



TECHNOLOGY  
RESEARCH  
COMMITTEE

## **2008 – 2009 Grant Project Report**

**Project Title:** Project Kindle

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**School District:** Walton CSD

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# **A. Summary of findings**

## **1. Special Education teacher and students:**

Teachers found them to be hard to explain to the kids of special education. But they see are great need for a device like this to read books and look up words they don't understand. The feature of adding notes to the margins of the books and magazines and newspapers would be helpful to special education students. But the Kindles were hard for them to hold without turning the pages to the next screen. The one good thing about the Kindle is its ability to change font size for the reading ease of special education students. With the new standard coming out for vendors I can see this device becoming more popular with all schools. If we could get our textbooks and reading books on the Kindles every student could have one and eliminate the need for paper textbooks and paperback books.

## **2. English nine teacher and students:**

Students in English class read books and had a great time with the Kindles they hated to give them up for the next teacher to use. They liked the new technology and the newness of the Kindles. The students used them in the English class where they did silent sustain reading for 20 minutes everyday. The students really related well to the Kindles and the sample books they could read when downloaded. The only drawback was the WiFi access wasn't available for our school to download those samples without having access to a computer. The area doesn't support WiFi access for the Kindles in Walton. Reading a book assigned by the English teacher on the Kindles was another challenge.

Not all the books assigned to students are available on the Kindles for download.

### **3. Participation in Government teachers and students:**

These students used the magazines and newspapers as a daily reading assignment in class. They had mixed reviews of the Kindles. Some liked it others really did not liked it or hated it. But overall they did not prefer using the Kindles over using the real newspapers. The newspapers were harder to navigate around due to the size of the original size of the newspaper and trying to scale it down to the size of a Kindle. The students had much more difficulty with the newspapers than the magazines. The navigating of the newspaper took more time but once the students got the hang of it they did not mind the movement. The magazines were easier to read than the newspapers on the Kindle but lacked the color. There are pictures on the Kindles but not in color.

## **B. Usefulness of the Device**

### **1. In special education classes:**

The Kindle has a lot of usefulness in special education classes. The new Kindles coming out are much bigger and easier to use. If the students had the textbooks on the Kindles they would benefit more because they could highlight the text that was needed for test or class or they could add notes in the margins and print them out for review later. The teacher could underline important sections or key points for the special education teacher to go over with the students to make sure they understand that section. There are many ways the Kindle could be used for special education classes.

How can are the Kindles used in special education;

- a. It has the ability to enlarge the text size to accommodate those with reading problems.
- b. It has the ability to look up words that a student might not know, just like having your own personal dictionary attached.
- c. It allows students to write in the margins or add notes to the page.

## **2. In current events and issues**

Students accessing Magazines and Newspapers on the Kindles found it is more challenging than they wanted from a device. It to navigate around a newspaper was very hard to learn and actually use. There were no pictures or color to see and the students did not like that feature. The size of the newspaper was the biggest obstacle in using the Kindle you had to know where you wanted to go and what section it was in. It was easy to get lost in the paper and not know where you were sometimes. The students found reading the articles to be the same as if they were reading a newspaper it was just the navigating that made it difficult. The students preferred the real thing to the Kindles when it came to reading the newspaper. The current events in the magazines were a little easier to use. The magazine was not as complicated as the newspaper. It was not as interesting because the color pictures were not there. Many of the kids said they liked the color pictures and that attracted them to the magazine in the first place. Overall the students preferred the magazine reading over the newspapers.

C. Overall student reaction to using this device:

see attached page of student comment to this device

## **C. Students reaction to the Kindles:**

### **Was the Kindle easy to use?**

No 1 1 1

After figuring it out it was easy, had to have someone show me, would have to get used to it first, Confused for a while

Yes 1

Yes, for reading books it was easy once you learned how to use it

Liked the reading of books this way

It was fun to read the sample books

I liked the device just it was too touchy to hold onto without turning pages

I loved it want one of my own

I liked that you can add music and read and listen at the same time.

It was great for reading

I don't know about the magazines or newspapers features we really did not get into those areas just read books.

It was easy once we learned it

It would be great so you don't have to turn pages with your hand just press a button

Great for a plan ride where you don't have a lot of room and have to turn pages

ok

Fairly Easy, For the Most Part

It was confusing with the newspapers but for other uses I think it would be easier to use

Not as easy as a newspaper would be

### **What are some of the problems you experienced using the Kindle?**

How to get to the articles

Couldn't get the full article

Confusing, the paper is better

It took a long time to get through articles, and to find things

Finding Articles

Hard to tell how much is left to read in an article

Finding something that had to do with economics

It was confusing to use at first

It was touchy and easily changed the page

I didn't know how to get anywhere

I kept hitting the next button when ever I tried to move it

At first it was hard to use it  
It was different to judge how long the articles were and hard to navigate to different articles  
Once I understood how to use it I loved it.  
It was hard to understand at first but so is everything once you learn it  
At first understanding that the book is by chapters and you just have to remember where you are in the chapters to get back to the place you were at.

