The rise of the e-reader- the end of the printed book?

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With so much technology around us, it's difficult to consider where we would be and what our relationships would be like without the use of text, email and social media. The way we once consumed the news, literature, searching for facts and even communicating with our family and friends has changed significantly over the last ten years due to the growth of Wi-Fi technology and internet capacity.

Variations of the e-reader have actually been around since the 1940's and due to internet capability and digital progression the availability of e-books has become widespread and can be shared with ease across digital platforms. Criticized for being a gadget fad, the e-reader continues to grow in popularity and they have reduced somewhat in price since their launch.

Since the release of the e-reader, books sales have decreased all over the world. Popular online store Amazon, announced that printed books declined 34% in adult literature and 16% in children's, with e-books outselling of those printed almost two to one. So does this mark the end of the printed word?

I'm sure many booklovers would agree, there is nothing more satisfying then a crisp new book. The smell of its new pages, the colourful way it looks sitting on your bookshelf, not to mention the fulfilment one gets from turning the final page of a really great story, then snapping your book shut, knowing it was time and money well spent.

According to a recent reqard survey50% of males and 50% of females said they buy over 9 books per month.Both 40% of males and 60% of females asked stated that they own and e-reader, with 33% of males and 67% of females saying they are considering purchasing one, so it seems there must be many reasons that sales are ever increasing.

The e-reader has many benefits for people who travel often. There is nothing more annoying than reaching the airport, only to find your luggage is overweight and you have to pay a premium or throw away some of your belongings. For many people, books are often heavy and cumbersome items, particularly if you travel often so the e-reader is the perfect travel companion, with the average Sony e-reader only weighing around 250g, and there are lighter ones on the market besides.

Many students rate the e-reader, slim and lightweight, it fits into your backpack for a day in the library, and periodicals as well as online journals can be purchased and downloaded much more easily than trying to find any academic literature in the library, and is much cheaper to boot. Thousands of books and journals can be stored all in one place and you can subscribe to certain news channels, magazines or even music sites and have then sent straight to you upon release. They are easy to read too, with and back lit ?, LCD screen and long battery life (far for more than that of a normal laptop), you can take it on the bus, train or plane with you and it will fit neatly in your bag or briefcase.

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