Overview

• Models tested
• Pilot and evaluation
• Technical aspects
• Decisions
• Deployment
Texas A&M University at Qatar

- Branch campus
- 4 engineering degrees
- Small user population
  - 75 faculty, 50 research staff
- 8000 volumes, 90 journal titles
- High technological comfort level
- High use of technology and devices
What we tried

Limited testing
• Amazon Kindle
• Palm LifeDrive
• Smartphones

More extensive testing
• iRex Iliad
• iPod Touch
• Sony PRS-505 & PRS-700
Limited testing

Amazon Kindle (First generation)
• Lack of positive impression by faculty and students
• Difficult to turn on and off, not easy to hold
• Cheap look and feel
• Proprietary document type; must pay to convert files

Smartphone (HTC Touch)
• Very fine print on a very small screen
• Backlight continually turning off
• Less than a paragraph requires many page turns
• Limited source for purchases and expensive

Palm LifeDrive
• Very adequate
• Easy to load and view
• No particular user base in our environment
Best choices

iRex iLiad
iPod Touch
Sony PRS-505
Sony PRS-700
iRex iLiad

PROS

• Complex, multi-featured
• Includes wireless but no web browser
• Can read from USB, SD or Memory Pro cards
• Includes document creation, with OCR to digital
• Great zoom in / out
• Has stylus / touchscreen functionality
• Includes a power adaptor / charger

CONS

• Hard to connect – requires PC login / password
• Slightly larger, but still lightweight
• Cable kit contains dozen discrete pieces
• Slow to turn on, slow page turn
iRex iLiad

• Multi format support for technical documents
  • HTML, txt, PDF, Word, Excel, PPT, Visio, Office, CHM, EPUB docs

• Has News, Books, Docs, and Notes
  • Can setup to read from different sources
  • Can download news and device upgrades over wifi network

• Can buy or download from multiple vendors through MobiPocket Reader PC client

• Portfolio case optional; comes with shoulder bag
In 1913, when Anthony Patch was twenty-five, two years were already gone since irony, the Holy Ghost of this later day, had, theoretically at least, descended upon him. Irony was the final polish of the shoe, the ultimate dab of the clothes-brush, a sort of Intellectual "There!"—yet at the brink of this story he has as yet gone no further than the conscious stage. As you first see him he wonders frequently whether he is not without honor and slightly mad, a shameful and obscene thinness glistening on the surface of the world like oil on a clean pond; these occasions being varied, of course, with those in which he thinks himself rather an exceptional young man, thoroughly sophisticated, well adjusted to his environment, and somewhat more significant than any one else he knows.

This was his healthy state and it made him cheerful, pleasant, and very attractive to intelligent men and to all women. In this state he considered that he would one day accomplish some quiet subtle thing that the elect would deem worthy and, passing on, would join the dimmer stars in a nebulous, indeterminate heaven half-way between death and immortality. Until the time came for this effort he would be Anthony Patch—not a portrait of a man but a distinct and dynamic personality, opinionated, contemptuous, functioning from within outward—a man who was aware that there could be no honor and yet had honor, who knew the sophistication of courage and yet was brave.

A WORTHY MAN AND HIS GIFTED SON
Mobipocket for iRex iLiad

- iTunes model
- Online stores
- Books
- News
- Devices show up as drives
- Multiple vendors
iPod Touch

Can download directly online or via software
Free reader apps at iTunes store
Font clarity is outstanding
Color or b/w
Landscape or portrait
iPod Touch

Great for classics and documents, but still emerging model for bookstores.
Sony Digital Reader

- Elegant
- Slim and lightweight
- Comes with connector cable
- Must purchase separate power adaptor / charger
- Extremely easy to use
- Extremely easy to buy commercial grade books
  
  - Can authorize content on six devices (1 PC to buy, up to 5 readers)
Sony PRS-505

- 3 Clear font sizes
- No glare
- Indoor or outdoor reading
- Must have external light sources
- Cannot read in low light
Sony PRS-700

- Still elegant, slim and lightweight
- 5 clear font sizes
- 8 scales of grey
- Has stylus / touchscreen functionality
- Can create notes tied to pages as bookmarks
- Does have some reflective glare
- Indoor or outdoor reading
- Side lights for reading in the dark
Sony eBook Store (single source)

Great online bookstore (iTunes model)
Feedback from faculty testers

Some liked the readers so much they bought their own or won’t return the library readers

Preferences split between Sony and iLiad

Sony preferred for ease of use, smaller size, faster on/off

iLiad preferred for greater functionality, larger size, wireless, document creation

Some tester bought their preferred device
Decisions

Use Sony Digital Readers for fiction and leisure reading
  Built Bestseller Fiction Collection
  All readers in sync – all titles – all the time

Use iLiads for technical documentation
  Will experiment more over the next year and compare to Kindle DX

Holding off on iPods as circulating items
Technical considerations

• How to cataloging that makes sense and displays well in the OPAC?

• Texas A&M cataloger decisions
  • Catalog the device
  • Add Title / Author in 505 TOC and 700 notes

• Indexed but the OPAC display is non-sensical
Title search display

Search Request: Title starts with = careless in red

Search Results: Displaying 1 through 2 of 2 entries.

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Content

Content is everywhere

- manybooks.net
- feedbooks.com
- ipl.org
- ulib.org
How it works

1. Download and install client software
   Allows importing files and commercial purchases

2. For purchases
   Setup account
   Search for title
   Checkout & purchase – Auto download

3. Connect Reader via USB cable to PC

4. Drag and drop onto reader
Announcement to campus faculty and staff

- 50+ titles of commercial fiction
- Accept requests
- Purchase, load, deliver to user
- Keep eReaders in sync

Bestseller fiction collection

Thompson, Carole
Sent: Sun 1/25/2009 2:46 PM
To: faculty-staff

The library has acquired a bestseller collection of ebooks loaded into the Sony digital readers, available for checkout at the library public service desk. There are now 48 titles available in a variety of genres, including adventure, crime & mystery, fantasy, general fiction, historical, horror, non-fiction, romance and science fiction. Browse titles after logging in with your TAMUQ network user name at [http://library.qatar.tamu.edu/forms/DVDSearch/ebook_search.aspx](http://library.qatar.tamu.edu/forms/DVDSearch/ebook_search.aspx). Whenever possible, titles are linked to a description at the Internet Book List (iblist.com) that includes ratings, reviews, and a summary.

The library’s four Sony digital readers are very easy to use, and the checkout period is 4 weeks for faculty and staff. If you have a request for a title we don’t have, please let me know and if its available (and appropriate) we’ll add it to the collection.

Carole Thompson
Director
Library
Texas A&M University at Qatar
carole.thompson@qatar.tamu.edu
Web Search Engine

Browsing the Bestsellers collection available by

- Title with links to iblist.com description
- Author
- Genre
- Year of publication

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Records in red denote inactive ebooks

All eBooks are read on the Sony Digital Readers now available at the Library Public Service Desk.
Outcomes

Using Sony for bestseller collection
• 3 PRS-505, 1 PRS-700, can add 1 more
• Waiting list for use; always in circulation

iRex iLiad proven best for technical documentation
• Set to read from user’s flash drives

iPods are personal & attractive (too stealable?)

Will advise users on other devices
Still to come

Netbooks: Creative approach to applications for technical documents & eTextbooks

Kindle 2: Very attractive! If whispernet worked, would we let readers buy on the library dime?

Kindle DX: Pre-ordered
Questions or comments?