



What's Happening in Publishing? Book's Face-3- 13/06/2014

Why the Smart Reading Device of the Future May Be ... Paper | Science | WIRED

Many questions remain. If reading shorter texts on screen or paper is indeed a matter of preference, does the same hold for deep reading? Can interface designers find better workarounds for the physical limitations of screens? Will people eventually adapt, with screen-trained readers finding new ways of creating structures in the absence of tactile cues? Jager-Adams thinks it's possible that deep reading, at least for many people, may eventually prove to be intertwined with the physical form of paper books. If that's true, it's all the more reason to appreciate them. "We should be wary of saying, 'That's the way we're going to read in the future anyways, so why resist?'" said Mangel. "There is something to deep reading and deep thinking that is worth making an effort to preserve." Whether we need paper to do that remains to be seen. For now, though, there's still plenty of life in those dead trees.

Accessible Books Consortium: ABC Benefits for All - Daisy.org

The EIGHTH INTERIM REPORT OF THE STAKEHOLDERS' PLATFORM was presented at the WIPO/SCCR, 27th session. The outcome will be the evolution of pilot projects which focused on capacity building, TIGAR, and inclusive publishing into a permanent, multi-stakeholder entity – the Accessible Books Consortium which will be officially launched on June 30. ABC will comprise an alliance of WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organization), organizations which serve or represent individuals who have a print disability, and rightsholders, including both authors and publishers. It will also include the following international umbrella organizations (among others): World Blind Union DAISY Consortium International Association of Scientific, Technical & Medical Publishers International Authors' Forum International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions International Federation of Reproduction Rights Organizations International Publishers Association.

Folio Vidéo : des livres numériques enrichis

Les éditions Gallimard viennent de lancer une version renouvelée de leurs ouvrages de poche Folio. Dénommée « Folio+Vidéo », cette collection propose des livres numériques enrichis avec pour but affiché de redonner le goût de lire aux adolescents. Particulièrement ciblée sur les grands classiques apparaissant au bac de français, cette collection associe au texte des commentaires rédigés pas des professeurs agrégés. Jusque-là, rien de bien nouveau, sauf que, ces commentaires sont interprétés en vidéo par des comédiens bien connus des jeunes générations. De quoi donner du relief donc à ces informations si utiles pour les lycéens. A partir du 2 juin prochain, quatre premiers titres de cette collection seront proposés au téléchargement sur l'iBookStore. On pourra découvrir Candide de Voltaire, L'Ecole des femmes de Molière, Les Fleurs du mal de Baudelaire et les Fables de La Fontaine. Chaque livre numérique est proposé au prix de 4,99 €, avec entre 1h et 1h30 de vidéos par titre.

Feedbooks lance son offre multilingue pour les bibliothèques - Blog Feedbooks

En plus de sa participation dans le projet PNB (voir billet L'offre numérique à destination des bibliothèques arrive sur Feedbooks et Prêt numérique en bibliothèque (PNB) : le point sur les licences de prêt), Feedbooks travaille à la mise à disposition d'une offre de livres numériques multilingue à destination des bibliothèques de lecture publique. 1. Offre en anglais Depuis quelques jours, le catalogue collectivités intègre près de 14 700 titres en anglais de Macmillan, l'un des plus grands éditeurs américains (Faber & Faber, St. Martin's Press, Farrar, Straus and Giroux et en SF Tom Doherty Associates). Feedbooks travaille à l'extension de son offre anglo-saxonne pour les bibliothèques en dehors des USA, et proposera dès cet été plus de 100 000 titres à destination de la France, la Belgique, la Suisse et le Canada.

Companies to watch : Five notable digital publishing start-ups

Because I write and consult at the intersection of publishing and technology, I am sometimes approached by digital publishing start-ups whose founders want to better understand how the industry works and may evolve. Almost all of them have good ideas, though they at times struggle to find a home within the traditional order. I wanted to highlight five start-ups whose approaches I've found notable. They include: K.lab Berlin
Formerly Enthrill
PowerLink

The Real Reason Enhanced Ebooks Haven't Taken Off (Or, Evan Schnittman Was Right... For the Most Part) | Digital Book World

According to a recent article on the Futurebook blog, so far no publisher has proven that Evan Schnittman, industry thought-leader and current executive vice president and chief marketing and sales officer of Hachette Book Group, was wrong when he declared enhanced ebooks and apps essentially dead and a non-starter for publishers during a presentation at London Book Fair in 2011 (he was with Bloomsbury at the time). Further, with Book Expo 2014 coming up, the topic of enhanced ebooks is conspicuously missing from the agenda. Though there are one or two such panels scheduled during the IDPF Digital Book conference, what does it mean when there are no general sessions planned to address this subject? Does it signal that most publishers have given up on spending the time and resources on developing interactive reading experiences? Have they simply determined there's no real market for these kinds of digital products? Was Evan Schnittman correct? Overall, I'd venture to say, for the most part, the answer is a resounding yes. Despite plenty of debate about the merits of enhanced ebooks, not enough attention has been paid to the real reason digital projects featuring embedded video, audio, and other forms of interactivity haven't resonated with readers:

