

BETWEEN THE PAGES

Huntsville Public Library Monthly Newsletter

THUMBS UP OR THUMBS DOWN?

BY MARY KOKOT, REFERENCE

Everyone appreciates a good review, whether it's about a movie, a restaurant, or a hotel. It helps protect one from experiencing a dud of a film, a bad meal, or poor service at a 5-star hotel. Book reviews are especially useful if you don't feel like wasting your time reading a book that you hope will improve but never does. Or perhaps you just want to share a fantastic read with others. Here's your chance to let Huntsville Public Library patrons know if a book is "thumbs up" or "thumbs down." By signing into your online account on the library's website, you instantly have access to the book review process. Select a book title from the library's catalog. It can be your favorite, or least favorite, book.



Find: Title Starts With

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Help

Title starts with: abuse of power Previous Searches
 Results: 1 match Keyword: the abuse of power — 106 results

Cover	Location	Label	Title	Author	In	Total	©Date
	ADULT : FICTION	FIC ROS	Abuse of power	Rosenberg, Nancy Taylor	1	1	1997

This item is currently on the shelf.

Title: Abuse of power
 Author: Rosenberg, Nancy Taylor
 Location: FIC ROS
 Extra Data: [Annotations](#)
 Reviews:
 Number: ISBN: 978-0-451-18006-3
 Publication: Penguin, NY., 1997
 Length: 448 pages

Holdings:	ID	Copy	Location	Status
	3005713	1	ADULT : FICTION — FIC ROS	In

Item Note: Presented to Huntsville Public Library by Jo Andrews in memory of Katie Andrews, Rosa Tantzen, Wade Andrews

Then, click on the 'review this title!' box (located about midway in the item information box) and complete the book review information. Just a few positive or constructive negative words, if that's what you're feeling, will suffice. Your fellow reader will thank you.

1219 13th Street
 Huntsville, TX 77340
 (936) 291-5472

Monday-Friday
 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
 & 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

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AN ARGUMENT FOR E-BOOKS

BY KARSTON VAN TRONK, CIRCULATION



There is nothing more divisive in the literary world than e-books.

Everybody's favorite patsy. It's a rare person that will admit to staying up late curled around their phone, tablet, or e-reader. When brought up in conversation I can almost guarantee that the feel, smell, and weight of "real" books will be brought up, almost like a shield against the very idea of reading a book on a screen. "Oh, I just prefer to read real books," they'll say. The rub is that e-books are real books. The value of books is in their content, not their physical qualities. I cannot deny that the smell of a new, fresh book is unparalleled, and that the satisfaction I get from adding to my ever growing personal library is addictive. These pleasures come at a steep price, however.

E-books are more convenient than traditional books in just about every way. They are cheaper, costing only a fraction of what even a paperback costs, and often, free to download. They weigh nothing more than what your device weighs, and take up no more space, either. When you buy a book you have to store a book. An avid reader will have entire walls of a house devoted to storing books that will likely sit on a shelf for years without being touched, mouldering and taking up space that could be otherwise used. Even if you don't keep your books on shelves or stacked in mountainous piles around your home like I do, and instead opt to donate, sell, and otherwise get rid of them on a regular basis, they only become somebody else's problem to deal with, if they don't see a dumpster first. (There is something to be said here about our cultural attachment to books that causes a widespread hesitation to throw out books, but I'll leave that for another time.)

Books also quickly become outdated in today's sea of information. E-books can be updated by the publisher or author anytime. For students this can mean more affordable textbooks, and more accurate information. For the less academic reader, e-readers open a whole new world of self-published works and novellas, as well as e-reader exclusives by some of the best-selling authors. Some of my favorite books have been obscure hidden gems that I got for a dollar or two (or even for free) on my e-reader, and I can't count the money I've saved on new releases. And yes, a library traditionally offers many of these benefits, but a modern library also offers an e-book collection. Why? Because e-books are more convenient!

