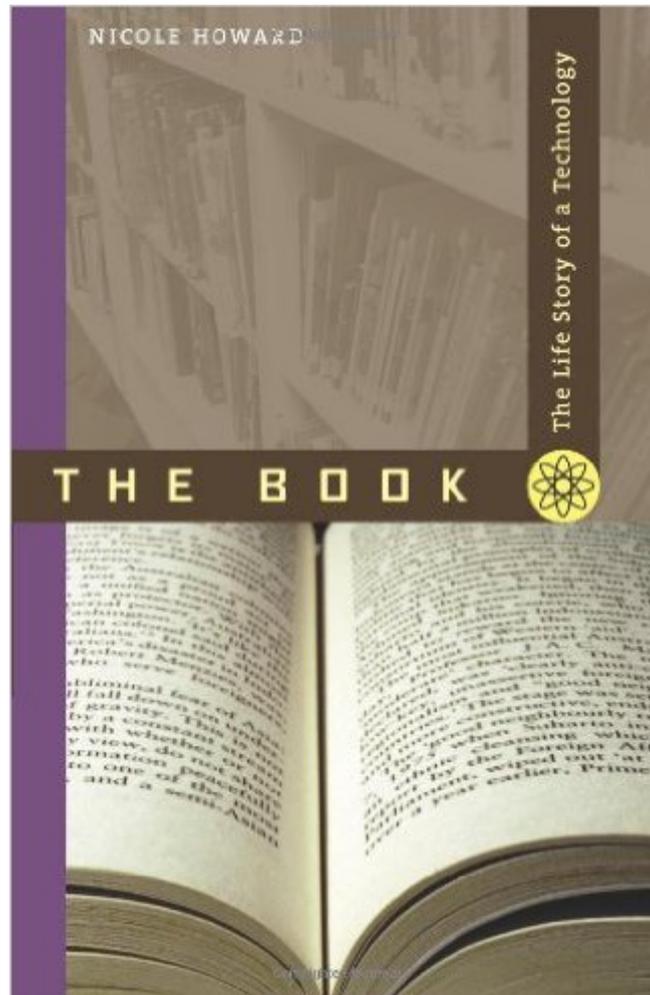# The Book: The Life Story Of A Technology

Synopsis

The printed book is one of lifeâ ™s most frequently encountered technologies. Historian Nicole Howard provides a comprehensive survey of the evolution of this technology, tracing its development across many centuries and cultures.No other technology in human history, declares Howard, has had the impact of this invention. By examining the book as a technology, Howard reveals how profoundly information and media have shaped history and how vital the technology of the book has been to cultural and intellectual change. This engaging study extends from clay tablets and rolls of papyrus to bound folio sheets, from inks and scripts to lead type and printing presses, from the Linotype machine to the laptop. Cross-cultural in scope, it examines innovations in the production and manufacture of books from the Middle and Far East, Europe, and the Americas. Howard recounts printing techniques from Gutenbergâ ™s first press to 21st-century electronic publishing.Howardâ ™s broad overview and accessible writing style make this book ideal for students and bibliophiles alike. The volume includes a glossary of terms, a timeline of important events, and a selected bibliography of useful resources for further information.

Book Information

Paperback: 192 pages

Publisher: Johns Hopkins University Press (September 25, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0801893119

ISBN-13: 978-0801893117

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.5 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.3 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (7 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #82,797 in Books (See Top 100 in Books)   #7 inÂ Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Books & Reading > History of Books   #106 inÂ Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Books & Reading > General   #108 inÂ Books > Engineering & Transportation > Engineering > Reference > History

Customer Reviews

This is a useful book if you are looking for a standard and readable history of the book. It seemed to me authoritative, but its citations are a bit skimpy. Sometimes the author tells us where she's getting her information, and at other times she doesn't. The bibliography is OK.Howard doesn't advance an argument or any new thesis about the history of the book. Rather, this is a conventional history of a

technology, based on evolution, progress, development. I wish she had had more to say about what newer technological changes actually pose to the relevance of the book itself. She just assumes that the book will always be important, but I think this is a presumption that might require some more reflection.

I came across THE BOOK while looking for a new text for my History of Publishing course, and after reading it adopted it and revamped the course. Nicole Howard has done an excellent done of telling the story of the bookâ ”its origins, economics, labor history and technological development. We learn about papyrus and parchment and paper; the invention of movable type, including the lawsuits between Gutenberg and his business partners (he lost) and the role of the alphabet in printing; the development of books sizes, topics, and print runs; paratext and illustration; book banning and copyright; industrialization and computerization; and the reaction of the labor force to change. As a reader, I wish the book had been longer, but as a teacher itâ ™s just right. Well organized, clearly explained and replete with illustrations, yet with plenty of room for students to find topics for further research.

I purchsed this book for a class I was taking. I found the book to be delightfully informative without being boring or overly flowery. If you are interested in the history of the book, pick this up. You will not be disappointed.

A good introduction to the subject; one reviewer called it "serviceable" and I would agree. It tells you all you need to know in clear prose -- great for an undergraduate, perhaps too linear for graduate students.

Download to continue reading...

Life Coaching: Life Coaching Blueprint: Save A Life One Person At A Time (BONUS 30MINUTE Life Coaching Session- How To Motivate, Inspire, Change Your Life) The Book: The Life Story of a Technology Sound Recording: The Life Story of a Technology Next Generation SOA: A Concise Introduction to Service Technology & Service-Orientation (The Prentice Hall Service Technology Series from Thomas Erl) Technology In Action Complete (13th Edition) (Evans, Martin & Poatsy, Technology in Action Series) Visualizing Technology Complete (5th Edition) (Geoghan Visualizing Technology Series) Robotics: The Beginner's Guide to Robotic Building, Technology, Mechanics, and Processes (Robotics, Mechanics, Technology, Robotic Building, Science) ECHO USER GUIDE: The Official User Guide For Using Your Echo (technology mobile communication kindle

alexa computer hardware) (Echo ... & Technology Ebooks Hardware & DYI) Cloud Computing: Concepts, Technology & Architecture (The Prentice Hall Service Technology Series from Thomas Erl) Fashionable Technology: The Intersection of Design, Fashion, Science, and Technology Framing Production: Technology, Culture, and Change in the British Bicycle Industry (Inside Technology) Concrete Technology (Trade, Technology & Industry) Autonomous Vehicle Technology: A Guide for Policymakers (Transportation, Space, and Technology Program) Food Packaging Science and Technology (Packaging and Converting Technology) Foundations of Educational Technology: Integrative Approaches and Interdisciplinary Perspectives (Interdisciplinary Approaches to Educational Technology) Reeds Vol 14: Stealth Warship Technology (Reeds Marine Engineering and Technology Series) Science and Technology in the Global Cold War (Transformations: Studies in the History of Science and Technology) Technology in the Law Office, Second Edition (Technology in the Law Office, Second Edition) Vascular Technology Review: A Q&A Review for the ARDMS Vascular Technology Exam Weapons of Mass Destruction: An Encyclopedia of Worldwide Policy, Technology, and History; Volume I: Chemical and Biological Weapons and Volume II:: ... Technology, and History (2 volume set)