

# The Impact of Google Play Books on Enhancing E-Learning and Digital Education: A Review

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## ABSTRACT

Google Play Books is an online platform provided by Google inside the Google Play Store that consists of variety e-books available for download and reading on mobile devices. Google Play Books offers a wide variety of e-book genres to suit different tastes and interests. Some of them are fiction, non-fiction, mystery & thriller, children's books, science & technology, health & wellness and education & reference. This review paper aims to study the impact of using Google Play Books on enhancing e-learning and online education. The methodology uses is a literature review study from 10 sources consisting of jurnal articles from Google Scholar and ResearchGate using three keywords which are "Google Play Book", "E-Learning" and "Online Education". Findings from this literature study indicate that Google Play Books positively influences e-learning and online education. It can be divided into two analyzed topic which are Enhancing Learning Process among students and Developing Digital Educational Contents made by teachers and educators.

**Keyword:** Google Play Book, E-Book, Education, E-Learning, Online Education

## INTRODUCTION

Education and learning processes are influenced by advancements in Internet and network technology. The contents of education are made available in the Internet and can be accessed anywhere using laptop or mobile devices. This situation makes the learning process more dynamic, flexible and not limited to the physical formal places such as schools and universities. The online education model encompasses the creation, publication, and distribution of digital contents including e-books, audiobooks, and digital magazines (Bhakuni, 2023). Educational applications enable students to learn independently and customised to their preferences while teachers using widely known online tools such as Quizlet, Google Play Books, My Script Calculator 2, tools in Khan Academy, etc. (Sumathi, 2022). At the same time, according to Anggraeni & Hellena (2023), educators can effectively improve students' understanding of narrative literature in the classroom by utilizing Google Play Books..

In the current digital era, Google Play Books is one of the most influential electronic book platforms provided by Google, allowing users to access and read digital books conveniently. It can be accessed using Google Play Store that enables user to buy, download and read e-books using Google Play Store (Arifin et al., 2023). It offers millions of e-books and audiobooks across various categories, with some available for free (Anggraeni & Hellena, 2023) therefore it is the world's largest online book marketplace provider supported in 79 countries (Lestari & Ammah, 2021). This online platform provides easier and faster access to a variety of reading materials (Primariz & Solihati, 2024) hence, it becomes a great place to find e-books and serve as an alternative for readers in seeking references as these books are under the copyright of the publishers. Bhakuni (2023) explains that this approach enables e-book authors to publish their content independently, bypassing traditional publishers using online platforms like Apple's iBooks, Google Play Books, and Amazon's Kindle Direct Publishing which provide the necessary tools and services for authors to create, publish, and distribute their e-books.

Using Google Play Books in education supported by a report in 2020 on student mobile device usage reveals a

significant increase in smartphone and tablet ownership among college students in America, alongside a decline in laptop ownership. This trend highlights the increasing significance of mobile applications in the realm of higher education. (Queendarline & Chioma, 2023). Meanwhile, according to Hsiao & Bomhold (2013), smartphones are boosting e-book sales in India, using free apps for reading e-books like Aldiko, Rockstand, Kobo, Flyte, Google Play Books, and Kindle outperforming standalone devices.

While previous studies have explored the impact of e-books in education, limited research has specifically examined the role of Google Play Books in enhancing e-learning. Most existing literature focuses on general e-book platforms without addressing the unique features and challenges associated with Google Play Books. Furthermore, there is a lack of empirical studies assessing how Google Play Books contributes to students' engagement and teachers' content development. This study aims to bridge this gap by analyzing the effectiveness of Google Play Books in supporting e-learning and digital content creation.

Therefore, this paper seeks to assess the impact of utilizing Google Play Books to improve the educational process in terms of reading habits among students in schools and universities as well as electronic content development among educators. The structure of the paper is as follows: firstly, the methodology used in the review is outlined; secondly, presentation of the findings from the reviewed papers; followed by discussion; and finally, possible conclusions are provided.

This study is significant as it addresses the growing shift towards digital learning by examining the role of Google Play Books in enhancing e-learning. While previous research has explored the benefits of e-books, limited studies have specifically focused on Google Play Books as a platform for digital education. By analyzing its impact on students' engagement and teachers' content development, this research provides valuable insights into how digital book platforms can support more flexible and accessible learning experiences. The findings of this study can contribute to the field of education by informing educators, policymakers, and technology developers about the effectiveness of Google Play Books in digital learning environments."

