

SHORT CIRCUITS

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Electronic Book Readers

Having recently purchased a NuvoMedia Rocket eBook Pro, I wanted to share some thoughts with you dealing with this new technology.

There are a couple of electronic book reader options on the market now. A comparison of these appears on Barnes and Noble's online site, one of the primary distributors of the Rocket eBook and titles. Microsoft is touting its new e-book reader software, however, it currently only works on laptops (I think battery life is too short) and handheld PC's (I think the screen is too small).

The Rocket eBook is a dedicated device that does its job well. The screen is easy to read, the battery life is long, the ability to load it up with books, Web pages, and any other document from your computer is simple via the attached cradle or via the infrared port. There are many best-sellers for sale and tons of classics available for free!

Currently, the choice of electronic books is limited in the field of education. Look for this to change in the near future as textbook publishers realize the savings in production of textbooks, and parents realize the savings in the backpack weight! I can foresee a student receiving a \$269 Rocket eBook when entering sixth grade loaded with their textbooks (the Rocket eBook Pro holds up 40,000 pages and images), then, in seventh grade, wiping the old textbooks out and installing the new ones, and repeating this again in grade eight. High school teachers could load up an eBook with personalized curriculum support materials.

The Rocket eBook includes a built-in dictionary, the ability for a student to take notes on the device as they read, and also underline and bookmark text. The device also allows a keyword search to a book or article, which would help a student locate a passage.

I think infusing the Rocket eBook into a classroom would make a great grant subject ...once they get into your school, everyone from administrators to students will realize this is the way of the future!



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