

Pros and Cons of Reading Media

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For a bookworm, the ultimate retreat is to grab a book, lie back in a cosy chair and indulge in the pleasure of reading. The concept of reading a book has long been mingled with the sensory feel of holding a book with hands, turning its pages with the ever-familiar relaxing sound or maybe going back a few pages whenever you want. But with the advent of technology, things have started to change. Booklovers have now alternatives to pursue their reading habit that were almost inconceivable just a mere 20 years back.

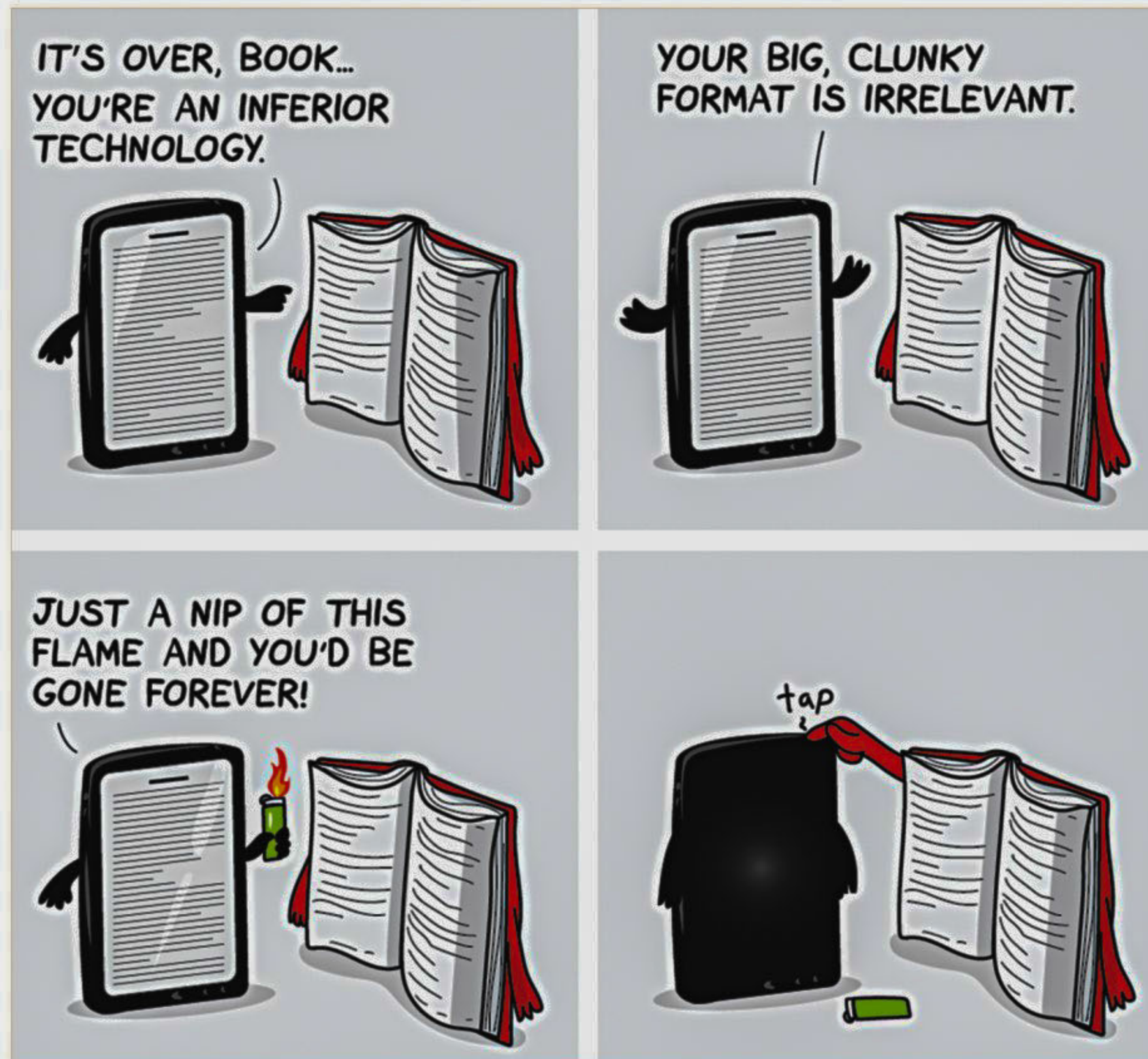
Some questions pop up these days: Have paper books lost their popularity? Why the growing inclination for reading e-books? Why are so many people reading on tablets or e-book readers instead of reading actual, real books? Well, it all depends on some vital factors that a modern-day reader has to put up with: portability, availability, utility and storage. All these factors combined shape the preferred reading medium of individual readers: paper books, tabs or e-book readers. Well, here's a comparative analysis to decide for yourself.

