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E-Books vs. Print

“This will kill that,” said Claude Frollo, the Archdeacon of Notre-Dame, a fictional character from Victor Hugo’s, *The Hunchback of Notre-Dame*, looking at a book, then at a cathedral. What he meant is the invention of printing, in his opinion, would have a harmful effect on cathedrals as the sources of knowledge and wisdom at that time. It seems like kind of an attitude to new things triggered debates when a certain invention was introduced to people and had a potential to replace things people had been used to for quite a while. For example, many people felt quite skeptical about movies and movie theaters when they first appeared, saying that they do not encourage people to think and analyze information or that movies would eventually kill dramaturgy. Moreover, when each family could afford to buy a TV, people started saying it would replace reading and make us dumber. Well, none of that has ever happened. People still go to the theater and read books. So, when e-books became popular in the 2000s, skeptics claimed they would kill printed books. So, are e-books so much better than printed books so that this prediction will come true?

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To sum up, comparing a printed book and an e-book and trying to define what is better is meaningless. Photo cameras did not kill painting, people still go both to movies and theaters. So, it seems like it is not a problem for an e-book and a printed book to coexist. At the same time, we can choose the option that suits us most in a particular situation—take an e-book with you on a trip to another country not to make your bags too heavy; or read a printed book at home, enjoying the unique old book smell.

Bibliography

Nathan Pyle. *The Great E-Books Vs. Print Debate*. 2014. Web