

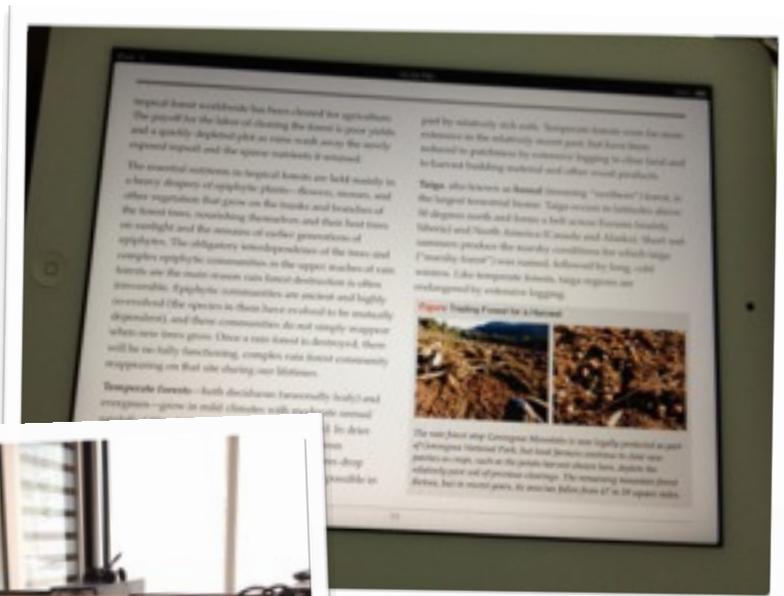
To read books or ebooks?

That is the question!

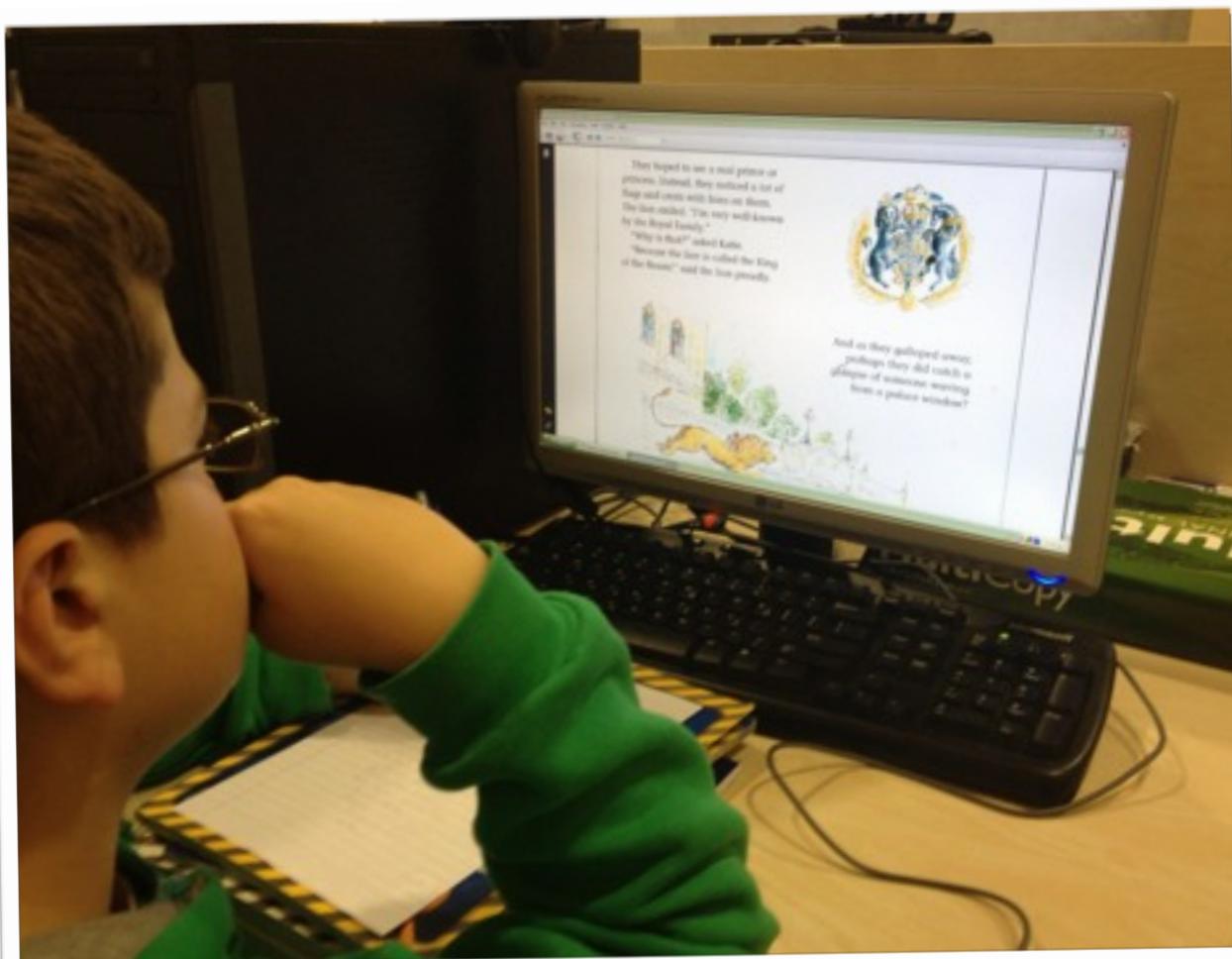
Christina Markoulaki

Article for the iTDi blog

<http://itdi.pro/blog/>



A world of electronic reading...



