer and more popular fiction titles, supporting many different devices and completely managed and embedded distribution system	No support for Amazon Kindle E-Readers at this time in Canada. Some publishers are restricting access to their E-Book catalogues to only older titles, or limiting the amount of times titles can be lent.	An easier and more manageable tool for entire districts to offer E-Books through their district catalogue and manage the E-Book collection centrally, sharing resources district-wide
<u>Follet Shelf</u>	24 / 7 access to the collection for your students and staff. Some E-Book content can be licensed as “unlimited” allowing any number of students in the same school to access the same book at the same time.	Not very much Canadian content. No options for offline download to E-Readers. Students and patrons need to access the E-Books on their full computers, laptops or tablets.	Classroom and library based access would be easiest, with students and patrons accessing materials at school or at home, on full computers/tablets.
<u>Canadian Electronic Library</u>	Access to thousands of Canadian authors and collections, easily integrated into existing catalogues.	Smaller database, not a lot of support. Browser based access only. No E-Reader support	Expanded access to specialized Canadian content that is not offered in any other distribution system
<u>EBSCO</u>	Many new and updated non-fiction specialized collections that offer multimedia and unlimited access to the digital resources through browser based access.	Mostly non-fiction, browser based access only, only public domain fiction books available for download to E-Readers.	Supplement to a School District / Library to expand their non-fiction resource collection. Easily integrated into existing union catalogue
<u>Gale Cengage Virtual Reference Library</u>	Many new and updated non-fiction specialized collections that offer multimedia and unlimited access to the digital resource through browser based access.	Mostly non-fiction, browser based access only.	Supplement to a school district / library to expand their non-fiction resource collection. Easily integrated into existing union catalogue

Guidelines for districts to assist in conducting their own needs assessment

When looking at offering new digital resources to your students, staff and patrons, it is important to move forward in a sustainable, manageable and valuable direction. Many of your patrons already have their own devices with which to read E-Books. Utilizing this as a first step is an easier way to start providing this digital content. As you provide more digital content, and can see which devices and services are working best and are most popular, this feedback can best guide the future steps of perhaps integrating E-Readers to lend to patrons and students that do not have their own devices.

Encouraging students and patrons to explore the “browser based” access to try and test out resources first, before committing to supporting E-Books on specific E-Readers, is an efficient way to move forward with very little risk. Districts should ‘test the waters’ to gauge how much demand is out there, by asking which devices interested patrons have, and which type of content is most desired. Teachers and Teacher-Librarians will be interested in both non-fiction and fiction, while most patrons and consumers will be primarily interested in fiction E-Books.

Critical Questions to ask before implementing new E-Books and E-Readers in your district:

- **Will my patrons be accessing the digital content through a browser, or download onto their E-Reader?**
- **What types of devices do most of my patrons already have, or are looking at purchasing?**
- **What collections would you most like to focus on? Fiction or Non-Fiction?**
- **Do you plan on purchasing E-Readers to lend out to patrons? How much time and resources can you allocate to managing these devices?**

Library usage examples & recommendations

Some BC school libraries are already trying out some of the digital resources through **EBSCO** and **Gale Cengage’s Virtual Reference Library**, through mostly browser based access at school and at home. There are many benefits to this model, including unlimited access for entire classes to explore the same resource simultaneously.

As students are looking for E-Books to check out on their own devices, they will start looking towards school districts and libraries. Follet Shelf and Overdrive offer fairly simple fiction collection distribution systems that can be contracted by a school district to handle this digital distribution demand.

The Canadian Electronic Library system can also allow your district to embed specific Canadian content directly into your library circulation system, through browser based access inside your union catalogue web interface.

While there are significant challenges ahead regarding instability in access and makeup of these digital collections, the directions and trends are definitely headed towards increased, expanded, and better supported, access in general to E-Books, digital content and inexpensive devices.

Summary

While there are many challenges ahead in the transition from traditional paper books to digital E-Books, we are slowly building the infrastructure that will enable generations of future readers. By exploring and experimenting with a few E-Readers and E-Book circulation systems progressively and by sharing the experiences widely, we can all move forward with confidence and knowledge that will enable service to as many students, teachers, patrons and visitors as possible.

