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Mobile Innovations
in the UH Libraries

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Growing from Strategic Directions

"Microgrant" Concept

2007 - 2008

"the beginning"

Need research help?
Chat Up Your Librarian

Chat is available

Monday through Thursday
3 pm - 8 pm

Use AIM, Google Chat, or Yahoo! Messenger
to IM **UHLibrarian**
Or

Visit **http://info.lib.uh.edu** and Ask a Librarian.

Trivia Contest & Ad Campaign

M.D. Anderson Library Superhero Commercial

1:12 / 2:18

Library Video Commercials
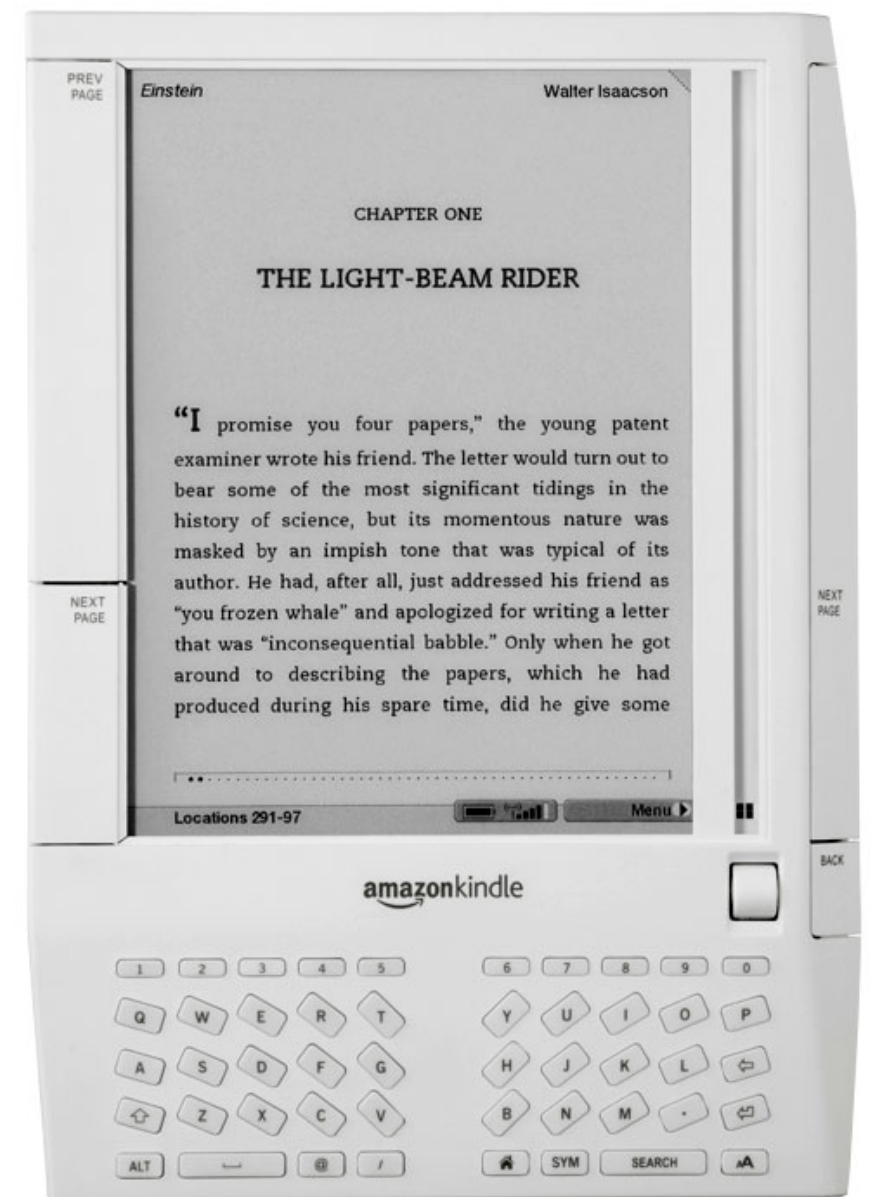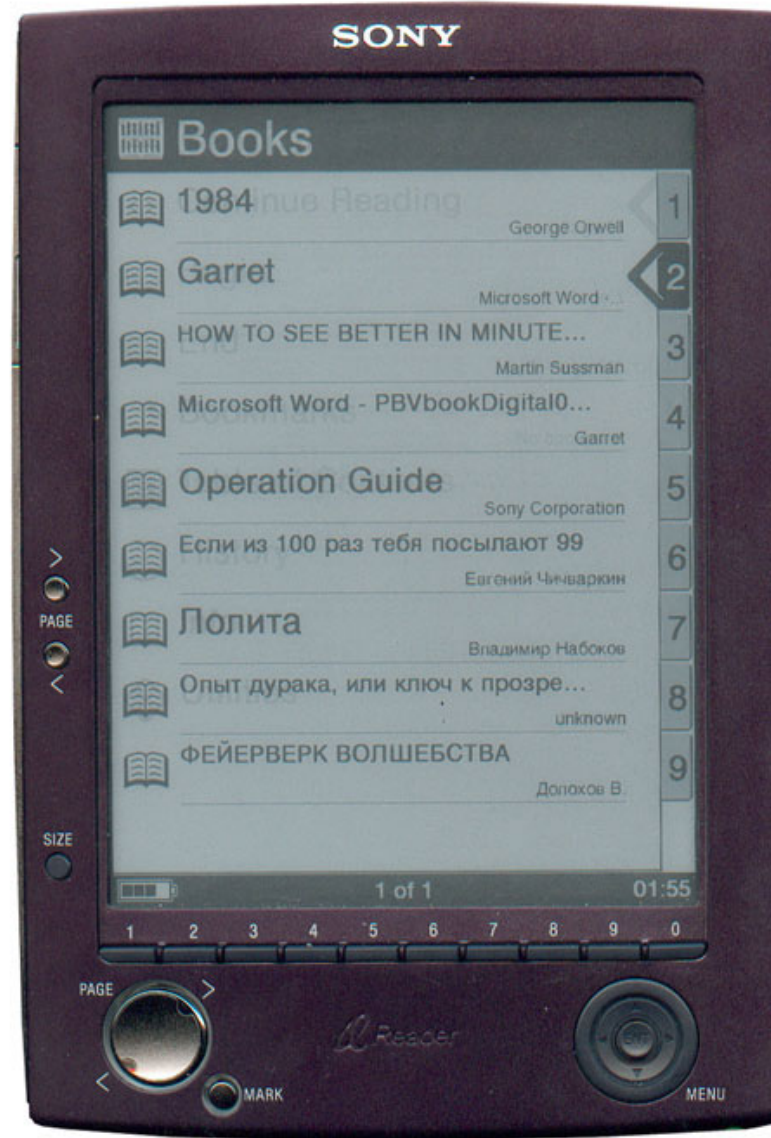
2008 - 2009

