

## 61. インターネット時代の書籍の役割(1)：構造理解

The Internet is very much like television in that it takes time away from other pursuits, provides entertainment and information, but in no way can compare with the warm, personal experience of reading a good book. This is not the only reason why the Internet will never replace books, for books provide the sufficient knowledge of a subject that sitting in front of a computer monitor cannot provide. We can transfer text from an Internet source, but the artistic quality of sheets of transferred text leaves much to be desired. A well-designed book makes the reading experience important.

The book is still the most compact and economical means of conveying a lot of knowledge in a convenient package, and this is what makes it popular. The idea that one can carry in one's pocket a play by Shakespeare, a novel by Charles Dickens or the Bible in a small book with a stiff, paper cover is incredible. We take such uncommon convenience for granted, not realizing that the book itself has undergone quite an evolution since the production of the Gutenberg Bible in 1455 and Shakespeare's book of plays in 1623.

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