Tablets 102
E-Readers & Tablets

- What are the options and some of the differences between the various devices?
- General Pricing Information
- Tablet Features
- Which one is best for me?
- Which one shouldn’t I buy?
- Pre-requisites
- Library Services
- Upcoming Programs
- Questions
What are the options?

- **E-Readers**
  - Kobo, Nook

- **Tablets**
  - 7”-12” colour screen
  - iPad, Android-based, Windows 8

- **High-end tablet**
  - MS Surface Pro 3
  - Laptop replacement
  - Runs full Windows operating system

- **Smart-phones / Phablets**
  - Same as above, but with 3.5”- 6.0” screens
  - iPhone, Android-based, Windows
  - BlackBerry BB10 (Z20, Classic, Passport)
E-Readers

• Generally e-readers are the least-expensive option - $80-$200
• Monochromatic screen (e-paper) that is very easy to read in bright light and easy on the eyes
• Limited functionality – just for reading ebooks
• Relatively light-weight
• Can store hundreds or thousands of books
• Battery charge can last weeks
• Must transfer books to device via computer using Adobe Digital Editions* in most cases
• Some have wifi & browser functionality
• Kobo, Nook
Tablets

- Tablets are multi-function devices, very similar to a laptop computer, but with a touch screen and on-screen keyboard.
- 3 main tablet platforms:
  - Apple iPad
  - Android-based (multiple vendors, including Kobo Arc)
  - Microsoft Windows (RT & Pro)
- BlackBerry Playbook & Windows RT have been discontinued.
Tablets

• Programs (apps) are installed via online store
  • Many are free (ad supported), some paid
  • Requires link to Credit Card

• Requires wireless Internet:
  • Media streaming (video, audio)
  • Web browsing, email
  • News feeds, weather
  • Download ebooks (OverDrive)
  • Rent/buy movies, TV shows, books (hoopla)

• Local content without Internet
  • Read ebooks
  • Watch videos
  • Listen to music
  • Play games
Tablet Features

- Operating System
  - Apple iOS
  - Google Android
  - Microsoft Windows

- Memory
  - RAM (1 – 4 GB)
  - Internal Storage (8 - 128 GB)
  - MicroSD Storage

- Screen Size, Resolution & Pixel Density
  - 4-6” Smartphone / Phablet
  - 7-8” Midsized Tablet
  - 9-12” Large Tablet
  - 720 = 1280 x 720
  - 1080 = 1920 x 1080
  - 4K = 3840 x 2106
Tablet Features

- **Wireless Connectivity**
  - WiFi – 802.11 a/b/g/n/ac
  - 3G/4G/LTE – Cellular data (Mobile)
  - BlueTooth – Headphones, speakers, watch, car

- **Camera**
  - Measured in megapixels
  - Rear-facing, front-facing, flash, OIS

- **Speakers**
  - Front-firing, bottom-firing, rear-firing

- **Inputs & Outputs**
  - Charging – micro-USB, mini-USB, Lightning Port
  - Headphones – 3.5 mm
  - MicroSD slot – additional memory
  - Full-sized USB port

- **Battery Life**
  - eReaders such as Kobo can last weeks
  - Tablets and smartphones require daily charging
Apple iPad

- A very popular and easy-to-use operating system with over 900,000 apps
- 2 sizes:
  - Apple iPad Air 2 (9.7” screen) $549 - $769
  - Apple iPad Mini 3 (7.9” screen) $439 - $659
  - Available in black or white with 16, 32, 64 or 128 GB Memory
  - Last year’s models around $100 cheaper
- 2 variants
  - Wifi-only
  - Wifi+3g (cellular) – add $140
- Supports SCPL’s digital media collection
  - OTA via OverDrive Media Console (epub & MP3)
  - WMA via Windows-based computer (phased out)
Android-based Devices

• A very popular and easy-to-use operating system with over 900,000 apps
• Android OS developed by Google
• Used by many different hardware vendors - Samsung, Acer, Asus, Kobo Arc, Nexus-branded (Google)
• 2 general sizes:
  • 7” tablet & 10” tablet
• Entry-level to high-end
  • Screen resolution, CPU, RAM, storage
• Supports SCPL’s digital media collection
  • OTA via OverDrive Media Console (epub & MP3 only)
  • No WMA support
Windows RT