Livres numériques : Amazon met aussi la pression en Allemagne | IDBOOX

Amazon a entamé un bras de fer avec Hachette Book Group afin d'inciter le groupe d'édition à proposer des marges plus intéressantes pour le détaillant en ligne. Pour arriver à ses fins, la multinationale pénalise la vente des livres des multiples maisons d'édition américaines d'HBG : retards dans les livraisons, affichage de disponibilités extrêmement longues n'incitant pas l'internaute à passer commande sur les livres du catalogue proposé par Hachette (lire notre article détaillé). Il semblerait qu'Amazon procède de la même manière avec le groupe Bonnier en Allemagne. Le Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung a rapporté que Bonnier groupe, appartenant à des éditeurs allemands de renom comme Ullsteinhaus, Piper, Berlin et Carlsen, serait lui aussi victime de procédures commerciales agressives. Le bras de fer concerne le catalogue d'ebooks de la société. Les commerciaux de la firme de Jeff Bezos insisteraient lourdement pour que les maisons d'édition baissent le prix des livres numériques de 50% au lieu des 30 ou 40% pratiqués habituellement. Pour les forcer à cela, ils emploieraient les mêmes méthodes : délais de livraison anormalement longs et affichage aléatoire des livres sur le site Amazon.de. La multinationale aurait confirmé que ces retards sont liés aux négociations en cours.

Hachette reveals Amazon digital sales share | The Bookseller

Amazon has a 78% market share of Hachette Livre e-book titles in the UK and a 60% share in the US, an Investor Day presentation by Hachette Livre has revealed. (...) The presentation has also discussed a necessary "rebalancing" between the company's US and UK operations. The report said that 60% of digital sales of Hachette titles are through Amazon in the US, followed by Barnes & Noble with a 19% share and Apple iBooks with a 13% share, while "others" including Kobo and Google share 8% of the pie. (...) Consolidation will be inevitable for the publisher, the report said, following the merger of Penguin and Random House last year, creating a big player in the US and the UK markets, and also following the acquisition of Harlequin for HarperCollins earlier this year. "Publishers need size and muscle in order to keep control over relations with authors over pricing and distribution," Hachette said.

James Patterson blasts Amazon at BEA; Slate blames publishers for Amazon's practices » Quill and Quire

A prominent industry analyst, Mike Shatzkin, has been arguing for some time that publishers ought to raise ebook royalty rates. For him, the point is not that this would be the fair thing to do; he just thinks it would be the best move strategically. By leaving royalty rates where they are, publishers have left their nice digital margins hanging out there for everyone to see. And when Amazon sees someone else's healthy profits, it's like a dog smelling a steak. As Jeff Bezos has said, "Your margin is my opportunity." What I suspect is happening right now is that Amazon is telling Hachette that they want some of that margin. If Hachette had spread some of those digital profits to authors in the first place, it would not be vulnerable to this tactic.

Hachette Puts out Response to Amazon Statement, Rejects Author Pool Before Agreement Is Reached | Digital Book World

"It is good to see Amazon acknowledge that its business decisions significantly affect authors' lives. For reasons of their own, Amazon has limited its customers' ability to buy more than 5,000 Hachette titles. Authors, with whom we at Hachette have been partners for nearly two centuries, engage in a complex and difficult mission to communicate with readers. In addition to royalties, they are concerned with audience, career, culture, education, art, entertainment, and connection. By preventing its customers from connecting with these authors' books, Amazon indicates that it considers books to be like any other consumer good. They are not."

Amazon Stops Taking Advance Orders for 'Lego' and Other Warner Videos - NYTimes.com

The Everything Store is shrinking again. Amazon customers who want to order forthcoming Warner Home Video features, including “The Lego Movie,” “300: Rise of an Empire,” “Winter’s Tale” and “Transcendence,” are finding it impossible to do so. The retailer’s refusal to sell the movies is part of its effort to gain leverage in yet another major confrontation with a supplier to become public in recent weeks. In a standoff with the Hachette Book Group, Amazon is refusing to take advance orders and delaying shipments. Amazon and Hachette are wrangling over e-book terms. The retailer is in a third standoff in Germany, with the Bonnier Media Group. Disputes between retailers and vendors happen every day. What is unusual here is not Amazon’s relentless desire to gain margin from its suppliers, but the suppliers’ growing resolve to hold the line. If other suppliers adopt the same attitude, that might have significant implications for Amazon’s pell-mell growth.

Ebooks Account for 34% of Q1 Revenues for Hachette in U.S., 40% in UK | Digital Book World

At Hachette Livre: Hachette Livre delivered net sales of €393M, down 5.3% over first quarter 2013, with the decrease attributed to the “spectacular success of the Fifty Shades trilogy in France” in the first quarter last year, according to Lagardère’s press release (the trilogy sold 1.8 million copies in France). Sales in Q1 2014 were stable compared to Q1 2012. France saw solid growth (+10.9%) in their Partworks business, and in illustrated books. In the English-speaking countries (US, UK, Commonwealth) business was down slightly, due in part to “some postponements of releases.” Ebook sales for the publishing division “outperformed a stabilizing market.” Ebooks now represent 13.4% for Hachette Livre, up from 12.4% in Q1 2013. In the US, ebooks represent 34% of net trade sales, consistent with the same period last year, while in the UK ebook sales make up 40% of net Adult trade sales, up from 31% in Q1 2013.

AAR Calls Out Amazon in Hachette Dispute

After little has been said by literary agents about the ongoing retail terms dispute between Amazon and Hachette, the Association of Authors' Representatives has fired an arrow--albeit a verbal one--at the retail giant. In a letter sent by the AAR to Amazon, which PW has obtained, the organization says it "deplores any attempt by any party that would seek to injure and punish innocent authors – and their innocent readers -- in order to pursue its position in a business dispute."