"practice makes perfect"

Finals Mania

Prototyping Mobile Services

2009 - 2010

"once more, with feeling"

eReaders

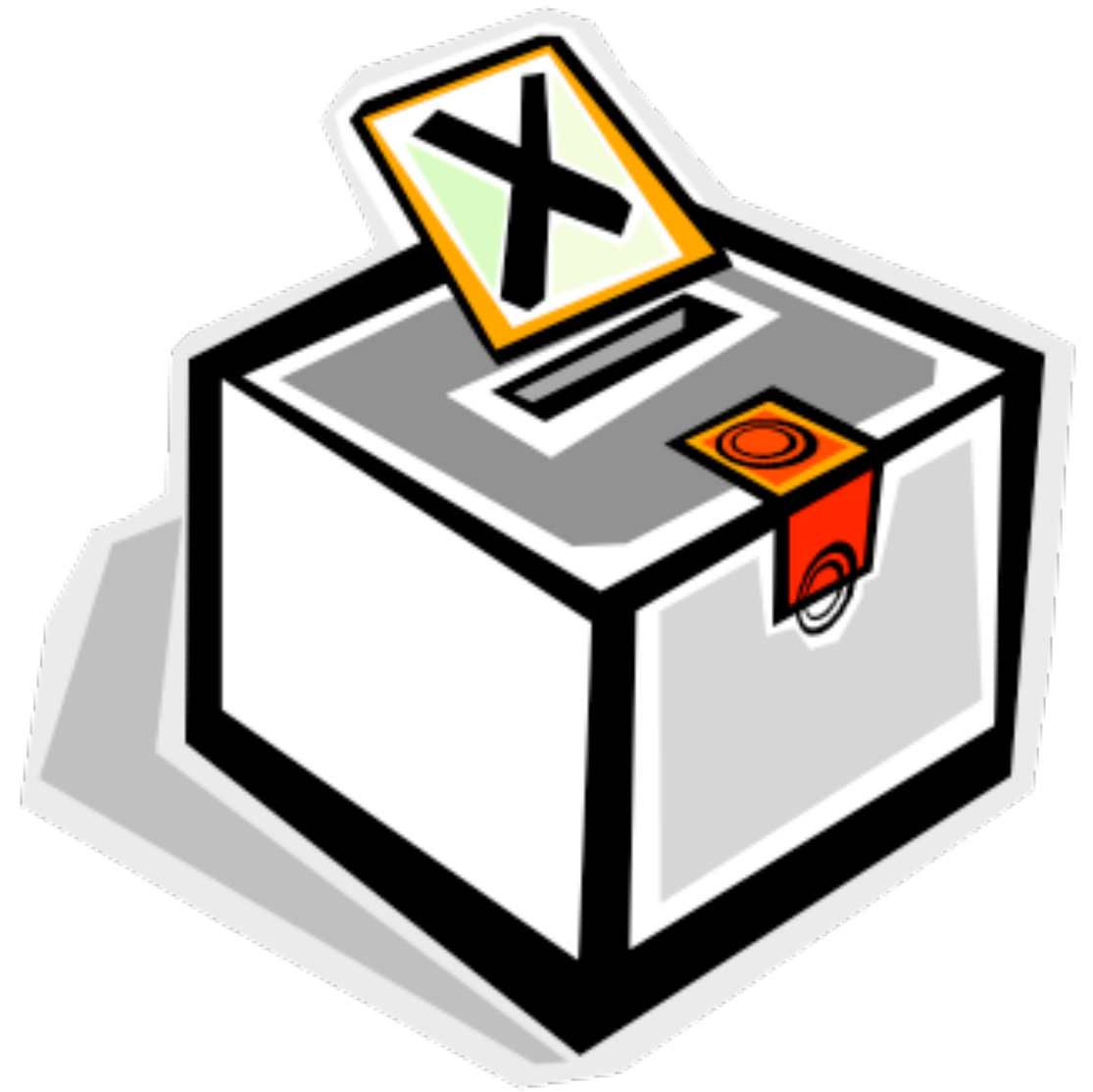cougar social media SHOWCASE

Web 2.0

Mobile Development Opportunities

Partnership with Students in "Ubiquitous Computing" Class

Does your library have a mobile website?
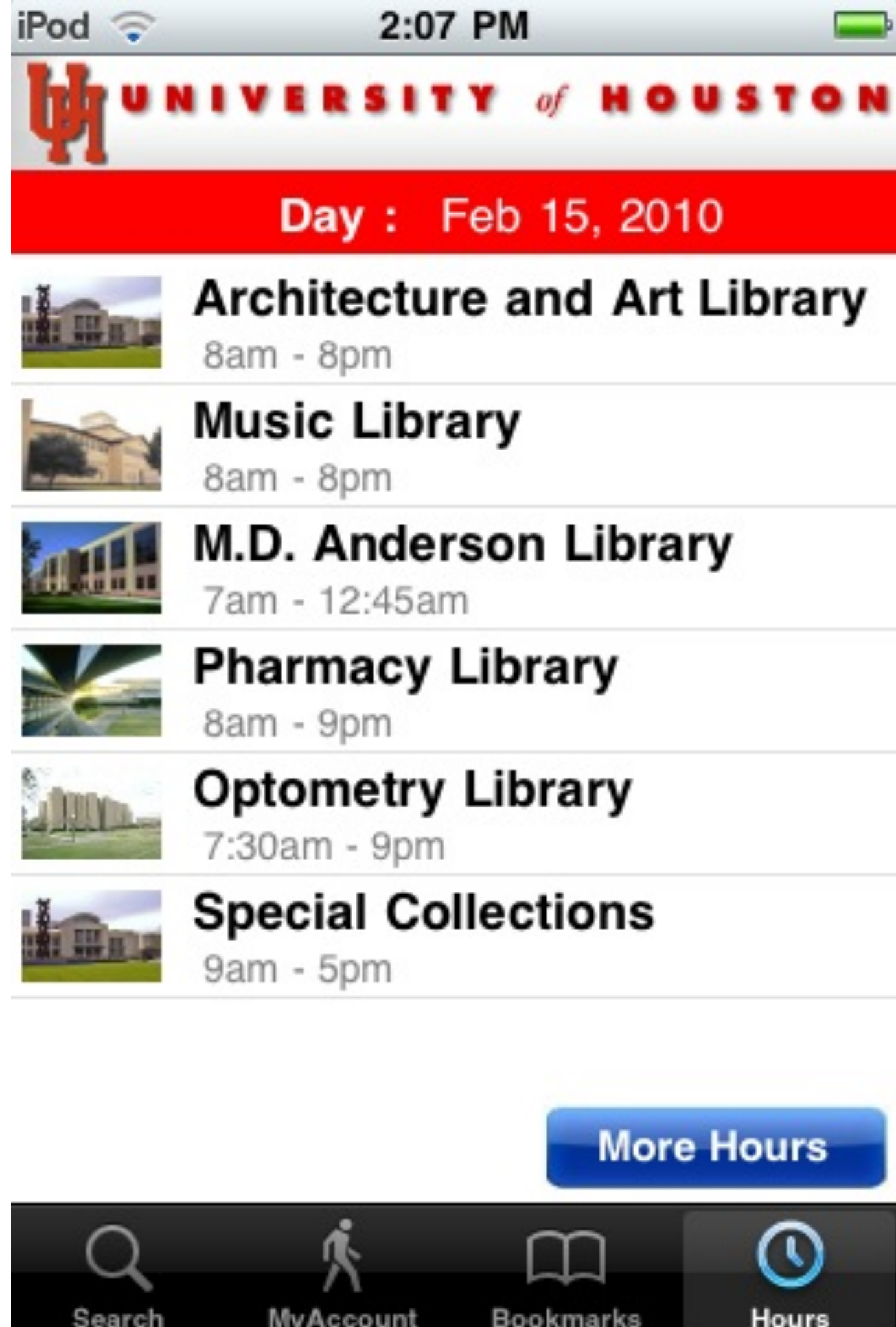
Does your library have any apps that were specifically developed for a particular platform, such as iPhone, Android, Palm, or Blackberry?

