

Does Medium Matter for Learning? Reading in Print, Onscreen, and with Audio

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Both students and the general public are increasingly doing their reading on digital devices rather than in print. In educational contexts, cost and convenience continue to privilege digital over print reading, and audio (or audio-video) materials are growingly being substituted for text assignments.

Current research reveals both predictable and surprising findings regarding how we learn from alternative reading platforms, especially print versus digital text. Less is known about textual versus auditory learning, though suggestive results should give educators pause before assuming media are pedagogically interchangeable. This lecture offers a targeted review of new research findings about reading medium and suggests strategies for leading readers to maximize their learning from each platform.