IGEL 2014

Title:

Mystery story reading in pocket print book and on Kindle: Possible impact on chronological events memory

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Abstract (150 words):

With devices such as iPad and Kindle, literary reading is increasingly digitized. Although, page by page, a text looks similar on a book page, and displayed on an e-ink Kindle screen, the ergonomic (haptic and tactile) affordances of a screen differ from those of paper. In this paper we present some findings from a between-subjects experiment comparing the reading of a mystery short story in print pocket book and on Kindle. Fifty adult participants read a 28-page mystery story in either a print, or on a Kindle. After reading, subjects completed a series of questionnaires measuring cognitive and emotional aspects. In addition, a questionnaire assessing literary reading preferences and "haptic dissonance" was administered a week after the reading session. Results show that print readers performed better than Kindle readers when they were asked to sort story events into chronological order. Most subjects also showed an overwhelming preference for print.

[149 words]