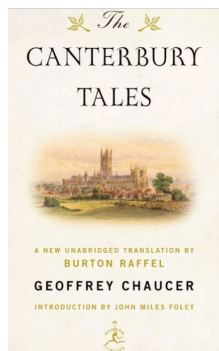


25 November 2008

By: Dan Talpalariu, Science Editor



The e-book version of The Canterbury Tales by Geoffrey Chaucer Random House

## [Myriads of Books Become Digital](#)

*Random House turns more regular books into digital ones*

Although it may not appear so, the market of digital books is still recording an important growth, reflected in the figures their worldwide purchase cashes in. This determined [Random House, Inc.](#) (the world's largest English-language book publisher and a division of Bertelsmann AG, one of the most important media companies out there) to have a bigger number of digitized books.

Thousands of books will be added to an increasingly large collection of e-books, including digital versions for John Updike and Harlan Coben novels or a number of volumes from the children book series called "Magic Treehouse". This initiative will almost double the number of electronic books already owned by the company (8,000) in just a few months, bringing it to a milestone of 15,000 items. Interested buyers will be able to view excerpts from the books online, via Random House's Insight dedicated browser.&nbsp;An [e-book](#) is the electronic format of a conventional book, available for reading on computers or dedicated devices. Although losing some of the aesthetics of regular reading, e-books still present a series of advantages over regular ones. Among the most important are: reading comfort (no need to keep the book open, text font and size can be adjusted, text-to speech software can play it as audio), cross-referencing, enhanced ergonomics and back-up, no aging issues, lighting independence, immediate availability and transfer, and less resources (paper, ink, etc.) used.&nbsp;Associated Press reports that Markus Dohle, CEO at Random House, shared in a statement that "more people everyday are enjoying reading in the electronic format and Random House wants to extend our reach to them with more of our books," as [MSNBC](#) quotes. This affirmation is backed up by the company's vice president for digital operations, Matt Shatz, who states that their e-book sales have grown by a triple-digit percentage this year.