Creating and Formatting e-Books
Handout #1
E-book Files

This is a quick reference list for the most frequently used e-book file types.

1. <u>PDF</u>. This format has been used for years, even before e-readers. It is a standard format that can be used on both PC and Mac platforms. PDF files are easy to make and easy to download from websites. The drawbacks are readers may need to manually transfer the file to their e-reader, and these files are not as flexible in e-readers. Occasionally a PDF file will not look as good on an e-reader.
2. <u>EPUB</u>. The iBook generally uses EPUB format. It has a different conversion method than PDFs and Kindle books. On the plus side, more devices can read an EPUB document. Only the Kindle does not.
3. <u>MOBI</u>. Many devices can read MOBI files, including the Kindle. It is the foundation file for Kindle's AZW. It is not graphic friendly, however. A standard MOBI doesn't allow for much interaction.
4. <u>AZW</u>. This is the Kindle file format. It is produced through the Kindle Direct Publishing website from an HTML file. A newer version, Kindle Format 8 (KF8), has been developed for the Kindle Fire that allows for more color and interactivity.