PAPER BOOKS

It's the REAL book. You can actually touch, smell and feel each and every word of the book that you are holding in your hands. That's the biggest comfort of reading actual books.

Upsides: For compulsive readers, real books are still the best alternative out there. You just don't get the tactile sensation otherwise.

Downsides: With modern apartments becoming smaller and interiors getting more and more minimalist, storage of books is a concern. Sometimes we run out



of places to keep the books. Also moving around with books may sometimes be cumbersome. It often takes a long time to get hold of a copy of the latest title from your favourite writer, and sometimes you can't – at all.

E-BOOK READERS:

Working Mechanism:

E-book readers like Kindle Paperwhite, Nook Glowlight, Kobo Aura, etc. use a technology called the E-ink Technology. The device screen reflects the light from

the outside on to the reader's eyes, it doesn't have the backlight like tablets have – so reduces the strain on the eyes many fold. While reading in the dark, the screen illuminates itself – but that's not like backlight in tabs, rather it directs the light towards the screen, not to the eyes of the reader.

Upsides: E-book readers can give the closest experience of reading an actual book. Useful for readers who like to read long novels or books without much illustrations and also who read more than one

hour a day. Battery longevity puts e-book readers like Kindle/Kobo way ahead in the race compared to tabs. Charging once can give you weeks of uninterrupted reading liberty.

Downsides: E-book readers don't support colours. So for predominantly comics and graphic novel readers, e-book readers are a no-no.

TABLETS:

Working Mechanism:

Contrary to e-book readers, Tablets use the backlight technology.

Upsides: The screen is illuminated uniformly, and due to high resolution display – is a fabulous reading alternative for graphic novels and comics while supporting most of the formats out there. Also lots of customizable apps to enhance the reading experience.