## METHODOLOGY

This research was conducted using a structured literature review method to ensure an objective selection process. The study focuses on articles related to enhancing reading habits and developing digital educational content. The journal search was performed on Google Scholar and ResearchGate using predefined keywords: "Google Play Books", "Electronic Learning", and "Online Education" to retrieve relevant journal articles.

Initially, over twenty papers were identified. To minimize selection bias, a structured filtering process was applied. Only empirical studies published in peer-reviewed journals between 2013 – 2024 were considered. Articles that lacked empirical evidence or were not directly relevant to the research objectives were excluded. This approach ensures that the selection process is transparent, consistent, and based on objective criteria. Ultimately, ten papers were selected and categorized into two groups: Table 1 – Enhancing Learning Process and Table 2 – Developing Digital Educational Content.

## FINDINGS

Through the analysis of available sources, the research identified two primary themes: enhancing learning process and developing digital educational contents, which are presented in following tables.

Table 1 Enhancing Learning Process

No.	Author	Title	Research Objectives	Methodology	Findings
1	(Anggraeni & Hellena, 2023)	Enhance Tenth Grade Students' Reading Comprehension	To look into how well tenth-grade students' reading comprehension of narrative texts was	A mixed method incorporates both qualitative and quantitative	Google Play Books effectively enhances tenth-grade students' reading comprehension of narrative texts, despite some

		Of Narrative Text Using Google Play Books	improved by Google Play Books	approaches using Creswell and Clark (2007)	technical challenges and language proficiency issues that teachers and students need to overcome.
2	(Hori et al., 2016)	A Suitable m-Learning System using e-Book for Developing Countries	To study the possibilities of e-book reader called CHiLO Reader can diversify learning platform	Usability testing	The CHiLO Reader system has shown significant adoption in developing countries, particularly in rural areas where Internet access is limited. This is reflected in the high number of downloads from regions such as Indonesia, Thailand, and the Philippines, suggesting its potential suitability for learners in these areas
3	(Hsiao & Bomhold, 2013)	E-books in the Mobile Age: Advocacy and Acceptance in India	To investigate the popularity of e-books in India and their potential to reach a wide audience through the growing use of mobile devices for digital content consumption	A mixed-method approach includes analyzing academic literature, collecting data through personal interactions and questionnaire surveys, and utilizing library websites	The recent trend of reading e-books on portable devices in India is expected to significantly grow, driven by the digitization of regional language content and the emergence of new writing talent
4	(Lestari & Ammah, 2021)	Pendidikan Literasi Digital Melalui Media Google Play Books	To investigate that digital literacy education is being enhanced via Google Play Books by gaining a deeper understanding of the application's features	Literature review	Digital literacy enables authors to swiftly and conveniently publish their books, with Google Play Books being one of the available platforms
5	(Primariz & Solihati, 2024)	Pengaruh Penggunaan Aplikasi Google Play Book Terhadap Minat Baca Siswa Kelas VII SMP Negeri 150 Jakarta	This research seeks to improve students' comprehension and interest in reading through the use of the Google Play Books app	The quantitative study employed a True Experimental design, specifically using a Posttest-Only Control Group format	Implementing the Google Play Books app significantly boosts the reading interest of seventh-grade students at SMP Negeri 150 Jakarta, especially in the experimental group, class VII-B.
6	(Queendarline & Chioma, 2023)	Awareness and Use of Innovative Educational Mobile Applications among Students of	To examine how students at Rivers State University are aware of and use innovative educational mobile apps	A mixed method using descriptive survey and interview methods	This study indicate that students at Rivers State University exhibit limited awareness and usage of mobile applications that could enhance their academic performance

		Rivers State University	to boost their academic productivity		
7	(Sumathi, 2022)	Innovative Teaching Strategies	To showcase some of the newest strategies implemented in the teaching and learning process	Literature review	Innovative teaching strategies are essential to meet the needs of today's learners and keep them engaged in the learning process
8	(Alshehri, 2021)	Effectiveness of E-Book in Improving Academic Performance and Attitudes toward Mathematic	To assess if using an e-book can enhance academic performance and foster more positive attitudes towards learning Mathematics	Quantitative Study	Students who utilized an e-book for learning math showed greater improvement in their performance compared to those who relied on a traditional textbook