Students created an app for iPhone/iPod Touch that searches the UH Libraries' catalog using the WorldCat API and some screen scraping techniques.
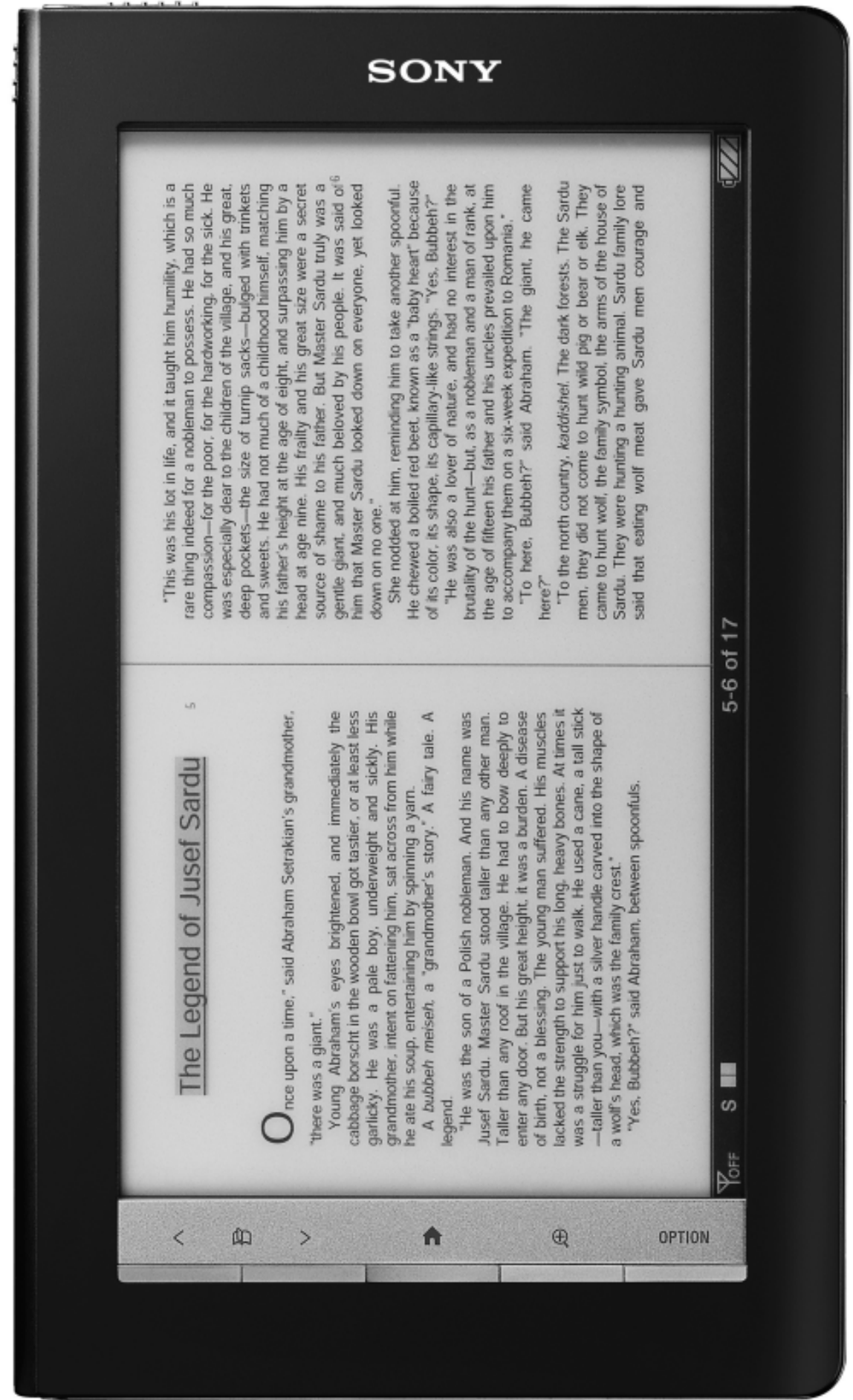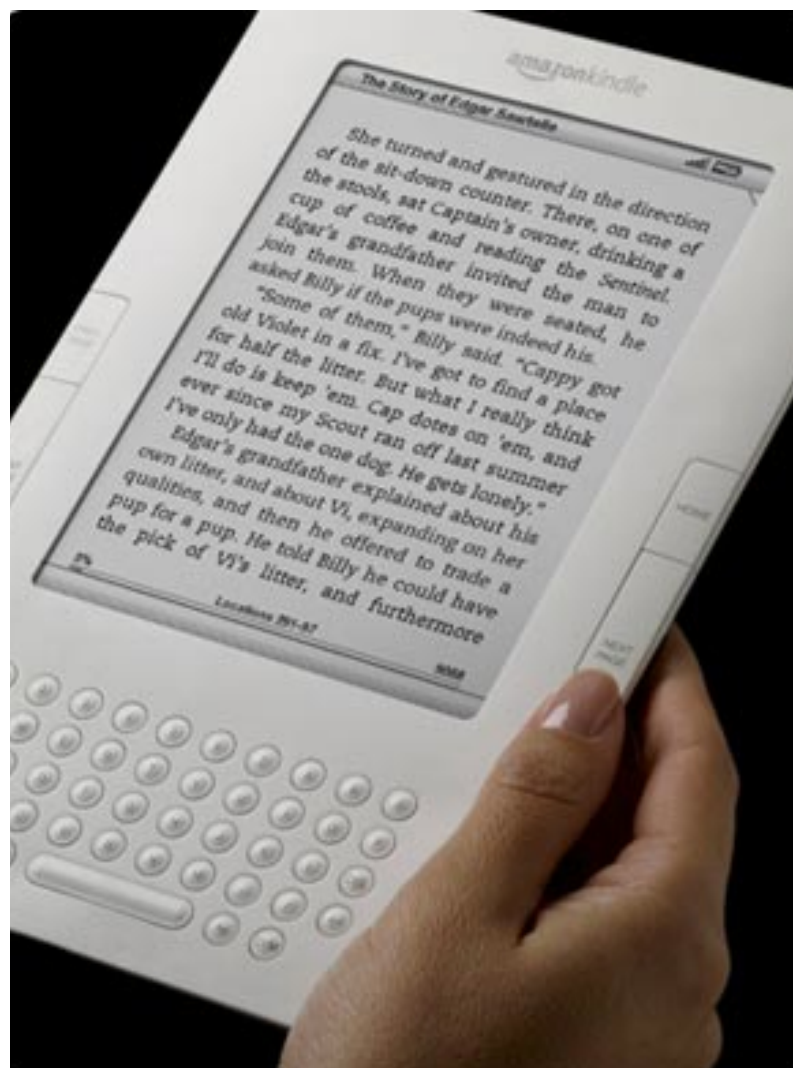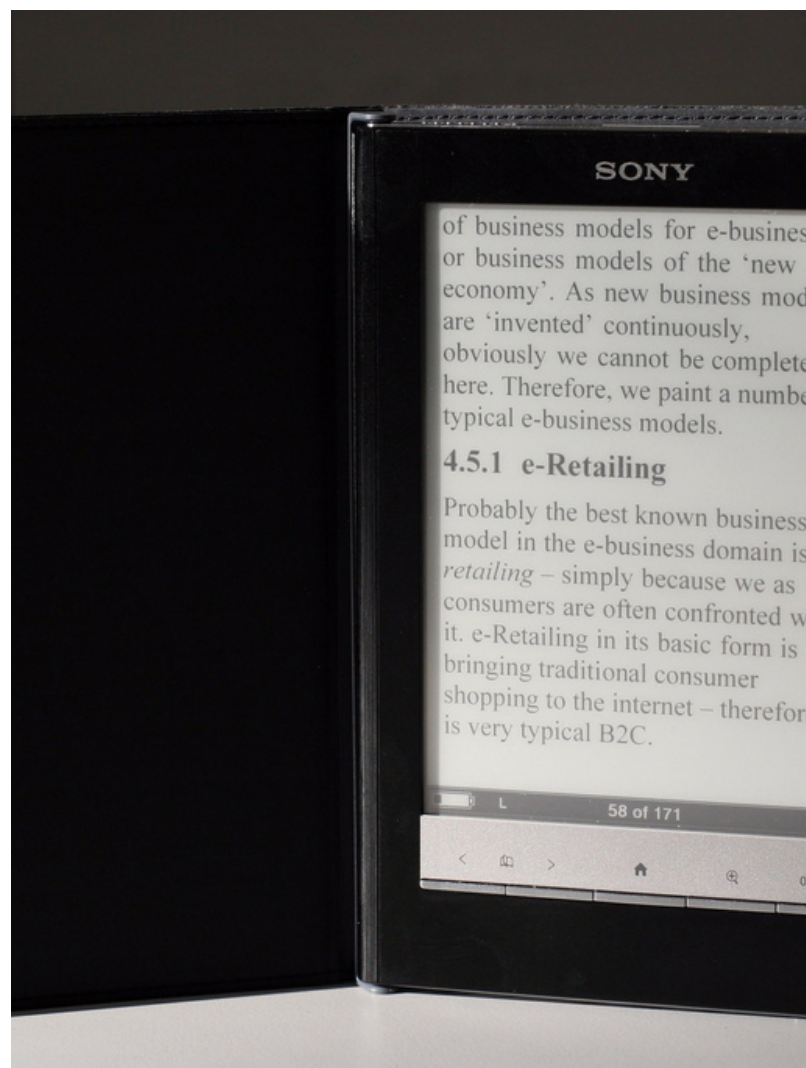
UH Libraries
iPhone App

