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## **Types of Resources Emerging Trends**

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### **Abstract**

*The Paper examines in brief the various resources being used from ancient to the Modern age, where information technology is influencing our every days life. An attempt has been made to compare the conventional book with that of e-book which is of recent origin.*

## **1 Introduction**

Man is a Social animal and Society is the “*Web of Social Relationships*”. Being a social animal, man wants to communicate because of all animals only man is “endowed with the gift of speech”. Man has used various means of communicating his ideas, his beliefs, his faith, his ethos and pathos with his fellow beings. He communicates by gestures, facial expressions, emotions. Man also communicates by touch, by pictures and visual signs, by mathematical and scientific signs and symbols, by music and dance, and above all by words – spoken and written.

If speech was the first great step forward in the development of human communication, the second great milestone was invention of writing. The third great leap forward came with the invention of printing by means of which what was written could be reproduced and distributed in large quantity, thus, disseminating information and learning among ever widening circle of the community.

Man with his tremendous capabilities of intellect, wisdom and mind has been mastering his situation since his very inception. With the development of our thought, growth of our experiences and minuteness of our observations the knowledge has been growing considerably through the ages. But parallel has also been the course of human recording, which also grew and developed in relation to man’s requirements. In the light of material and the demand of the society at a particular juncture of the human history the man had been developing methods of recording his experiences through various resources. Hence an attempt has been made in this paper to trace out the various resources from the Ancient period to the modern age of new electronic information age.

## **2 Historical Evolution**

### **2.1 ANCIENT PERIOD**

The earliest writing literature was recorded through the clay tablets, wax tablets, papyrus sheets, parchment rolls etc.

The Egyptian book was made up of papyrus rolls, it was preserved in a metal cylinder with tag displaying the subject of the book.

The Greeks used Papyrus for recording their thoughts, parchment or the skin of animals, principally those of sheep and goat was also used. Vellum or the skin of lamb was used for expensive writing, while for messages and notes the Greeks used wax coated wooden tablets. The Greeks fastened together papyrus or parchment leaves as in the modern book. This was known as codex, which proved the forerunner of the book.

## **2.2 MIDDLE AGE**

During this period the zeal for learning generated by the Renaissance brought about a passionate demand for books, which could not be satisfied by hand written manuscripts. There was an urgent need for the faster medium for disseminating knowledge. Printing machine with moveable types gave great impetus to libraries during this period.

## **2.3 MODERN ERA**

Now from hardbound editions to Paperbacks we have seen them all. From roadside bookstalls to the huge shopping malls we have come across books varying in shapes and sizes etc. Along side this bewildering gusts of progress have accompanied the development of electronic systems of Communications – the telegraph and telephone and especially radio-television and satellite. The Electronic Computer has brought yet another revolutionary possibilities i.e., the computer based, electronic information system and the Internet.

## **3 Future of the book**

‘A look into the book of the future’ diagnose the problem of printing. Paper and Labour costs have been rising so steeply as to jeopardize the long-term survival of book as a major element of modern civilization. But we can emphasize that “the book has attributes of such convenience over every other existing form of information storage and retrieval that it is not likely to be easily superseded”. One is quite hesitant to endorse the

prediction that the printed book will be replaced by the electronic book or journal as come true.

## **4 Emergence of e-book**

Computers and the web have changed the way we access information and revolutionize our lives. Access to information has become speedier and more user friendly. From electronic formats of books and even entire encyclopedias to magazines, journals and guides, we can find them all on the Net and download the book of our choice into a hand held PAD or even the desktop PC.

So do we say exit paper and enter e-books? It is the digital age after all. Why trudge all the way to your local library when you can get the book you want right at home, with the click of a button? Why bother rushing through a daily news when you can read it at leisure in the online newsletter that's delivered to your office inbox every day?

That's the power that the Internet has granted us. The idea behind e-books is that you can avail books in a faster, more economical and environment-friendly manner. And they provide for a richer interaction by giving you the advantage of links to other information sources and support for multimedia. These books are easier to carry around and are extremely useful when searching for and updating information.

### **4.1 WHY E-PUBLISH?**

We don't mean here the e-books are only useful for those totally devoted to books and forever want to be reading something or the other. e-books can also serve as your first foray into the literacy world, if you are an aspiring writer, for a writer, nothing beats the pleasure of having his work published.

But in the conventional paper and ink world, this pleasure does not come easily. For one, you would have to be sufficiently recognised for a publisher to take you on. After all, why would some one invest money in your work if they were not certain of a decent return through sales? And if you decide to publish your own work, you need enough

resources and well placed contacts because distributors and retail outlets are normally reluctant to display the works of novices.

On the other hand, for you to publish an e-book today, all you would need is a word processor, a free plugin such as MS Reader that creates the e-books in the desired format and an Internet connection.

## **4.2 PROCEDURE**

All you have to do now is logon to the Net and put up your previous work in the form of an e-book on any one of the sites that allows you to publish your own e-book for free.

While you can start off with creating an e-book in text format or Rich text format (the two formats that are by and large universally accepted) this won't add the much needed functionality and readability to your e-book.

e-book make for engrossing reading only when you add interactive elements such as bookmarks (Chapter divisions), hyperlinks, tags, etc., that allow for a smoother navigation and more functionally.

## **4.3 PROBLEMS**

There are however a few problems. Owing to the fact that e-books are a relatively new medium, entrepreneurs are seeking to cash in on it as business opportunity.

Of late, the market has seen the entry of quite a few e-book readers and devices such as PDAs and hand helds.

However, an accompanying problem is the fact that some of the devices are dedicated devices, which means that they support any one particular format.

A handheld device, such as the palm or the Pocket PC that can read multiple format will therefore be preferred over these dedicated device that read only one format.

A few other technical setbacks with handheld devices include a small viewing area and also problems with the display of text and graphical image, which are in low resolution and are pixilated. As a result, eyestrain is a major complaint that people have with e-book devices, or with reading e-books off a computer screen from that matter. However, Microsoft claims to have come up with a display technology that lends the look and feel of high resolution printing to onscreen reading.

#### 4.4 BOOKS VS E-BOOKS

	Paper Book	e-books
Media	Paper	Digital format
Weight	Depends on the edition	Light and easily portable
Updates	Buy a new one	Update via the Net
Features	Excellent Photo quality	Depends upon the technology used
Cost Factor	Expensive	Rather expensive at the moment
Reach	Universal	Catching on

## 5 Conclusion

Will e-books make it big in the future, or will they remain just a passing fad? It is too early to say. Since e-books have emerged on the scene only recently, they are yet to catch up with the main stream. As of now, the two major suppliers of e-books are Amazon and Barnes and Nobles, who provide you with access to e-books at a price. While there are quite a few sites that allow you to download e-books for free, there also exists the question of copyright. But if you are looking to make your mark as a writer, then this is the perfect medium that should get you there.

## 6 References

1. **KHANNA (J.K)**. Library & Society, Research Pubn., Haryana – 1987, p. viii.
2. **KAKADE (NILESH)**. Library in your pocket, *Digit*, July 2001, P. 54 – 57.