• Microsoft’s ARM-based tablet OS
• Discontinued by Microsoft
• Specs:
  • Various Manufacturers (Microsoft Surface, Acer, Asus, Samsung)
  • 7” - 10” Screen
  • Does not run “regular” 3rd-party Windows applications
  • Apps installed/purchased via Windows Store
  • OverDrive Media Console for Windows RT
  • $200 - $700
    • Memory (RAM and storage)
    • Accessories (Magnetic BT keyboard)
  • Late to the game
  • Limited apps (50,000 apps)
Microsoft Surface Pro 3

• Microsoft’s Intel-based high-end tablet
• Specs:
  • 12” Screen with pressure sensitive digitizer & stylus
  • Intel-based CPU
  • Runs “regular” 3rd-party Windows applications (i.e. x86-based)
  • Apps also installed via Windows Store
  • OverDrive Media Console for Windows 8
  • $850 and up to $2000
    • Specs vary (CPU: i3, i5, i7 )
    • Memory (64, 128, 256, 512 GB)
  • Support for USB devices & some printers
Windows Tablets

• Microsoft is in the process of developing Windows 10
• Will be offered free to many qualified devices
• Make sure that any Windows tablet purchase allows for upgrade to Windows 10
Screen Digitizers

• Some tablets include screen digitizer
  • Provides 1,000+ levels of pressure-sensitivity for on-screen writing with stylus
  • Great for note-taking, drawing/sketching
  • Can be found on both Android and Windows-based tablets
    • Windows Surface Pro 3 12”
    • Lenovo ThinkPad 10
    • Toshiba Encore 2 Write 8/10
    • Asus VivoTab Note 8
    • Samsung Galaxy Note 8/10/12 (also on Samsung Galaxy Note phones)
    • EVGA Tegra Note 7
And if those weren’t enough...

- You can also get all of the above in a 4” - 6” smartphone
  - iPhone
  - Android-based
  - Blackberry Z30 & Passport (can install & run Android apps from Amazon store)
  - Windows Phone
Smartphones

- Smartphones require voice and/or data plan
- Many carriers subsidize price of phone by up to $500 when signing up for a 2-yr contract (Rogers, Telus, Bell)
  - For example, a $650 phone is offered at $150 on a 2-yr. term
- Some carriers (Koodo, VirginMobile) offer no contract terms but with smaller subsidies (aka “Tab”)
  - Pay more up front for the phone, but less on monthly charges
  - Break-even point is typically around 2 years
- Smartphones have the same functionality as their larger tablet siblings, but with smaller screens
  - Specs vary from entry-level ($200+), to mid-range ($400+) to high-end ($600+)
  - Content can be downloaded over wifi or 3G cellular network
Which Device is Best?

- It depends on a number of factors:
  - What do you want to do with the device?
    - Media consumption
      - Just read? Listen to Audiobooks?
      - Play games?
      - Watch movies?
      - Listen to music?
    - Casual Use
      - Check your e-mail?
      - Browse the internet?
    - Content creation
      - Work, school, take pictures, videos
    - Make phone calls?
    - Carry it with me everywhere?
  - How much do I want to spend?
    - $100? 200? $500? $1,000?
Which Device is Best? (cont)

- Where am I going to use it?
  - Work? School? Home use?
  - Vacation? Outside? On the beach?
- What other devices do I own?
  - Computers (Windows, Mac, Linux)?
  - Music Players (MP3, iPod, etc.)?
  - Investment in ecosystem (Apple iTunes/App Store, Google Play)?
- Who is going to use it?
  - Tech savvy vs. inexperienced or first-time users
Which Device is Best? (cont)

• What is your comfort level with gadgets?
  • iOS (operating system found on Apple products) is the same across all devices (iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad)
  • Android is open source and customizable
    • Stock version is maintained by Google
      • Jelly Bean 4.1-4.3, Kit Kat 4.4 & Lollipop 5.0
      • Nexus devices get updates first
      • Other devices are updated by vendor and/or carrier
      • Leads to fragmentation, as some devices are not updated
    • User interface (UI) can be different between vendors
      • Nexus – Stock Android
      • Motorola – MotoBlur
      • Samsung – TouchWiz
      • HTC – Sense
    • Or customized by end-user
      • Widgets & launchers
      • Custom ROMs
Which one shouldn’t I buy?