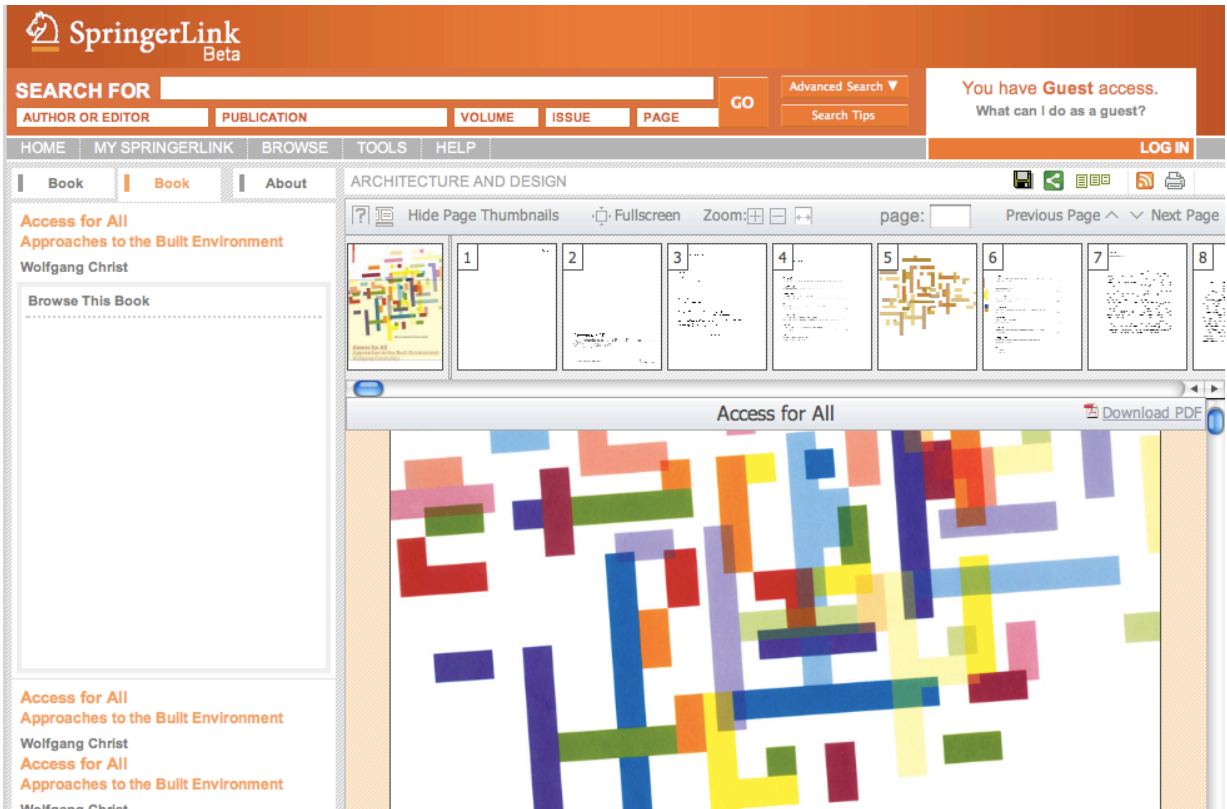Challenges to creating ubiquitous apps

Future development ideas

eReader
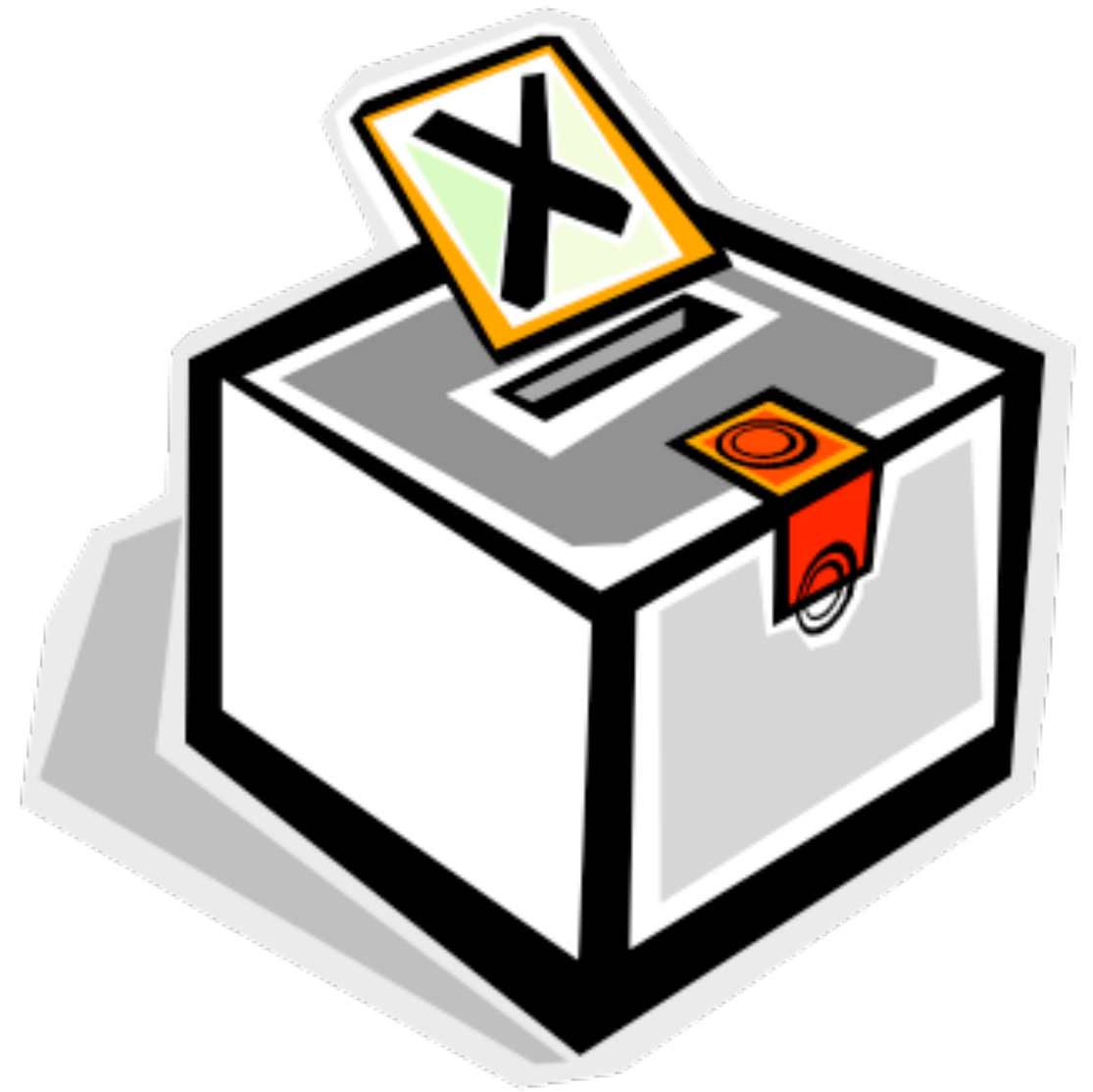# Microgrant

The Legend of Jusef Sardu

Once upon a time," said Abraham Setrakian's grandmother, "there was a giant."