I didn't experience any problems  
I didn't have any problems

**Did you enjoy using the Kindle?**

No, the difficulty made it an unpleasant experience  
No 1 1  
No I would rather use a news paper 1  
No took too long  
Not Really

Yes, it was rather neat  
Yes it was something different  
Yes 1

It was alright  
After I figured out what I was doing  
I would rather use a the news paper, but it was cool and conservative  
It wasn't any easier  
I loved the Kindle for reading books  
I loved it  
Awesome technology  
I want one  
Can we take these out of the library for reading  
Loved the concept  
I loved reading the sample books  
It was neat we could look at books we wanted to load and have the Librarian do it  
It was fun reading this way  
I think it would be great if it had a light so I could read at night I would all night long  
I liked the look up feature I did not know a word and could look it up right away without having to go to a dictionary. Great

**Did the Kindle make a difference in your reading experience?**

It was a different experience  
Not really except that it was smaller and easier to flip through than a newspaper  
Not Really

No 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1

No it was very similar to every other reading experience  
No, but if I was reading a book for a class, search would be useful  
Made it longer  
For reading novels I loved it  
It made me want to read the next book in the series  
I loved reading the novels this way  
It was awesome to read at the touch of my fingers  
It made me want one but it is too expensive to buy  
I would like to have had the music attached to read and listen at the same time  
I loved the sample books to read and it made me want to go get them  
I was ok to read the samples but we don't have them in our library so I was bummed  
I wanted the book not the device  
I liked it

### **What did you like about the Kindle?**

It's electronic  
It was a different experience  
It was easier to use than a news paper  
It contains a lot of information  
That it wasn't a news paper  
The size of the font and you just had to hit a button to flip the page  
The easy changing font  
It was very small and convenient  
The scrolling and not having to flip the page when the article continues on  
Light weight, multiple books  
It is a neat invention  
It was awesome  
I liked the newness of it  
It was cool  
I would like it better with the music on it  
I liked the size not too big or not too small.  
I liked you could change the font size  
I did not like the turn pages on the sides it made me turn the page too much  
Nothing  
Left Blank

The fact that it reduces paper use  
It is good for the environment in some ways, like it conserves paper

### **What did you dislike about the Kindle**

Took longer and harder  
I disliked the difficulty  
I didn't like how big the font was, and I wasn't sure if it could be made smaller

I couldn't see how long the articles were  
There were not pictures to go along with the article  
The slowness  
It was confusing to use  
It was like reading off a computer  
Finding Articles  
No color  
It's confusing, and with a paper you can find what you want easily.  
Small, took too long  
Hard to use, distracting  
They weren't any better than a newspaper  
Nothing  
I would like to see have a light  
I would like to have a remind key so it remembers were I was and goes back  
to that exact spot.  
I didn't like the turn page thing  
It was hard to get to the actual reading part

**Would you read more because you have a Kindle?**

No, I don't believe that I would  
Probably not because the clicking can be a bit annoying  
No 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1  
It is easier to press a button, than flipping pages  
I liked it and would read more If I had one  
I want one  
I believe I would it was fun  
I liked the sample books and it was a neat way to see if I would like the book  
But now I want them all  
I read more for this test  
I probably would until it got old  
I don't believe it made me read more I read all the times  
It was easier to read and I like to just press a button instead of turning pages  
It would be awesome for night reading so you don't have to hold it up or turn  
the page that is the hardest thing but it needs a light if I want to read at night

**Could this be used in an educational setting?**

Nope, not unless we have some background or training first  
It could be but I think that it takes much more time to use than a traditional  
newspaper  
Possibly because it is smaller and easier to handle than most  
books/newspapers/etc  
It's possible  
It could be used if everyone had one to read a novel we do in class  
I would like it better than reading the novel  
I think it is great cause you can change the font size  
I like the look up a word option it would be helpful in education

I think yes  
It could be used to help kids with reading and getting the meaning of things  
The highlight feature was educational  
The notes in the margins could be educational  
Not sure  
Could be  
Maybe  
Yes 1 1 1 1 1 1  
Yes, but not for certain people  
Yes for English Class or Books  
Yes if the cost wasn't too high

Left Blank

**Was it easier to read the newspaper and magazines or more enjoyable to read in this way?**

No 1

It is easier and more enjoyable to read the news paper  
I like magazines to see the pictures  
It was more enjoyable to read it from a paper  
I don't really like bulky newspapers, but magazines are ok  
Newspaper  
Newspaper and Magazines 1  
Easier to read the newspaper and magazines  
It was a lot easier than a newspaper  
The Kindle is much easier  
A little but it was just confusing  
We did not use the magazines or newspaper features just the books  
It was not easier I like the real thing better  
I wanted color  
I wanted to be able to see pictures not in black and white  
I felt it was harder to read the newspapers this way until I got how to do it  
I still prefer the real thing  
no

Yes 1

**What would you improve on the Kindle?**

Just don't use them  
I would make them easier to use  
Quieter Clicker, Smaller Font  
The Button placements  
Less confusing set up

I thought they were fine  
I would make it so you could see the pages of the newspaper in whole and  
pick the article from that  
A touch screen  
Side buttons make holding it awkward  
Better Organization  
Quietness  
Nothing  
The screen and clearer directions  
No Response 1  
Have a remember where you left off button  
Have access like Iphone  
Have more WIFI access around  
Cheaper  
More training on how to use it  
Larger screen  
Better button placement  
Make it a touch screen like an iPod Touch  
Get rid of the menu and make it icon friendly  
Touch screen  
Add more features  
Add a light

### **Other Comments?**

We should have been shown how to use them a little bit better  
They were pretty cool and easy to use  
I would rather use a computer  
“I think they are pretty cool but I think its just as easy to read a newspaper and  
mags, plus people like pictures to go. I wouldn’t spend the money on it”  
Not sure if it is worth the cost  
It is cool, but it must use a lot of energy because you have to download the  
articles and charge them  
I would like to have them for all students make everything a greener planet  
instead of having to purchase textbooks, novels and such for each kid have  
them on this device and they can save their backs and make things easier for  
schools.