I've already talked about the space a book takes up in your home, but what about the space it takes up on your person? We all have our spot, you know the one. The place we go to read for hours at a time. I would bet, though, that spot, be it your bed or a reading chair, isn't the only place you want to read. I'm guilty of dragging a book around everywhere, reading in spurts in a waiting room or in line for something. Why not eliminate the chance of losing or damaging the book (or even worse, a library book) as well as the burden of carrying around 300 sheets of paper and just use my phone, or my cardboard-thin e-reader? Moreover, e-books checked out from a library can never be overdue! That's right folks, no more overdue fines or lost book fees as library e-books automatically return themselves, free of charge and right on time! How exciting! Why ever get a traditional book again? Well, because not all books can be e-books. A small minority of books just cannot make the transition without losing something. Mark Z. Danielewski's *House of Leaves* could never be made into an e-book without losing all of its twisting, horrific effect.

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AN ARGUMENT, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Pop-up books and good coffee table books just aren't the same on a screen. Fantasy novels suffer a bit when digital, as flipping back to a map or artwork isn't always as convenient as it is on paper. There are also some books that I want to add to my collection, like special edition prints, or certain non-fiction items that are beautifully illustrated and full of footnotes, which just don't read the same digitally.

I am also guilty of loving a book I bought on my e-reader so much I bought it twice, because I just had to have a copy on my shelves. I don't think that e-books are the end all and be all of modern reading, but I do think that our reaction to the idea of digital books should stop being so negative. E-books are incredibly useful, convenient, space and money saving devices. Because of cloud technology they can be picked up from where you left off on any of your devices. They cannot be lost or stolen. They don't take up space. You can't trip over them in the middle of the night. They don't mold. They won't cause you to abandon traditional books. They might, however, allow you to read more and spend less. I know my personal library now only contains books I absolutely love, because I can decide what should be added after I read the e-book, and I'm able to read more. It's also not as if e-books don't "count" somehow, they are still books. You already spend time staring at your phone. Instead of mindlessly scrolling through Facebook, Instagram, or any other social media site, why not spend that time reading a book on the same screen you already own?

The Huntsville Public Library offers an e-book and audiobook collection through Overdrive, on the Libby app and on our new app SimplyE. Available on your phone, computer, or Kindle device. Check it out. It's free, offers offline access, automatically returns your books before they come up late, and you already have an account if you have a library card. Ask any member of library staff, or go to our website to learn more.

UPCOMING MODIFIED HOURS

December 3, 2020

The Huntsville Public Library will be open from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Thursday, December 3. The modified hours are for staff development.

CHRISTMAS

The Huntsville Public Library hours will be 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Wednesday, December 23rd. The Library will be closed on Thursday, December 24; Friday, December 25; and Saturday, December 26 in observance of the Christmas holiday. The Huntsville Public Library will reopen at 10 a.m. on Monday, December 28.

NEW YEARS

The Huntsville Public Library hours will be 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Thursday, December 31. The Library will be closed on Friday, January 1 and Saturday, January 2 in observance of the New Year's holiday. The Huntsville Public Library will reopen at 10 a.m. on Monday, January 4.



HANDS-ON LITERACY

BY JALPA SHAH, IT SERVICES

Have you ever wanted to create your own library-style Storytime at home?

Well now you can! Huntsville Public Library has a wonderful tool known as Literacy Pouches. These Literacy Pouches are a great way to take storytime and learning home with you and are an excellent resource for homeschooling families.



These materials support learning by providing families with hands-on strategies for building pre-reading, literacy skills, and bonding. They also allow children to actively participate and communicate during book reading activities and achieve important developmental milestones. Our Literacy Pouches are designed for children 3-5 years old, but they can be adapted or modified for use with other age groups. The primary purpose of these Literacy Pouches is to support and enhance learning through a multi-sensory experience that stimulates imagination from the comfort of your own home. Stop by the Children's Room and check out an available Literacy Pouch. Some Pouches contain 6-8 books on a theme, 2 activity books, and a teaching guide; some contain STEM toys and activities. The following kits are available: Fairy Tale themed literacy kit, Problem solving literacy kits, Early Literacy Kits, and STEM Kits.

DID YOU KNOW?

**The Imagination Library
has come to Huntsville!**

Sign up for your child
to receive 1 FREE book in the mail
per month until they start school.

Register at

www.imaginationlibrary.com