We can strive to provide digital services to those who already have E-Reader devices or Apps, and we can work towards providing access to E-Books and digital resources to those that don't through alternatives such as browser based access and lending physical E-Readers to patrons who need them. The future of E-Readers and E-Books is slowly pulling into the station, we must prepare to board.

Glossary

Adobe DRM	A special form of Digital Rights Management, used by ePub files to handle security of the E-Book, from check-out and download to the end of the lending period, and subsequent 'return' of the E-Book
Android	An operating system for smartphones, tablets and other special forms of computers that can install applications that perform various functions, such as an E-Reader.
Amazon	An online web store that sells E-Books and E-Readers, such as the Kindle, and produced its own E-Book format, .AZW, and does not support the industry standard format ePub.
Amazon Kindle	One of the specific E-Readers that Amazon web store manufactures and distributes.
Apple	A technology company that produces tablet computers called the iPad2 that can run and install applications like E-Reader software
Blackberry Playbook	The Blackberry Playbook is a full tablet manufactured by Research in Motion that has multiple E-Reader Applications that can be installed to download and read E-Books.
Browser Based	Browser based access means that in order to view and read the digital resource, or E-Book, you need to be using a computer/laptop/tablet, or smartphone with a built in Internet Browser. None of the limited, low-end E-Reader devices support this type of consumption.
Canadian Electronic Library	Canadian Electronic Library is a browser based online database of specifically Canadian resources, both fiction and non-fiction.
Digital libraries	Digital Libraries are collections of resources, both fiction and non-fiction that are stored and distributed elsewhere and available to your patrons using their library credentials 24/7
Distribution	Distribution is the process within which digital resources are stored, managed, protected and distributed to your patrons by a 3 rd party.
DRM	DRM stands for Digital Rights Management and is a set of security protocols that protect the digital artefact from being copied or unlocked for unlimited consumption.
E-Books	E-Books are digital versions of traditional books that may take many different formats, and can be opened and read on many different devices, from simple E-Readers to full computers.
E-Readers	E-Readers are specialized devices that can open and display E-Books that are small, lightweight and have exceptional battery life.
ePub	ePub is the specialized file format that the majority of E-Books are published in, and is widely considered the industry standard for E-Books.
Follet Shelf	Follet Shelf is a digital E-Book distribution system offered to school libraries who want to

offer their patrons access to their digital collections of E-Books.

iPad 2	iPad 2 is a full tablet computer, manufactured by Apple Computers that can download and install specific applications that allow the user to view and read E-Books, both in E-Book format, or through browser based access.
iPhone	iPhone is a smartphone, manufactured by Apple Computers that can download and install specific applications that allow the user to view and read E-Books, both in E-Book format, or through browser based access.
Kobo	Kobo is another manufacture of E-Reader devices, from low-end to newer, multi-function E-Reader tablets. Kobo is also open and supports all industry standard E-Book formats.
MOBI	Mobi is a version of the Open E-Book standard and can support many advanced features and digital content as an E-Book.
MP3	MP3 is a digital format that encodes music to a smaller and more portable format for use on digital devices.
PDF	PDF stands for Portable Document Format and can be used to create personal E-Books that can be read on all major E-Readers and E-Reading applications
Publishers	Publishers are the companies that contract authors to produce books which are edited, marketed, published, distributed and supported through many different channels, both digital and analog.
Overdrive	Overdrive is a US based company that connects publishers and their digital content with Libraries, taking care of the storage, DRM, distribution and management of E-Book collections.
Smartphone	A Smartphone is a new format of cellular phone that is similar to a portable computer, in that the user can install specific applications to perform various tasks, such as reading an E-Book, or exploring a digital resource through a built in internet browser.
Sony	Sony is a major manufacturer of a low-end E-Reader that supports all major industry E-Book formats.
Tablet	A tablet is a slim, lightweight format for a computer, condensing the screen, tower, keyboard and mouse all into one slender format that is portable and capable of performing many computer based tasks, like reading an E-Book or exploring digital content through the built in internet browser.
Vox	The Kobo Vox is a mid-range E-Reader from Kobo that has more functionality and multimedia capability that a low-end E-Reader, but not as powerful as a full tablet.

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