Tablet Computer: or simply **Tablet**, is a one-piece mobile computer, primarily operated by touchscreen where the user's finger functions as the mouse and has an onscreen keyboard.

What is a tablet for? Tablets offer a more portable way to check email, read/listen to books/magazines , browse the Web, video chat, watch movies, listen to music and play games.

There are so many - how do I choose?

Size: Devices come in many sizes but are nominally referred to as 7 or 10 inch tablets. 7 inch tablets are smaller and lighter, but the screens are smaller and may be more difficult for some to see. 10 inch units have larger screens so content is easier to see, but the devices are heavier to hold and generally cost more. Choosing a size is a balance of comfort and budget.

Operating system: There are a few to choose from. Apple's iOS6 is easy to understand but is only available for Apple brand products. Many device manufacturers use Google's Android Operating system which is also easy to use. These tablets are typically referred to as *Android Tablets*. Some use a modified version of Android. Microsoft's Windows RT is similar to Windows 8 and can use some of the desktop applications like the Office Suite.

Content: Tablets use applications or apps for short. Many apps are free or have a small fee; they are small, purpose driven programs of all types and are unique to the operating system that they were developed for. Currently, The Apple iTunes Store has the most apps available. Google's Play Store has thousands of Android apps to choose from and Amazon, Barnes & Noble and Microsoft all have app stores.

Storage: Storage is the part of the device that holds content like books, music, video and apps. Most tablets have 16 GB* or more of native storage. Buy what your budget allows.

Price: Size will impact price dramatically. Because there are many Android tablet makers, those devices tend to be a little less expensive. Apple products will likely retain a premium price for a premium product.

Tablets Explained!

Fun Facts

The *Overdrive App* is the simplest way on a tablet to get library materials.

*16 GB will hold about 4,000 songs, 14,000 photos, or 16 hours of video

Cloud Storage
Personal storage space available on the Internet

3G, Bluetooth, Wi-Fi, Oh MY!   Networking: what is it and why do I need it?
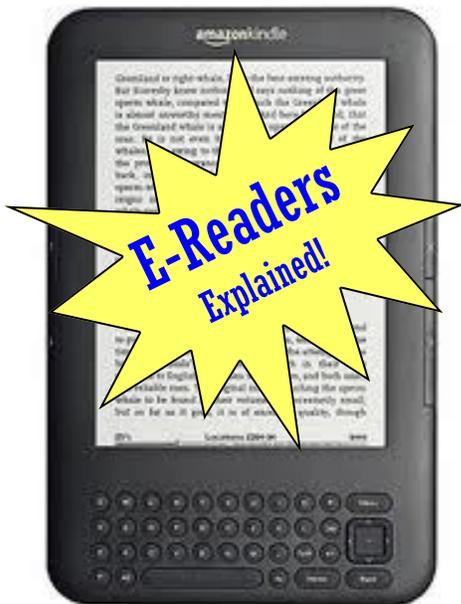
A **computer network**, or simply a **network**, is a collection of computers and other hardware interconnected by communication channels that allow sharing of resources and information.

Wi-Fi: a local area network that uses high frequency radio signals to transmit and receive data over distances of a few hundred feet.

3G/4G LTE: a cellular network or mobile network is a radio network distributed over land areas called cells. When joined together these cells provide radio coverage over a wide geographic area.

Bluetooth: a wireless technology for exchanging data over short distances creating personal area networks (PANs) with high levels of security.

Make/Model	Apple iPad (4th Gen)	Google Nexus 10	Amazon Kindle Fire HD	Barnes & Noble Nook HD
Operating System	Apple iOS6	Android 4.2	Android (modified)	Android (modified)
Screen Size (resolution/pixels)	9.7 inch (2048 x 1536)	10.1 inch (2560 x 1600)	7 inch (1280 x 800)	7 inch (1440 x 900)
Storage	16/32/64 GB	16/32 GB	16/32 GB	8/16 GB (+Micro SD slot)
Cloud Storage	Apple iCloud	Google Drive	Amazon Cloud Drive	B & N Nook Cloud
Networking	Wi-Fi, Cell (pay service)	Wi-Fi	Wi-Fi	Wi-Fi
Content	Apple iTunes Store	Google Play Store	Amazon Appstore	B & N Nook Apps
Price	$499[+](Wi-Fi) $629[+](Wi-Fi + Cellular)	$399[+](Wi-Fi)	$214 (ad free)	$199+

E-Reader: An e-book reader, or e-reader, is a one-piece mobile electronic device that is designed primarily for the purpose of reading digital e-books and periodicals.

Tablet or e-reader? E-Readers are similar in form to tablet computers but the screens are better suited to reading e-books and e-readers are generally less expensive. Tablet computers typically have faster screens capable of higher definition which makes them more suitable for interaction; they are more versatile, and allow one to consume multiple types of content, as well as create it.

There are so many - how do I choose?

Content: One difference in e-readers is the providers of content. Amazon and Barnes & Noble are the two major content providers. Loyalty to one brand may influence your decision. Amazon sells most of its devices with or without ads; with ads, for a lower price point.

Content Delivery: All e-readers can deliver content through Wi-Fi, however, if you travel extensively, and may have limited access to Wi-Fi, consider an e-reader that connects with cellular networks (see *Networking* on reverse). Some Amazon e-readers have free 3G.

Comfort: Given that most e-readers are about the same size and shape, choose the one that is easiest on the eyes for you when reading.

Price: E-Reader pricing is all over the map. Things like cellular service content delivery, integrated lighting systems, enhanced screens, and extended battery life will affect pricing.

Make/Model	Amazon Kindle Paperwhite 3G	Barnes & Noble Nook Simple Touch with GlowLite	Amazon Kindle
Device Size	6.7" x 4.6" x 0.36" (7.8 oz.)	6.5" x 5" x 0.47" (6.95 oz.)	6.5" x 4.5" x 0.34" (5.98 oz.)
Screen Type	Paperwhite w/built-in light	E-Ink w/ GlowLight	E-Ink Pearl
Storage	2 GB (about 1100 books)	2 GB (+ micro SD slot)	2 GB (about 1100 books)
Cloud Storage	Amazon Cloud Drive	Barnes & Noble Nook Cloud	Amazon Cloud Drive
Battery Life	28 Hours	28 Hours	14 Hours
Networking	Wi-Fi, 3G (free)	Wi-Fi	Wi-Fi
Content	Amazon	Barnes & Noble	Amazon
Price	$199 (ad free)	$119	$89 (ad free)

Tell me about screens?

Most e-readers utilize an electronic paper screen, e-paper and electronic ink are display technologies which are designed to mimic the appearance of ordinary ink on paper. Unlike conventional backlit flat panel displays which emit light (like tablet screens), electronic paper displays reflect light like ordinary paper, making it more comfortable to read. However, reading in dark or low light requires the use of a light (not so for backlit tablet screens). Many e-paper screens now come with a built-in lighting system.

Can I borrow Library Materials?

Yes, you can! Many libraries use Overdrive which has an app that is available for free at all app stores. The app can only be loaded on tablets; it can not be loaded on e-readers. Library items for Amazon e-readers can be checked out, then pushed to an Amazon account and downloaded via Wi-Fi or an attached USB cable. Library items for other e-readers (such as Nooks), must be downloaded to a PC using Adobe Digital Editions, then downloaded to the e-reader from the PC via an attached USB cable.