

If we lend them will they come?

*Experiences of lending ebook readers at the
Glucksman Library, UL.*

LIR SEMINAR Dublin, March 25th 2011

Why did UL buy ebook readers?

- Growing ebook collection
- Promote use of ebooks
- Technology awareness
- Experimental project
- Enhance access to digital content
- Improve service offerings at a relatively low cost

Many ebook readers available

- Samsung's Papyrus
- Irex Iliad
- Fujitsu Flepia
- Hanlin ereader
- Foxit eSlick reader
- Interead Cool-er
- Polymer Vision's RADIUS
- The Nook (*Barnes & Noble*)

Options considered

Amazon Kindle



SONY PRS600



Apple iPad



Why SONY PRS600?

- Established brand
- Easy to use and support
- SONY retail outlet in Limerick
- Will play audio
- Experience of other libraries
- No Wi-fi capability
- No network compatibility concerns

SONY PRS600



Choosing content

- Supply model
- Digital Rights Management (DRM)
- Number of ereaders
- Experimental nature of project
- Scope of library to support
- Ability of borrowers to load own content

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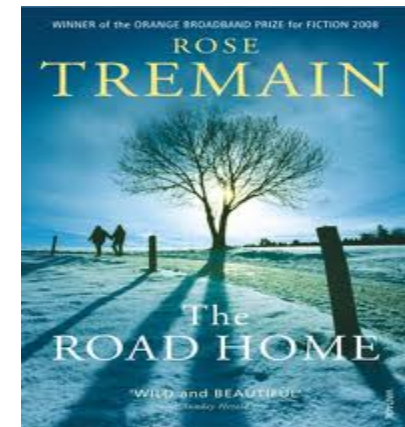
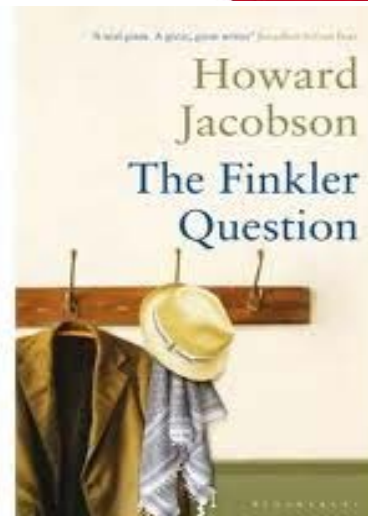
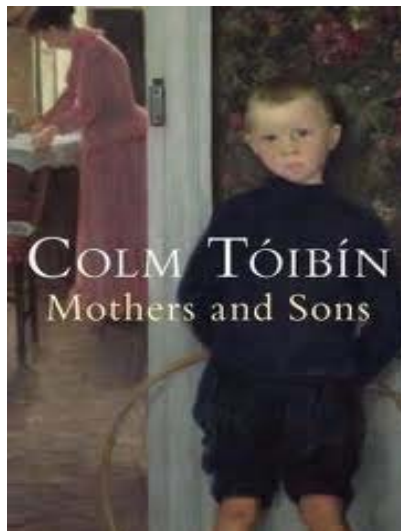
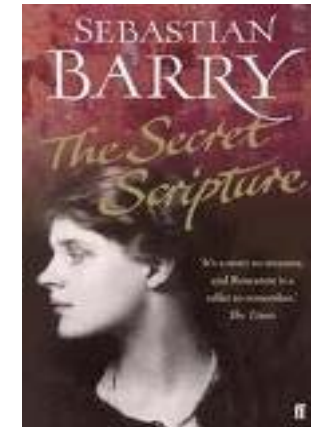
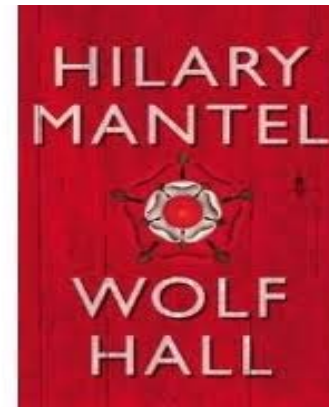
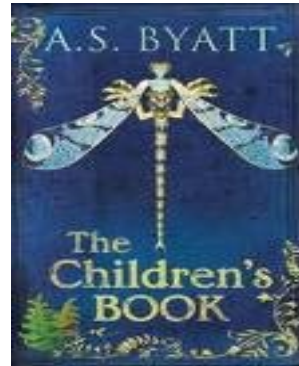
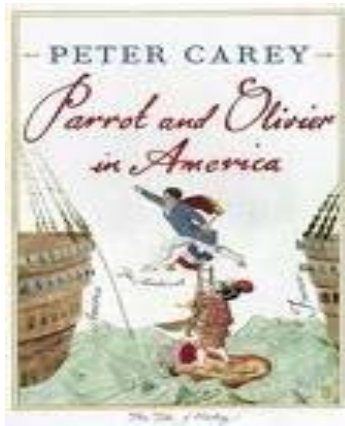
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LIBRARY

