

Comparison of eReader Formats

PDF (Portable Digital File)	Features	Drawbacks
<p>A format developed by Adobe specifically to make it easy to share documents among multiple users. This is basically a snapshot of each page.</p> <p>Great for handouts, brochures and short documents.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Easy to convert other formats to PDF• Relatively small file size makes PDFs easy to transmit• Searchable• Includes thumbnails of pages	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Text is not scalable — this makes them hard to read on tablets• Almost no use of video and audio features
<p>ePub (electronic publications)</p>		
<p>This multi-platform software is perhaps the most widely used ereader program because it works on most computers and tablets. This is great for text-heavy books such as novels, but falls down when there are a lot of images.</p> <p>Good for text-heavy books but because the layout shifts depending on the reader's choices, design is difficult to control.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scalable text: You can change the size of the text (and usually the font too) and the pages will reformat automatically to fit the screen• Searchable• The location and size of images is difficult to control	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Does not include audio and video options• Because font and size can change, page layout is fluid. This can result in awkward breaks and poor design
<p>iBooks</p>		
<p>This is an Apple format that is ideal for iPads and also plays on Apple computers using OS Mavericks. Books made in this format can be given away or sold, but only through the Apple iBooks Store.</p> <p>Ideal for image-heavy books that take advantage of multi-touch features. The designer remains in control of the layout.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• By far the best integration of audio and video with text• Designer determines font and page layout• Searchable and easy to take notes, highlight, send selections in email, and more• Software can read the text out loud	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Apple-specific; iBooks will not play on Android tablets or PCs• Fixed font size is a drawback for some people

