

# Should you buy an e-reader or a tablet?

The differences between an e-reader (Kobo, Kindle) and a tablet (iPad, Samsung Galaxy) are **price and function**. An e-reader is strictly for reading and is therefore less expensive. A tablet is more like a portable computer and allows you to surf the internet, check e-mail and social media, watch movies and use apps.



## E-Readers

There are a variety of e-readers on the market today but the Kobo (Chapters/Indigo) has recently monopolized the market here in Canada due to its compatibility with E-Libraries.

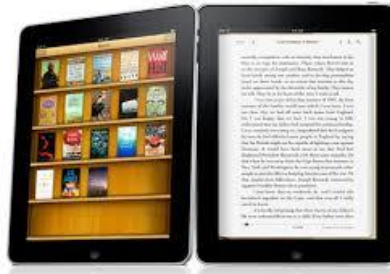
### E-Reader Pros:

- **More affordable.** A basic Kobo runs about \$129.99 with a waterproof, slightly larger-screened model available for \$199.00. (\*\*The newest model, the Kobo Aura One (\$249.99) is currently being marketed as an all-in-one reader which allows you to download books from E-Libraries directly onto your device without linking to a computer. However, this function is currently **not available in Manitoba**. \*\*)
- **Longer battery life.** Because an e-reader is designed purely for reading and does not perform other functions, the battery can last up to an entire month without needing a charge. This makes it a fantastic option for traveling.
- **Easier on the eyes.** The Kobo is not backlit. While models now come with a built-in light, the reading screen still appears as a regular, white “paper” page, which causes less strain on the eyes.

### E-Reader Cons:

- **Less user-friendly.** Using a Kobo with eLibraries Manitoba requires you to download the ebooks onto a computer first and then transfer them onto your Kobo using the usb cord that came with your device. Software downloads are required and there are more steps involved in getting those books onto your reader.
- **No colour.** If reading picture books or magazines in colour is important to you, you might want to consider a tablet.





# Tablets

The most popular tablet is still Apple's iPad. If price is a concern, the Samsung Galaxy is a more affordable Android option which offers similar functions but the iPad is considerably more user-friendly with eLibraries.

## Tablet Pros:

- **More options.** A tablet offers more functions than an e-reader, allowing you to also watch movies, visit websites, check e-mail...virtually anything else that a computer would offer. As long as you have a wifi connection, you can access E-Libraries from anywhere in the world, all within one simple device.
- **Easy.** Once you have completed the set up of your tablet and connected to the App Store (iPad) or Google Play (Android), you simply download the free Overdrive App, create an account and download ebooks directly onto your device, anywhere there is wifi. No computer is necessary.
- **Colour.** A tablet is full colour, while an e-reader is black and white only.
- **Larger screen.** Even an iPad mini is slightly larger than a typical e-reader and a full-sized iPad allows you to read on a larger screen and also to enlarge font with ease, making every book potentially a large print version.

## Tablet Cons:

- **Price.** Apple products range from \$329 for an iPad mini to up to \$1029 for a top of the line, larger sized iPad Pro. However, a basic full-sized iPad, which is typically enough for most users, is \$479.99. Android tablets tend to be slightly more affordable.
- **Battery life.** Depending on usage, a tablet will typically require daily charging.
- **Eye-Strain.** Because it is backlit, some people find reading on a tablet harder on their eyes.
- **Visibility in bright sunlight.** It is difficult to read the screen in bright sunlight. If you read outdoors a lot you're going to have to turn the brightness all the way up in order to see the words...which means reduced battery life.

# To Sum Up...

*If you're looking for a device to use for reading and nothing else and you don't mind a few more steps in order to use E-Libraries Manitoba, stick with an e-reader. If you are looking for ease of use, don't mind spending a little bit more, and plan to use your device for things other than reading, a tablet is the way to go!*