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THE USAGE OF E-BOOKS IN HIGHER EDUCATION LEARNING

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Abstract

The rise of high end device had made most of the user especially higher education student shift from using the normal thick book to electronic books or well known as e-books. Thus, this paper aims to examine the issues of current usage of e-books in the higher education learning. The issues will be regarding the definitions related to e-books, why do the higher education student really need to utilize e-book throughout their learning, the studies made regarding the usage of e-books inside and outside the country and the facing problems in dealing with e-books. By implementing the e-books in learning, students or may be the instructors will face a new era of which they will find that learning can be made simple, and more efficient plus the knowledge could be easily accessible by the grasp of our hand.

Keyword: e-book, reading, higher education

Introduction

Readings have been one of the most popular activity to do in every level and aspects of human being from kindergarten to professionals. According to the Holy Quran,

> *"Recite in the name of your Lord who created. Created man from a clinging substance. Recite, and your Lord is the most Generous. Who taught by the pen. Taught man that which he knew not"*

(Al-'Alaq 96:1-5)

We are highly encouraged to read any kind of books as it is the source of knowledge aparts from experience. Begins from paper sheets and currently it has been digitally written; e-book. E-books on the other hand are parts of the digital library samples. It can be read by using e-book reader such as Apple iPad, Amazon Kindle, Apple iPhone or any other e-book readers available on the market. These e-books need to be downloaded first in order to save in offline for further reading anywhere as long as students have the reader along side them. Web-based e-books meanwhile are also consist as e-books but they need to have an online connection to read them. The concept of having e-books could cultivate reading and learning will keep on going even they are outside class. Meanwhile, by providing e-books and applying the other digital library sources, instructors may introduce or create a new concept of learning (Gillispie, 2007). She also stated that by implementing these sources, creative and thinking skills could be enhanced. The usage of e-books in the higher education learning is popular because e-books are portableand lighter compared to e-books. E-books is the future of books. Thus, this writing aims to focus on the definitions regarding e-books, the usage of e-books and the problem faced by higher education students in dealing with e-books.

Definition

Digital library has various digitized assets of available information retrieval system for different users in the web (Xie et al., 2015). Kahle (2007) had list up digital texts known as e-books, audio book and moving images (movies) as available digital library available freely for the visitors in the Boston Public Library. It is the job as a librarian to contribute in giving all studies of knowledge based to the users who wants to read it (Kahle, 2007).

Basically, every public library especially the campus library have their own digital library in their repositories. It is optional for the students either to fully utilize the facilities provided by the library or not. University students had been introduced to e-book since their first week of study as they had obliged to enter the 'library skill' class and the librarian told them about free e-books which they can lend. Students, especially first year students may face the problem of hard-to-get the requested e-bookas they may be the requested e-book is not there or they had problem in dealing with the library system. Besides, the problem may be is caused by actually the e-book is not actually existed. Luckily, e-book industry is evolving and the passion of producing it is parallel to the growing demand of e-books rather than the paper sheet books (Ritchie & Skoglund, 2015).

The evolution of books into the digital transformation had made the culture of reading widespread. This idea of transformation had open the mind of stakeholders and publishers to focus on developing e-books. The easy access to the online store to buy e-books, the no need to go to bookstore and the easy transfer of money online. E-books are the future of books. The previous books will transform into digital books (e-books) and the current production of books will be available on both e-books and books. By this, books will evolve online and offline, hardcopy and softcopy.

The Usage of E-book

The implementation of e-books in learning had risen since 2002 in the Laurentian University. The campus library, J.N. Desmarais Library, had the statistics of the available available e-books had rocketed from 1 to over 60,000 for the past seven years (Lamothe, 2010). This result shows that students in higher education are looking into using e-books as their reference as the demand of e-books is also high. Years passing by and students getting into the higher education also increase and they may need e-books as an alternative of books. J.N. Desmarais Library had done the study to determine the pattern of the usage general e-books by comparing the number of searches, number of viewings, and the number of e-books in the collection. The result clearly showed positive trends in all three variables (Lamothe, 2010). As a matter of fact, the accessability and the availability of e-books could not be easily concluded by a single literature study as an example the medical references (Ritchie & Skoglund, 2015).

Meanwhile, the Boston Public Library had get along with this industry by digitize all the books they have in order to provide the knowledge to the community alongside the higher education students. Interestingly, they had this idea of digitizing the book,

upload it up on the web. Then, some users may download it to read offline and the other would prefer the other way round, print them, bind them and end up to be books again (Kahle, 2007). We could not obstruct the method of reading for various kind of readers, they are paper-kind of readers and they are digital-kind of readers.