Purchased ebooks from Waterstones



GLUCKSMAN LIBRARY

Borrow an E-Book Reader from the Library



Sony PRS600 Touch Edition

Launched September 2010

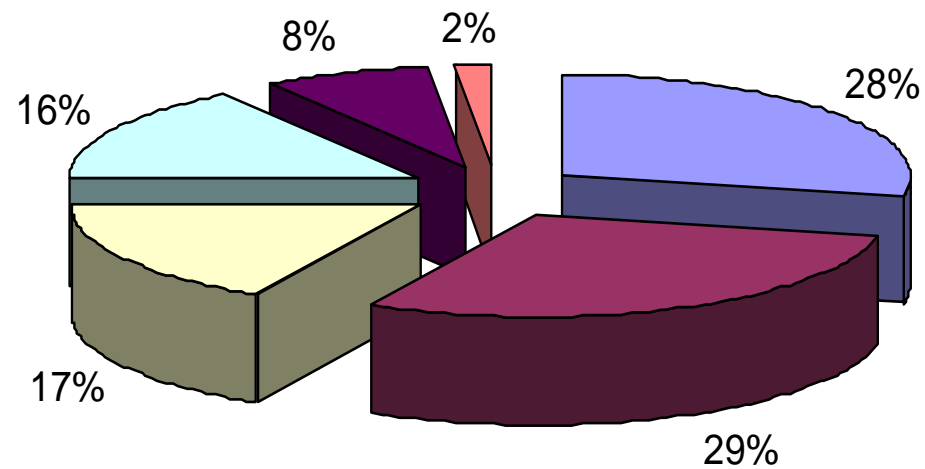


Borrowing arrangements

- Tested by library staff before lending
- Provided basic staff training
- [Webpage](#) to support ereaders, Youtube links
- 7 day loan
- Late returns attract standard library fines
- [Liability](#) rests with borrower for damage/loss
- [Survey](#) handed out upon return

Who is borrowing the ereaders?

Loan history Sept 2010 - Feb 2011



Library Staff

Undergraduate

Taught Postgrad

Erasmus

University staff

Research Postgrad

Project costs

10 ereaders @ €289 each	€2,890
Printing logo on sleeves, posters	€325
23 Waterstones ebooks	€460
Total	€3,675

Paid for by funding sourced through
UL UlsterBank Student Enablement Fund

Feedback on our experience

- Audience
- Awareness
- “Embeddedness”
- Marketing
- Need
- Technology

What did people think?

- *Very good especially if you have bad eyesight*
- *More titles please*
- *I found it dark – I felt I wanted to control the contrast all the time*
- *Would have preferred an illuminated screen*
- *Possibly instructions should have been provided*
- *It's great having almost a whole library in your hands*
- *It was unclear to me how to check what books are available to read on the ereader*
- *I would love to try out an iPad...*

What have we learned?

- Lending time should be 2 weeks minimum
- Should list individual titles in catalogue
- Installed CALIBRE for student PCs in library – was not necessary
- No issue with late returns
- Try iPads next time

*Please get in touch if you want to
ask me anything about our
experiences with these ereaders*

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Additional reading

- Zimmerman, M. 2011 *E-readers in an academic library setting*. *Library Hi-Tech*, Vol. 29, No. 1, 2011, pp. 91-108.
- Drinkwater, K. 2010 E-book readers: what are librarians to make of them. *SCONUL Focus*, No. 50, pp. 15-21.