

# What's happening in publishing? Book's Face -8- 28/09/2015

## What Ever Happened to Google Books? - The New Yorker

There are plenty of ways to attribute blame in this situation. If Google was, in truth, motivated by the highest ideals of service to the public, then it should have declared the project a non-profit from the beginning, thereby extinguishing any fears that the company wanted to somehow make a profit from other people's work. Unfortunately, Google made the mistake it often makes, which is to assume that people will trust it just because it's Google. For their part, authors and publishers, even if they did eventually settle, were difficult and conspiracy-minded, particularly when it came to weighing abstract and mainly worthless rights against the public's interest in gaining access to obscure works. Finally, the outside critics and the courts were entirely too sanguine about killing, as opposed to improving, a settlement that took so many years to put together, effectively setting the project back a decade if not longer.

## Le Robert Mobile iOS fait peau neuve - Macplus

Après cinq années de mises à jour gratuites, nouvelle version entièrement revue du Robert Mobile (2,99 €) sous iOS, comprendre, iPhone et iPad. Cette fois-ci, il faut sortir sa carte de crédit en sachant que le coût de lancement est réduit de moitié. À ce prix, difficile de ronchonner, l'application est un modèle du genre.

## Editions du Seuil: Alienare, un livre-application - Aldus

A découvrir "Alienare" un livre-application de l'auteur et performeuse Chloé Delaume, illustré par Franck Dion, conçu par les Editions du Seuil. Chloé Delaume collabore régulièrement avec des artistes, musiciens, poètes, designers, plasticiens. L'occasion d'étendre son champ d'expérimentation avec ce beau projet de fiction. Alienare est proposé jusqu'au 7 septembre au prix de 1,99€ sur iTunes. Tous les détails sur le site dédié.

## **What Scribd's growing pains mean for the future of digital content subscription models » - Nieman Journalism Lab**

“Today’s consumer demands mobile access to large catalogs of premium content, anytime, anywhere,” a KKR exec said in the release. When it comes to text-based content, though — ebooks, magazines, newspapers — that statement is far from proven. Scribd has showed us that certain types of very active readers do, indeed, demand mobile access to large catalogs of content and want to pay a flat fee for it. But we don’t know if casual book readers want this. In Scribd’s case there clearly aren’t enough casual, set-it-and-forget-it users to subsidize the heavier readers.

## **Accusing Amazon of Antitrust Violations, Authors and Booksellers Demand Inquiry - NYTimes.com**

The Authors Guild, the American Booksellers Association, the Association of Authors’ Representatives and Authors United said in letters and statements being sent this week to the Justice Department that “Amazon has used its dominance in ways that we believe harm the interests of America’s readers, impoverish the book industry as a whole, damage the careers of (and generate fear among) many authors, and impede the free flow of ideas in our society.”

## **Renew the Book**

WHAT IS RENEW THE BOOK? Renew the Book is an exciting new initiative. It’s developed to bring innovative companies and thinking into the Dutch publishing industry. We, the General Publisher’s Association (GAU), are looking for 5 startups with ground-breaking ideas in the publishing realm. If you manage to get selected we will provide you with workshops, mentoring and much more. Renew the Book will start in November and is powered by Rockstart. Got you excited? Continue reading to find out if you have what it takes to bring publishing into the 21st century! NEW TIMES, NEW IDEAS (...) “Everywhere in the world publishers, whether in news, music or books, are seeing how digital has changed how we distribute, create and consume content. With the ‘Renew the Book’ competition we want to stimulate change and are not afraid to admit that the best ideas might come from outside the publishing industry. I hope there will be revolutionary ideas among them.”

## **Ebooks: Oyster Closing Ebook Subscription Service as Company Leadership and Other Team Members Hired by Google - LJ INFOdocket**

A rep for [Google] confirmed that “a portion” of the Oyster team has joined Google Play Books, its online store for books. People familiar with the company say that CEO Eric Stromberg and co-founders Andrew Brown and Willem Van Lancker are part of the team joining Google.

## **Google’s grab of Oyster suggests ebooks, like news, are becoming “content” read on big platforms » -Nieman Journalism Lab**

Oyster’s strong tech saved it from being another sad ebook startup failure story, but it’s another case of platform power edging out an independent startup.