

Book Review

Designing for Digital Reading

Jennifer Pearson

George Buchanan

Harold Thimbleby

Morgan & Claypool Publishers. URL: www.morganclaypool.com

UK 2013

ISBN 9781627052436

9781627052443 (ebook)

Digital reading is gaining significance in the last couple of years as we encounter with large number of published sources in digital format. A very large number of books are now available in digital format making the users to rely them for accessing knowledge. Realizing this potential the authors have produced this compendium which has five chapters.

In the introductory chapter they have outlined the scope and level of the book wherein they specified the level that a basic understanding is required to read the content. Besides they have outlined the content of the book. IN the next chapter the authors have presented the history of reading and the evolution of reading. They have narrated how the reading passed the ages and how it revolutionizes the printing and reading world. In the last part of the book they have given the state of the art which explains the present status including a technical discussion on the book software used to generate the book content. In a same chapter they have given both the technical specifications of some features as well as some managerial aspects.

In the chapter 3, they have described the concepts, which is not just a terminology explanation or term definition. While explaining the key concepts they have supported the term explanation with the early literature and comprehension of the terms. The order and presentation of such terms is somewhat a puzzle!

The next chapter on Lightweight Interactions mainly describes the structure and content of the digital books. In this chapter they have given good amount of description about the ways of generating indexing. Index generation in digital books differ considerably from print book. The visual indexing in digital books provides different focus and features. They have reasonably explained tagging and adding of visual features while indexing the content. This part seems to be very significant in this book content.

The last part deals with Improving Digital Reading. Even this chapter is very brief they visualized the potential of digital reading for the future. They pinioned that good understanding of the features of digital reading has room for the future increased use of digital access. Finally they supported the book with good as well as comprehensive bibliography.

In summary the content is worth reading as they presented many aspects of digital reading including technical features. The content in the book could have been more logically arranged. This book is a useful addition to the stock of knowledge on digital resources.

Daisy Jacobs
University of Zululand
South Africa