Actually, this system may actually wonderful for both the users and the supplier of e-books; the library itself. The library may charge for maybe one penny per page and they fund from selling re-published e-books may channeled to digitizing the books fund. Kahle (2007) stated that the marketing process is not quite hard as they had leave the library in a bookmobile, a MPV type of vehicle with a satellitte dish, a printer, a binder and cutter, and students can produce their own favourite book. The bookmobile may enclose up to the place that may be quite far from library and also rural areas in order to widen the reach of users. The project of digitizing books could not done if the funds stop. There are hundred thousands or maybe millions of books in a certain library to be digitized and the bookmobile if one brilliant idea of getting the fund.

A report stated that for the first time, the sale of e-books had exceed the sale of printed books, a statement by large publishing houses. This shows that acceptance of higher education students the usage of e-book have an increment. First reason is the price is cheaper. Typical students do cast on a worth the money to paid for as they does not have fixed salary. Second reason is the engagement and desire of students in selecting books on the website have more potential (Kalz, Specht & Oosterzee, 2012). The excitement and eagerness to find something on the web had trigger the students' motivation throughout their learning. Plus, by using e-books, students will gain the flexibility of learning new contexts and learning practices. They may easily access to the PDF-format given by the instructors and the size of texts could be adjusted based on desired preferences.

In Malaysia, higher education learners basically having the same situation of using e-books in their learning. Capable of fast searching within the texts with significant results, on-demand availability and never thought on losing, misplaced or damaged books are the leverage of using e-books (Che Zainab Hj Abdullah &Norliya Ahmad Kassim, 2012). The impact of issuing e-books for higher education learning is having not much different than other countries. The campus library had the digital library for student access and the collections do really helps students to be more productive. Universities in Malaysia also had the interlibrary loan system which enables students to request any other e-books or any desired sources that available in other university but not in his. The lack of books and disturbance or hanging while learning issues may be lessen by having this system.

Challenges In Using E-book

Xie et al. (2015) had discussed the application of e-books for blind users costs problems in information retrieval and rise up help-seeking situations for them in handling any digital library. Any web or digital library interactions are a listening practice for them. They will follow all the audible directions. Just imagine, how and could they use the e-books as all the written texts will be in audio mode for them. As e-books is a matter of displaying text digitally, this issue could be hard for blind students specifically in using e-books. Instructors should be taken part in handling these students as they need special

treats if they are about to be given assessments linking with e-books or any other digitally related texts.1 had provided some solutions for blind users in dealing with this issue. A help involving either system or human help. Human help might be costly as human needs training to make sure the quality of human help is sufficient. Meanwhile, system help existed into two, explicit help and implicit help. Explicit help shows help sections labelled "help" in any digital library. Lists of Frequently Asked Questions, feedback informations and search tips and informations regarding helps are examples of implicit help. The helps provided for the blinds might not be sufficient enough and further studies should be conducted in helping them.

A study by Huthwaine et al. (2011) concludes that none of the famous e-book readers offer the expected usability, functionality, accessibility for vision impaired students and compatibility with QUT Library's e-book collection including discussion of digital rights management. E-book reader is important as there is no purpose of downloading if there is no presence e-book reader. As for the usability, students do consider the weight as a main purpose follows by readability on the screen. Apple iPad, one of the famous e-book reader necessarily rejected as iPad is quite heavy to hand held. Next, the readability is the screens which is comfortably suited the eye of reader. In this case, students do prefer an E Ink screen and iPad does not have that. Next, functionality is the ability for faster speed without any lagging, easy access to the internet, printing capabilities and the most important the power for multi tasking. In this case, iPad won for only several functionalities. The third one is accessibility for vision impaired students and the last one compability. The results as stated has not fulfill the requirements for this study.

Conclusion

New books has published every single day and every users especially students do really keen on reading books even it is printed on paper or digitally printed to be displayed on e-book reader. The objective of spreading message or knowledge through writing should be acknowledged. Time and energy consumption of the author in delivering intelligence and benefiting students and human kind generally must be acknowledged and remembered.

The quantity of available e-books are expanding every day and we should contribute in the industry by participating in the study of how to utilizing the benefit of having e-book as the replacement for books and helping those with disabilities in dealing with technology. The presence of e-book may bot be accepted by some users as current issues on e-book reported that it is still lack of accessibility and availability on the web or maybe the library repositories but if the funds are sufficient enough on digitizing and xeroxing texts, there are still hope.

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