Table 2 Developing Digital Educational Contents

No.	Author	Title	Research Objectives	Methodology	Findings
1	(Anggraeni & Hellena, 2023)	Enhance Tenth Grade Students' Reading Comprehension Of Narrative Text Using Google Play Books	To study the challenges that teachers and students encountered when utilizing Google Play Books in the classroom	A mixed methods utilizes both qualitative and quantitative methods as outlined by Creswell and Clark (2007)	The teacher's challenges are primarily technological, including issues with some students' smartphone applications and the projector screen.
2	(Arifin et al., 2023)	Pelatihan Penerbitan Perangkat Pembelajaran Fisika melalui Google Play Books	To offer participants in gaining essential knowledge and skills, address technical issues, receive clear instructions, enhance the quality of their uploaded teaching materials, and recognize the advantages of publishing their work on Google Play Books	A mixed methods consists of webinars and training sessions on publishing educational materials on Google Play Books followed by questionnaires reflecting the training results	Participants gained essential knowledge and skills, resolved technical issues, received clear instructions, enhanced the quality of their uploaded teaching materials, and recognized the advantages of publishing their work on Google Play Books
3	(Bhakuni, 2023)	Application Of Artificial Intelligence On Human Resource Management In Technology Industry In India	To study the potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in revolutionize the way publishers create, distribute and monetize their content.	Literature review	The self-publishing model enables authors to independently publish their content, bypassing traditional publishers. It provides the necessary tools and services for authors to create, publish, and distribute their own e-books

## A. Enhancing Learning Process

In this era of rapid technological advancement, the field of teaching and learning is also leveraging available technology. Moving away from conventional learning methods, students are now utilizing mobile devices, wireless Internet connectivity, e-learning applications, and digital content to enhance their learning process. This makes learning more engaging and accessible from anywhere, without being confined to specific times.

(Queendarline & Chioma, 2023) conducted a study on students' awareness of educational mobile applications in Rivers State University. Their findings revealed that while students widely use mobile applications for various purposes, awareness of academic-related apps remains low. Among the applications surveyed, e-book platforms such as Google Play Books and Amazon Kindle were included, but the study primarily focused on general mobile learning trends rather than an in-depth analysis of Google Play Books itself.

Digital literacy education can be developed and strengthened by engaging with a variety of information and communication via digital media especially Google Play Books. This medium facilitates the development of digital literacy education to achieve its objectives of understanding, creating, and effectively collaborating with technology (Lestari & Ammah, 2021).

For example, according to Hori et al. (2016), a new educational platform named Creative Higher Education with Learning Objects (CHiLO) that incorporates an e-book has been downloaded in 103 countries and regions, comprising EPUB from OUI-MOOC in 94 countries, Google Play Books in 46 countries, HTML5 from OUI-MOOC in 86 countries, and iBooks Store in 34 countries and regions.

Simultaneously, in India, the learning process has shifted into utilizing e-books such as Google Play Books due to high cost of printed version of academic physical books. Libraries at many educational institutions are acquiring a substantial number of e-books through consortia. The two primary consortia are INDEST-AICTE for technical institutions and UGC INFONET for universities (Hsiao & Bomhold, 2013).

Meanwhile in Indonesia, a study by Anggraeni & Hellena (2023) demonstrates that using Google Play Books effectively aids tenth-grade students in reading and comprehending narrative texts. The data analysis confirms the reliability of the research instrument. The test results indicate a significant improvement in students' reading comprehension, as evidenced by the post-test scores being substantially higher than the pre-test scores.

The Google Play Books app greatly assists both students and teachers in literacy and educational activities by providing easy access to reference books. In the current technological age, mobile phones are a daily necessity for everyone, including students. Therefore, Google Play Books has significantly boosted the reading interest of seventh-grade students at SMP Negeri 150 Jakarta, particularly in the experimental group, class VII-B. (Primariz & Solihati, 2024).

In addition, a survey made in Abha, Saudi Arabia towards 56 students in 7th Grade from two middle schools has shown that students who utilized an e-book for learning Mathematics demonstrated greater performance improvements compared to those who relied on traditional textbooks. Furthermore, according to Alshehri (2021), after experiencing the e-book, students' attitudes towards using it for learning Mathematics became significantly more favorable.

## B. Developing Digital Educational Contents

Google Play Books as an online e-book reading application also offers significant benefits to educators in preparing their teaching materials. It can be used as a student-friendly teaching aid, enabling students to read notes, review lessons, or complete exercises online without time and place constraints. Consequently, teachers and educators will develop and provide digital learning content that can be accessed through Google Play Books.

