ON BOOKS AND READING

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Summary/Abstract: This article looks into the evolution of books and paradigms of reading in the last approximately three hundred years. The proviso is that print compelled the people to read, and therefore to be modern. Since a large number of books entered the world, the extensive model of reading took precedence over the intensive model. Referencing a variety of ideas on books and reading, I argue that there is a bodily interaction between readers and books, and also between the act of reading and the printed text. Moreover, books have a body of their own, which has been designed to be a match for the human body. Probing into possible answers to the question "Why do we read?", I also tackled the resistance of some texts, which may either frustrate their readers, or give them a sense of what Bloom calls the "reader's sublime." The difficulty of reading puts the reader not just in the text, but in its very centre, while the text itself becomes the reader's drama. In the 21st century, in the...
context of what many consider to be a \textit{decline of literacy} and the large use of electronic reading devices, books and reading have entered a new stage. The printed book and reading traditional books have not lost their grip, while the e-book and e-reading need further testing.

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