

Electronic books: content provision and adoption possibilities among users in Latvia.

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Abstract:

Introduction. This paper provides a brief summary of the most common advantages and disadvantages of electronic books, based on the diffusion of innovation theory. The first part of this research deals with the analysis of Latvian e-book collections available on the Internet. The second part examines the usability of e-books. Finally, the author suggests successful adoption of electronic books. Method. The research was based on content analysis and examines how user groups interact with e-books, using verbal protocol (as the main research method) and a questionnaire (as a research method). Analysis. The following categories were used to perform content analysis of Latvian e-book collections: information, availability, contents provision and information retrieval possibilities. The verbal protocol data and the observation process are transcribed and compared with answers obtained from questionnaires and content analysis. Content analysis shows there are at least fourteen collections of Latvian e-books available on the Internet, offering various types of books. The results from verbal protocols and questionnaires clearly show different expectations of and requirements among different user groups. These differences are mainly based on the respondent's age and their different levels of computer skills. Conclusions. The research shows that the analysed e-books are not suitable for long-term reading. Only some of the many e-book advantages could make them more attractive than traditional books.

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