I think I have proven by now how much I love both traditional books and electronic books. I am very confident that contemporary readers can savour the best of both worlds easily, depending on the mood or occasion. However, since Chuck Sandy put forward the wonderful idea of having a written debate on the issue, let us all pretend for a moment that we live in a parallel universe where e-books is the only source of reading pleasure. What would we, as the citizens of this imaginary world, have to gain out of this?

With ebooks we can...

1) **Retain the feeling you get when reading on paper** through the so-called technology of **e-paper** existing in a number of mobile devices.

'Electronic paper, e-paper and electronic ink are display technologies which are designed to mimic the appearance of ordinary ink on paper. Unlike conventional backlit flat panel displays which emit light, electronic paper displays reflect light like ordinary paper. Many of the technologies can hold static text and images indefinitely without using electricity, while allowing images to be changed later.'

(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electronic_paper)

This means that it is as easy and relaxing to read on such a screen as it is to read on conventional paper.

2) **Carry with us a variety of books when travelling or commuting.** Electronic books take up a very small amount of disk space and can therefore be stored in a device, with little limitation. Imagine having to squeeze in 2 paper books in your suitcase and then compare it to comfortably carrying 20 e-books on your e-reader!

3) **Save trees!** With a quick web search, the ugly truth is revealed:

The number of trees cut down annually for the production of books sold in the U.S. is now estimated in 30 million trees, an increase of 10 million trees from the last estimate. Why is that and is the book industry going forward or backwards?

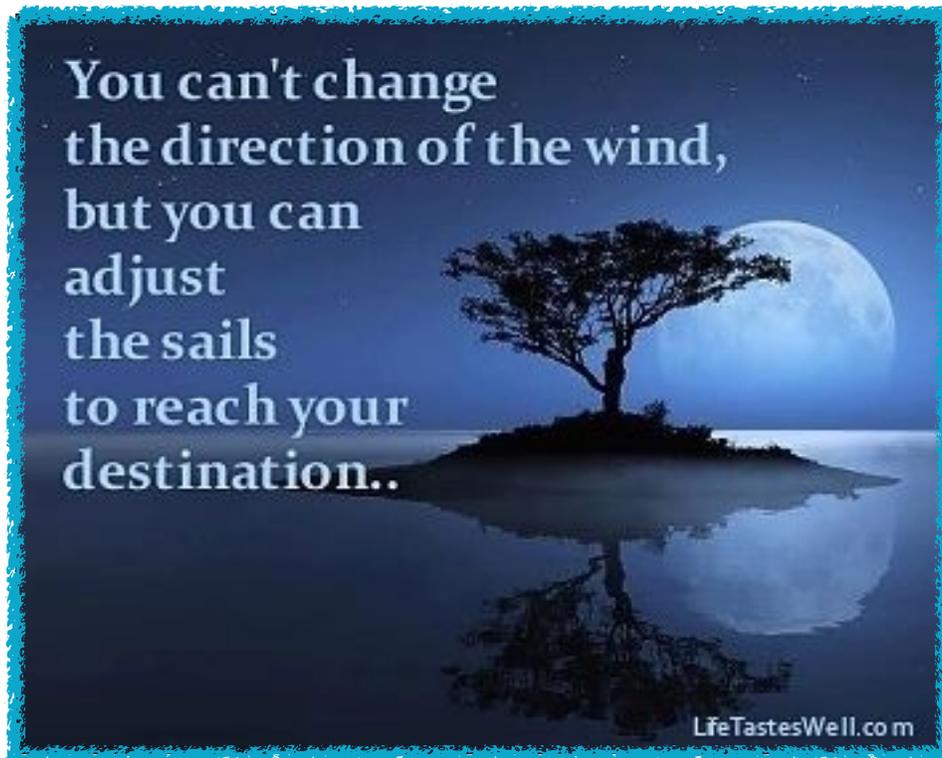
<http://www.care2.com/news/member/975758721/870633>

4) **Teach our students in a much more pleasant way!** Why deny it? All children and adults love the idea of being in front of a computer or e-reader, indulging in a text full of colourful images which also links to videos and webpages. The story springs to life and the characters appear in flesh, making students of all ages yearn to reach to the next page. What can also prove extremely handy to EFL teachers is the [wide range of cheap or totally free applications](#) existing for mobile devices aiming to enhance the reading skills of young learners. Teachers and students alike will be impressed by the vast potential offered by this combination of text, image and sound.

5) **Create impressive classroom projects** we would otherwise never have the power to realize! For instance, turning [our students' comics](#) (or other pieces of writing) into an ebook which will then be distributed online will surely expose their text to a global audience and will, in turn, give them an intense sense of satisfaction and achievement.

6) **Manage to realise literature projects, unheard and unseen before!** Did you know that the Greek writer Yannis Farsaris has compiled [stories in the length of a tweet](#) in an ebook, which is available on the Internet without charge? These stories were produced by famous Greek writers as well as everyday readers, myself included. I cannot but wonder how else the writing powers of so many people would be creatively combined without any costs involved.

And remember, whatever your reading preference may be, that...



Related links:

[Where to find free ebooks and audio books for EFL learners](#)

[A discussion on ebooks with two Greek writers](#)

[A thought-provoking article for students](#)

A few words about me: I am a G(r)reek EFL teacher & [blogger](#) who has used EdTech with students of all ages and levels. Also an iTDi associate, fascinated by cycling and books.