In Indonesia, Physics teachers in schools have acquired new insights into developing and publishing teaching materials on Google Play Books (Lestari & Ammah, 2021). E-books serve as learning resources in physics education, allowing teachers to create and publish their materials. Therefore, Google Play Books helps the community especially students to access new information and knowledge.



At the same time, Physics teachers faced no challenges in publishing their teaching materials on Google Play Books. This according to Arifin et al. (2023) indicates the success of the initiative after training and exposure have been made to 385 participants or teachers.

### C. Challenges

Besides the advantages and acceptance of Google Play Books in educational sector, it also facing challenges in using it. Google Play Books which is powered by Internet technology and mobile applications, also encounters challenges that impede or diminish its usage. Various factors and reasons have been examined to support this assertion.

An observation made in India shows that multi-functional devices are favored over those solely designed as e-readers. The digital platform is also noted to strain the eyes, leading to headaches and blurred vision. Furthermore, online books necessitate expensive Wi-Fi networks and can become obsolete with the advent of new technologies (Hsiao & Bomhold, 2013).

Furthermore, according to Queendarline & Chioma (2023) based on the study's findings, it was determined that students at Rivers State University exhibit low awareness and usage of mobile applications designed to enhance academic performance. Additionally, students tend to use social and entertainment mobile applications more frequently than those oriented towards academics.

Meanwhile, (Queendarline & Chioma, 2023) have highlighted the necessity for greater awareness, enhanced application quality, and targeted interventions to fully leverage these applications for boosting academic productivity.

## DISCUSSION

The review of Google Play Books' impact on enhancing e-learning and online education reveals several key insights. As current students in schools, universities and other learning institutions own mobile gadgets such as smartphone and tablet which have connection to the Internet, they can access various e-books available in Google Play Books. These e-books are accessible anytime and anywhere through mobile devices, enabling students to enhance their learning experience more flexibly. Despite conventional printed lecture notes and physical text books that need to be carried together, Google Play Books overcome all those difficulties so that students can be more focus on their study.

Empirical findings have demonstrated that e-books significantly enhance academic performance and students' attitudes towards learning. For instance, a study by (Alshehri, 2021) involving 56 Seventh Grade students found that those who used e-books achieved greater improvements in their posttest scores compared to those using traditional textbooks (Mean improvement: 9.28 vs. 7.90,  $p = 0.049$ ). Additionally, students' attitudes towards learning improved significantly after using e-books (pretest: 11.50; posttest: 18.36,  $p < 0.001$ ). These findings suggest that the accessibility and interactive nature of e-books can positively impact students' engagement and learning outcomes

Simultaneously, we realize that Google Play Books is also accepted by the teachers and educators as their teaching aid in diversify their teaching and learning process. Teachers who know the potential of Google Play Books could develop their teaching contents digitally and uploaded them to the platform. Moreover, they will know how many copies of their e-book have been downloaded and at the same time they can make profit if they sell them to the students.

The adoption of e-books is not only beneficial to students but also to educators. A study by (Arifin et al., 2023) found that teachers acknowledged the potential of Google Play Books in supporting differentiated learning and digital content development. A survey conducted among Physics teachers revealed that 57.8% agreed that training on publishing teaching materials through Google Play Books was applicable in classroom teaching, while 60.9% found the training materials clear and comprehensive. Additionally, the ability to publish e-books without the need for printing costs allows teachers to share their educational resources more effectively while potentially generating additional income. These findings suggest that Google Play Books serves as a valuable platform for educators, facilitating content creation and digital learning.

## LIMITATIONS AND FUTURE STUDIES

Since the number of research and review papers on this topic were very limited, this review paper didn't focus on the comprehensive aspect of impacts made by Google Play Books towards enhancing e-learning process and online education. This review primarily highlights the accessibility and benefits of Google Play Books but does not extensively explore the challenges students may face when using digital learning resources.

Future research could focus on identifying specific barriers to adoption, such as Internet connectivity issues, digital literacy levels, and student engagement with e-books compared to traditional materials. Investigating these factors would provide a more balanced understanding of the effectiveness of Google Play Books in educational settings.

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, while Google Play Books has the potential to significantly enhance e-learning and online education, its effectiveness is contingent upon addressing several critical challenges. Increasing awareness and training on the use of digital tools, improving the quality and accessibility of digital resources, and developing targeted interventions to support diverse learning needs are essential steps forward. By addressing these limitations, Google Play Books can become a more integral part of the educational landscape, fostering a more inclusive and effective learning environment for all students. Future research and continuous improvement of the platform will be crucial in realizing its full potential in the realm of online education.

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