- Check the official supported devices list:
  - [http://www.overdrive.com/drc](http://www.overdrive.com/drc)

- eReaders
  - Kindle
    - Device sold by Amazon in the US
    - Does not support encrypted ePub formats
    - Currently only supported in US Libraries
Which one shouldn’t I buy?

• Tablets & Smartphones
  • Windows RT - Discontinued
  • Avoid entry-level and off-brand Android devices with low specs
  • If you intend to listen to Audiobooks from OverDrive
    • Published in 2 formats:
      • MP3 and WMA, although OverDrive is phasing out WMA
      • MP3 format audiobooks
        • No DRM (digital rights management)
        • Plays on most devices
        • OverDrive Media Console supports “over-the-air” transfers of MP3 to Android & iOS-based devices
    • WMA format (Windows Media Audio) audiobooks
      • Requires a Windows-based computer to decrypt and transfer the files to your device (iPod/iPad/iPhone, Zune, other WMA-capable device)
      • No Android, BlackBerry, Windows RT support at this time
My Recommendations

• First-time User and/or Technophobes
  • iPad
    • Best overall experience
    • Easy-to-use for first-time users
    • Consistent user interface across devices (iPhone, iPad, iPod)
    • Excellent build quality
    • No variation in hardware specs within each generation (except mem)
    • Excellent app support and development
    • Wide assortment of accessories (cases, docking stations, etc.)
    • OS updates are delivered across all supported devices at the same time
  • Cons
    • Price
    • Limited customization
My Recommendations

- **Tech Savvy**
  - Android-based
    - Easy-to-use, however, UI can be slightly different across devices
    - Nexus-branded devices (Google) offer stock Android OS, as well as immediate updates
    - Excellent app support and development
    - Good price vs. performance ratio
    - Customizable
    - Hackable (Custom ROMs such as Cyanogen Mod)
    - Avoid off-brand, entry level devices
- **Cons**
  - UI can be a little different across devices
  - Hardware specs can vary greatly (performance, resolution, etc.)
  - OS updates can be delayed (come from manufacturer, not Google)
  - In other words, you get what you pay for
My Recommendations

• Desktop / Laptop Replacement
  • Windows Surface Pro
    • More expensive than RT devices
    • Built on x86 architecture – can run regular Windows apps
    • Excellent laptop replacement
    • Can run regular Windows programs
    • Full-screen digitizer and stylus allows 1024 levels of pressure sensitivity
    • Excellent for note-taking, drawing, etc.
Pre-requisites

• eReaders
  • Internet connection
  • Computer (Windows, Mac)
    • Adobe Digital Editions
    • Adobe Digital ID (the “key” to unlock DRM’ed files)

• Tablets
  • Wireless internet access
  • OverDrive Media Console
    • Only ebooks and MP3 can be downloaded “over-the-air”
    • Adobe Digital ID

• WMA Audiobooks – Phased Out
  • Supported device (iPad/iPod, Zune, SanDisk, etc)
  • Windows PC
  • Windows Media Player (plus device software: iTunes, ActiveSync)
Library Services

- OverDrive (eReader or Android/iOS/Windows device)
  - 7,800+ eBooks & Audiobooks
  - Traditional circulation method (1 copy, 1 borrower)
  - No late fees, maximum 5 items out at a time
- Hoopla Streaming Service (Android/iOS/Windows device only)
  - 2,500+ Movies
  - 500+ TV Shows
  - 100,000+ Full-length Music Albums
  - 10,000+ Audiobooks
  - No wait list, no late fees, borrow 8 titles per month
- Zinio (Android/iOS/Windows device only)
  - 134 Electronic Magazines
  - No wait list, no limits, yours to keep
- Freegal (Android/iOS/Windows device only)
  - DRM-free MP3 music downloads from the Sony catalogue
  - 8,000,000+ songs, 16,000+ videos
  - No wait list, 7 downloads per week, yours to keep
Upcoming Programs

• Computers 2
  • Friday, April 24 – 10:00 - 11:30 am

• Windows 8
  • Friday, April 24 – 2:00 - 3:30 pm

• Tech Time @ Dr. Huq
  • Saturday, April 25 - 9:30 - 11:30 am

• Computers 2
  • Wednesday, April 29 - 6:30 – 8:00 pm

• Facebook 2
  • Thursday, April 30 – 2:00 - 3:30 pm
Questions?

• Upcoming Tech Time and eBook Clinics
  • Check our newsletter

• Download this presentation:
  http://www.stcatharines.library.on.ca/content/present