Young Abraham's eyes brightened, and immediately the cabbage borscht in the wooden bowl got tastier, or at least less garlicky. He was a pale boy, underweight and sickly. His grandmother, intent on fattening him, sat across from him while he ate his soup, entertaining him by spinning a yarn.

A *bubbeh meiseh*, a "grandmother's story." A fairy tale. A legend.

"He was the son of a Polish nobleman. And his name was Jusef Sardu. Master Sardu stood taller than any other man. Taller than any roof in the village. He had to bow deeply to enter any door. But his great height, it was a burden. A disease of birth, not a blessing. The young man suffered. His muscles lacked the strength to support his long, heavy bones. At times it was a struggle for him just to walk. He used a cane, a tall stick —taller than you—with a silver handle carved into the shape of a wolf's head, which was the family crest."

"Yes, Bubbeh?" said Abraham, between spoonfuls.

"This was his lot in life, and it taught him humility, which is a rare thing indeed for a nobleman to possess. He had so much compassion—for the poor, for the hardworking, for the sick. He was especially dear to the children of the village, and his great, deep pockets—the size of turnip sacks—bulged with trinkets and sweets. He had not much of a childhood himself, matching his father's height at the age of eight, and surpassing him by a head at age nine. His frailty and his great size were a secret source of shame to his father. But Master Sardu truly was a gentle giant, and much beloved by his people. It was said of him that Master Sardu looked down on everyone, yet looked down on no one."

She nodded at him, reminding him to take another spoonful. He chewed a boiled red beet, known as a "baby heart" because of its color, its shape, its capillary-like strings. "Yes, Bubbeh?"

"He was also a lover of nature, and had no interest in the brutality of the hunt—but, as a nobleman and a man of rank, at the age of fifteen his father and his uncles prevailed upon him to accompany them on a six-week expedition to Romania."

"To here, Bubbeh?" said Abraham. "The giant, he came here?"

"To the north country, *kaddishel*. The dark forests. The Sardu men, they did not come to hunt wild pig or bear or elk. They came to hunt wolf, the family symbol, the arms of the house of Sardu. They were hunting a hunting animal. Sardu family lore said that eating wolf meat gave Sardu men courage and

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Evaluate usability of the Sony eReader, Amazon Kindle, and Kindle App for the iPod Touch.
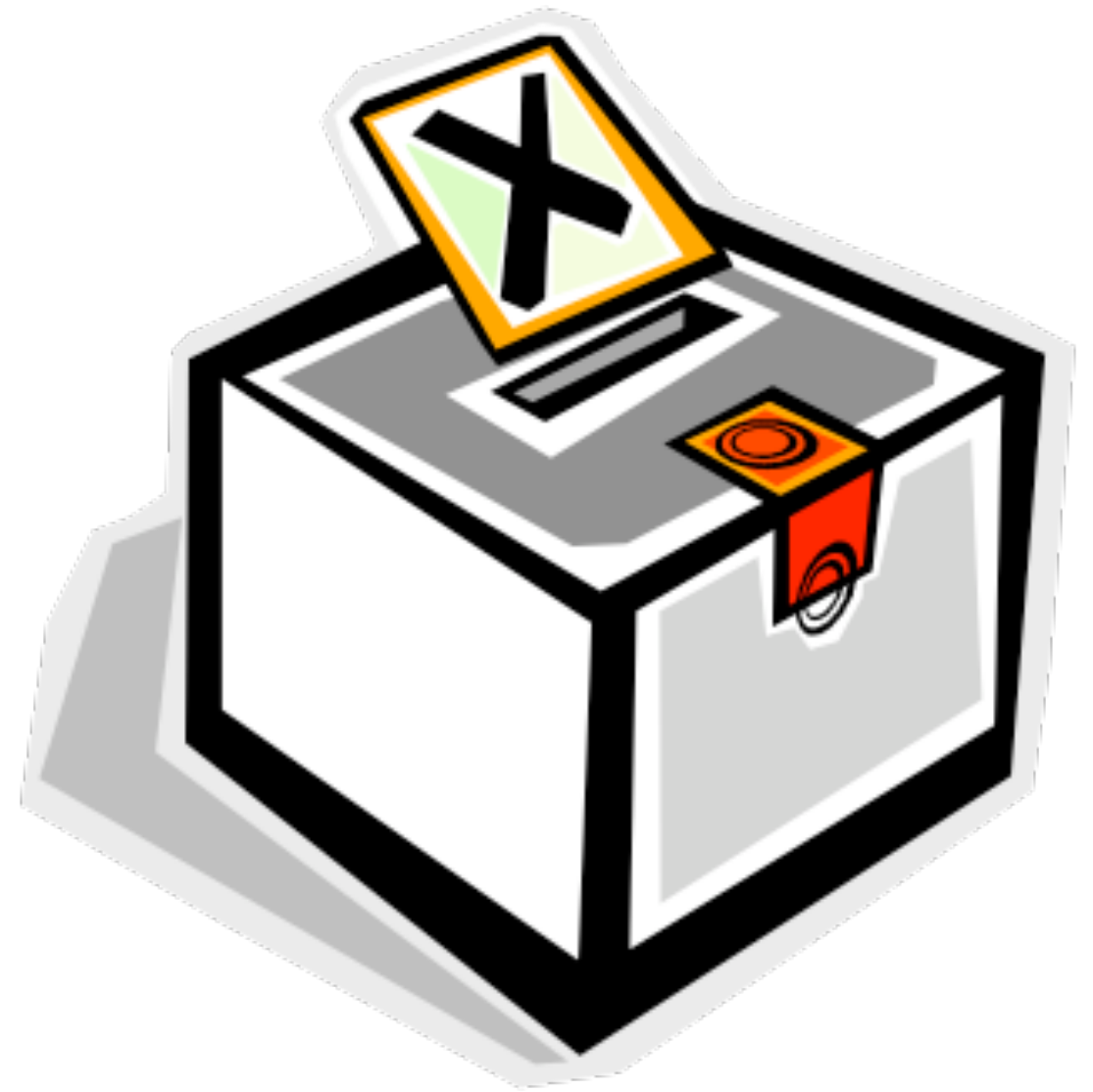
Evaluate NetLibrary eReader Collection and SpringerLink eBooks

Which do you think won? Vote now!