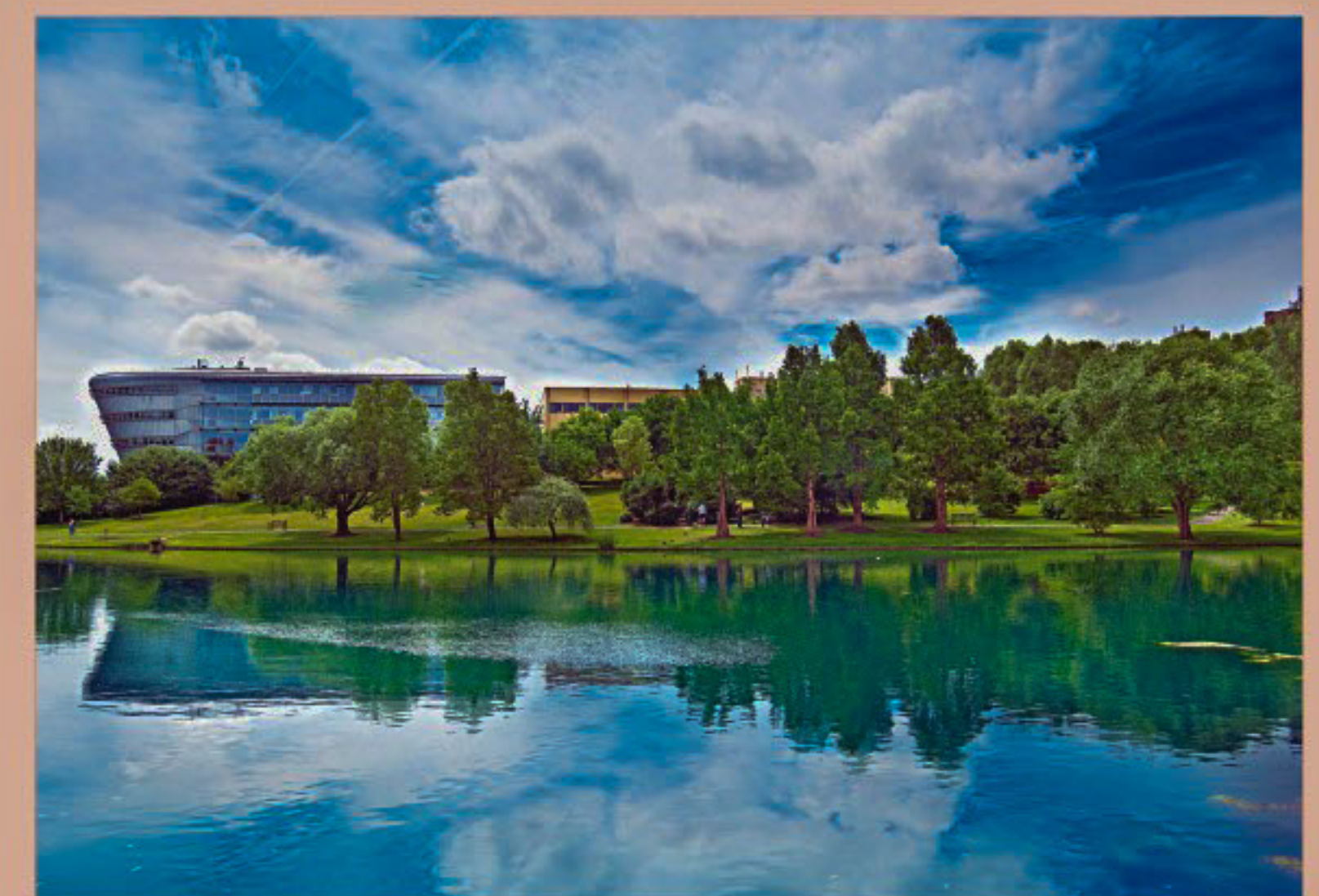
Downsides: The backlight enters the eye directly (unlike the reflected light in case of E-book readers). Reading more than 45 minutes at a stretch can cause blurriness and strain the eyes. Battery longevity is a real low-point too. Reading even with optimization and everything takes a heavy toll on your device.

Both e-book readers and tablets provide you with more than abundant storage – let you carry thousands of books inside a device that fits in your pocket. But hey, don't start thinking that paper books are getting obsolete. After all, nothing can beat the comfort of reading an "actual" book over a mug of hot coffee, right?

Ishtiaq Ahmed is a travel enthusiast who devours fictions, dreams of Paris and writes only when his brain parasites need a place to crash. Can be reached at Ishtiaq_Ahmed_26@yahoo.com

In association with **OVERSEAS STUDY LINK**, SHOUT presents quick facts about the **University of Surrey**

1. 11th best in the UK (Sunday Times Ranking).
2. 4th best in student satisfaction among UK universities in the 2013 National Student Survey.
3. Conducts world class research – 50 percent was judged to be internationally excellent. Research in Petroleum and Surface Chemistry is world leading.
4. Diverse: roughly 22 percent of the student body is international – one of the largest proportions of international students of any UK university.
5. All first year students are guaranteed accommodation if conditions are met.
6. Best subjects: Art and Design, Civil Engineering, Biological Sciences, Clinical Sciences.
7. Fees for international students around GBP 14,000 to GBP 15,000.
8. Most undergraduates complete their degree on time (around 91 percent).



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