

## Sources

**Chenoweth, K. (2001).** Increasingly popular "reading management programs" give kids points for every book they read. But do they turn kids into readers? *School library journal*. Retrieved from <http://www.schoollibraryjournal.com/article/CA153939.html?q=electronic+reading+program>

*This article explores two sides of the debate over the usefulness of electronic reading programs. Chenoweth focuses on Accelerated Reader and Reading Counts, pointing out the positives and negatives of each.*

**Hanson, L.E. (2009).** Reading management programs: A review of the research. *Journal of Literacy and Technology*. 10(3). Retrieved from [www.literacyandtechnology.org/volume10\\_3/hansen\\_et\\_al\\_jlt\\_v10\\_3.pdf](http://www.literacyandtechnology.org/volume10_3/hansen_et_al_jlt_v10_3.pdf)

*This article provides an overview of reading management programs and examines research findings on reading management software in three key areas (program implementation, reading achievement, and student attitudes).*

**Krashen, S. (2002).** Accelerated Reader: Does it work? If so, why? *School Libraries in Canada*. 22(2). Retrieved from <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/system republican/Accelerated%20Reader/AR-5.pdf>

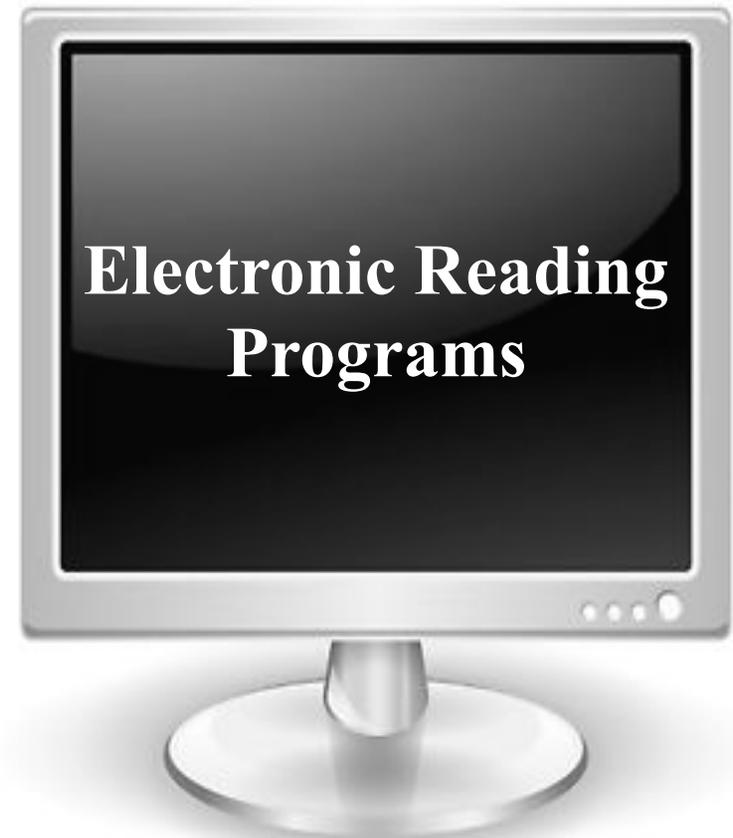
*This article focuses specifically on the effectiveness of the Accelerated Reader program. Krashen provides researched facts and statistical data to back the information..*

**Masterson-Smith, J. (2005).** Electronic reading programs. *International journal of information and communication technology education*. 1(2), 33-39, April-June 2005. Retrieved from [http://www.infosci-journals.com/downloadPDF/pdf/ITJ2795\\_NfdBDeFB5X.pdf](http://www.infosci-journals.com/downloadPDF/pdf/ITJ2795_NfdBDeFB5X.pdf)

*This article from the International Journal of Information and Communication Technology Education discusses the use of electronic reading programs taking a negative point of view. Julie Masterson-Smith discusses some positives of electronic reading programs, but she clearly believes that there are better methods.*

**Straight, S. (August 30, 2009).** Reading by the numbers. *New York Times*. Retrieved from <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/30/books/review/Straight-t.html>

*This article was written by author Susan Straight. While she dislikes electronic reading programs, it is for different reasons than other like-minded people. Her issue is with the point system that Accelerated Reader uses. She feels that having a minimum point total per month forces students to read books that they don't necessarily want to read, but have to because they are worth more points.*



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## What are they?

Computer based reading comprehension assessment programs Also referred to as *reading management programs*

## What is their function?

Electronic reading programs are tools with which a teacher can gauge the reading comprehension skills of a student.

## How do they work?

Books are chosen from a predetermined list.

1. Read the book
2. Answer Comprehension Questions
3. Earn points based on length of the book, difficulty of the book, and correct answers
4. Points are exchanged for prizes/rewards

## What are the alternatives?

Use electronic reading programs as a supplementary tool, not a primary program.

Provide professional development in reading instruction for teachers.

Promote parental involvement (read to/with children).

Integrate guided reading groups, lit circles, etc.

## Advantages

Students read more frequently.

Libraries show a significant increase in circulation.

Standardized test scores go up as a whole. Better scores lead to more funding.

Students grow vocabulary, advance verbal and spelling skills, and improve general knowledge.

Teachers can monitor what students are reading and how well they understand it.

## Disadvantages

Seen as a quick-fix/short-term solution.

Read for rewards, not for pleasure.  
(Extrinsic not intrinsic)

Students say they have to read so much in school that they do not want to read out of school.

Don't support the idea of becoming a lifelong learner/reader.

Need to budget for software, corresponding books, and training for staff.

Points assigned to books are inconsistent.