Which do you think won?
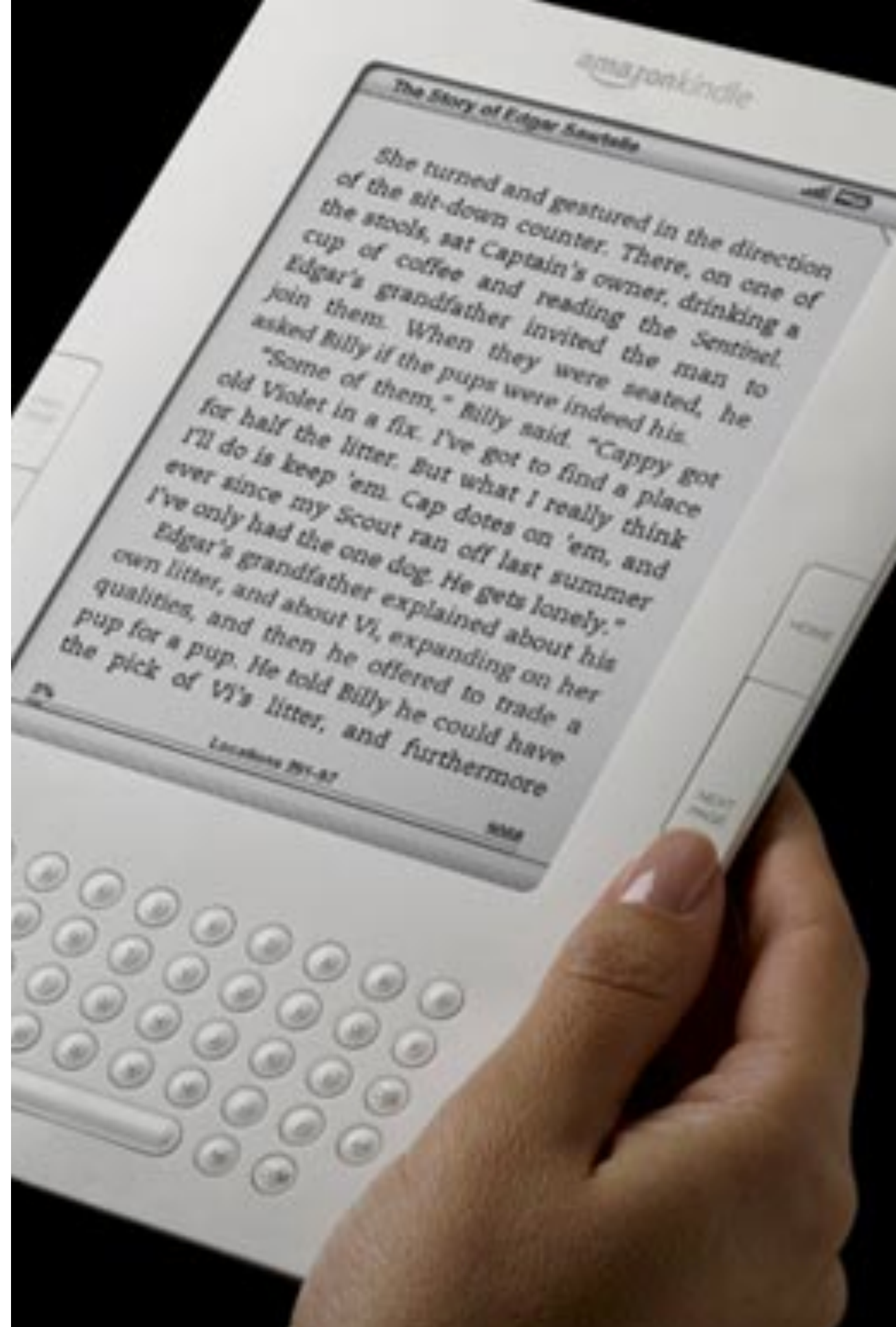
And the Answer is.....

The iPod Touch

Despite its small size, most people liked the iPod Touch for its backlight, portability, and touch screen.

The Kindle and the eReader

While the larger display was nice, users were distracted by glare from screen, difficulty navigating, and bulkiness of the units.

NetLibrary eReader Collection

Difficult to get books onto eReader, especially if it is already authorized under a Sony Account.

