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## **Pros and Cons of Ebooks**

By Chris Wasshuber

If you came this far you probably have already an interest in ebooks. But you might not be absolutely convinced of their benefits or you might have doubts and worries about some of their shortcomings; many of which I would characterize as 'alleged shortcomings'. Allow me to give you the pros and cons as I see them.

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**The Cons.** To be frank, in my opinion there are not many cons for ebooks. There are some temporary ones which will go away in the future. One con is that currently not all content is available in electronic form. However pretty much all publishers are working on offering their contents in some digital form. Other things people complain about are almost too stupid to mention here. Like paper books can be used to keep you warm in winter (by burning them) and they can double as a monitor stand or you can hit someone over the head without destroying the book or you can use them on the toilet, sheet by sheet. Well, you get the idea. I have to admit ebooks cannot be used for these kind of purposes. Others will say that the smell and touch of a regular book is what they love so much. And the resolution is so much better. And no batteries are needed. Some of these arguments have merit. But most of them will go away in the near future or will almost go away. Battery life will improve and with e-ink based devices it already has. One can read dozens of books on a single battery charge. Screen resolution will further improve. Even flexible screens may become a reality. Ebook readers which are today rigid small screen computers will be tomorrow large screen high resolution flexible reading devices. They most likely will never replicate the exact look and feel of a book, but will come pretty close.

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