NetLibrary®

Libraries
- Find NetLibrary eContent solutions for your library

Enter ···>

Publishers
- Tools & resources for NetLibrary publisher partners

Enter ···>

Ab

SpringerLink eBooks

While DRM-Free books are a refreshing change, they are currently only downloadable by chapter or section. Graphics, for the most part, were readable on the Sony eReader.
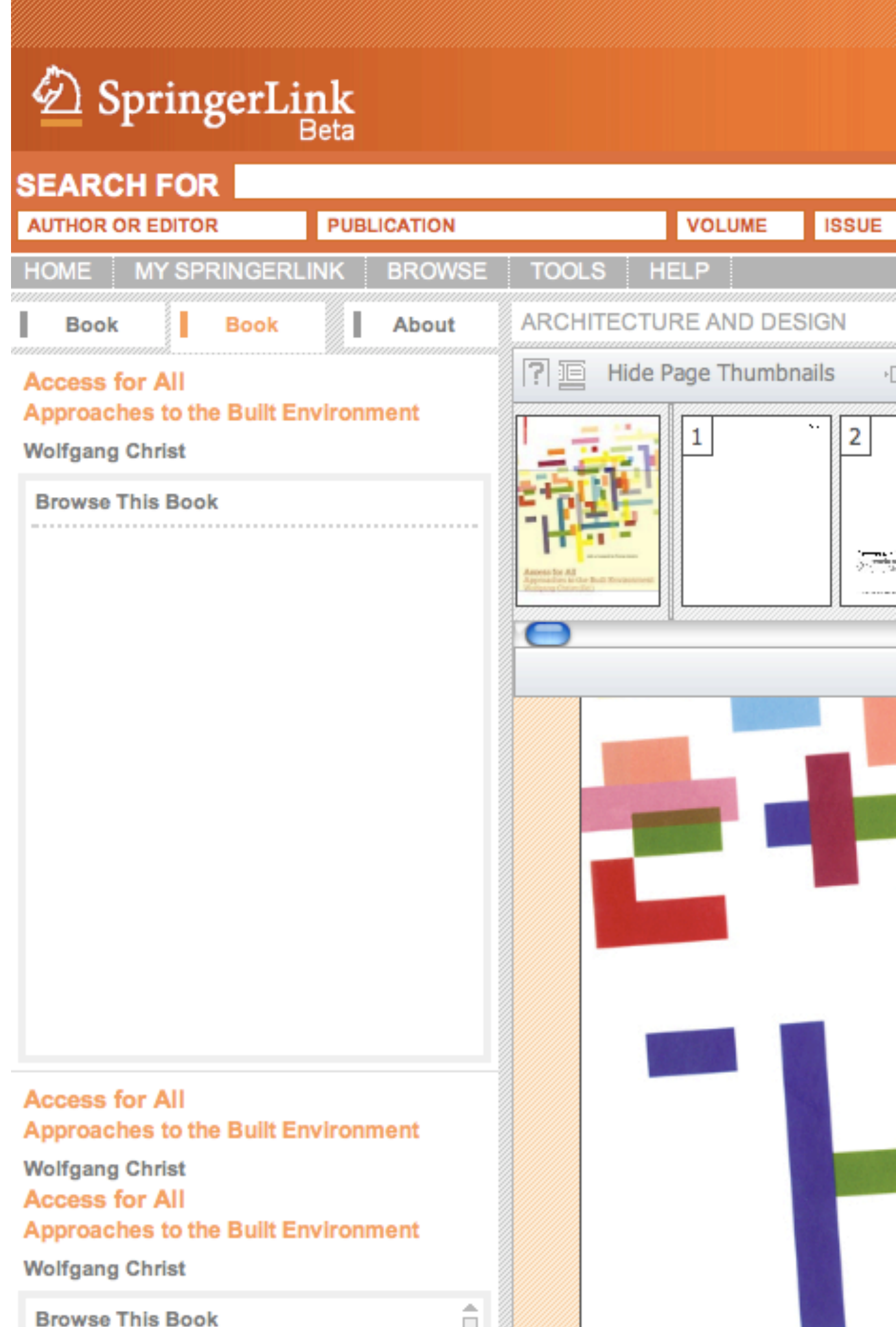
Conclusion

- eReaders are off to a good start, but they have a long way to go. New players to the marked such as the Nook and iPad continue to change the dynamics of the market.
- This Project indicate that users value Portability, Ease of Use, and Readability in a variety of situations over size of display. eInk displays did not help.
- When possible, libraries should purchase DRM Free Materials for their collections.

After learning about the UH Libraries' Microgrant Program, how many of you plan to talk to your administration about implementing a similar program in your library?
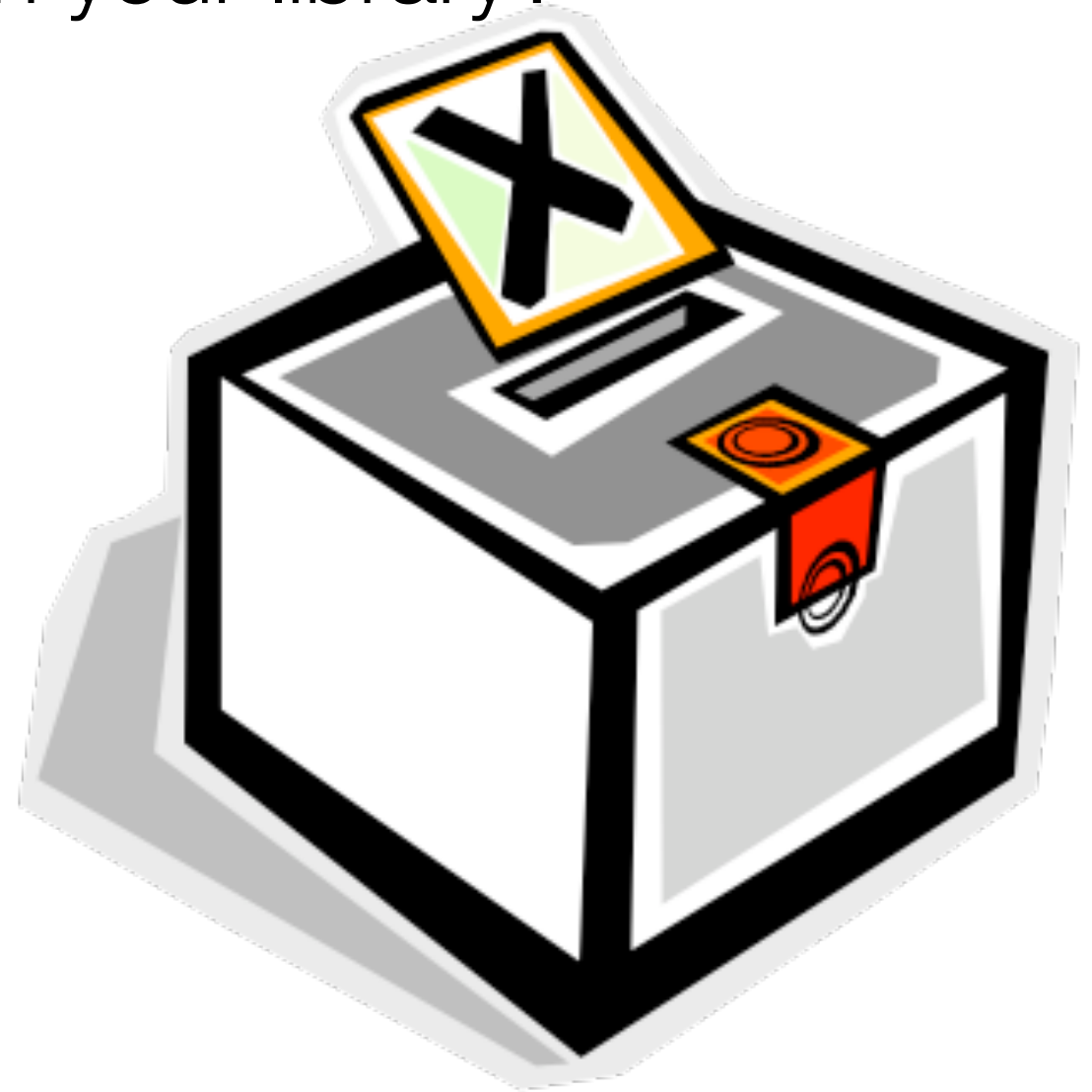
Photo by mtx @ flickr.com

Thanks for Listening!

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