

Abstract

In recent decades, concerns have been raised about declining attention spans and reduced long-term memory, particularly in relation to increased exposure to digital media. Owing to this trend, the effects of reading formats on memory performance and comprehension have been widely discussed in cognitive research. Studies have shown that compared to screen-based reading, reading on paper may improve long-term memory. However, most of these studies have focused on works of non-fiction, while fictional works remain underexplored. This paper aims to fill this gap by investigating whether this correlation also applies to fictional texts. In this between-subjects experiment, participants read a short fictional narrative either in print or on a digital screen, followed by a delayed recall task designed to measure their memory of narrative details. The results indicate that participants in the print condition demonstrated higher recall scores for event sequences and descriptive details than those in the digital condition. While this study contributes to ongoing debates about how reading influences cognition and shows that the effects of the reading medium may partly depend on text type and reader-related factors, the mechanisms underlying these effects remain unclear. Therefore, further research is recommended to investigate which aspects of digital reading reduce people's retention of narrative details.

Commented [J1]: This opening sentence isn't bad, but it could do more to catch readers' attention. One effective way to do this is to present a surprising statistic. To give an example (with fabricated data), you could say something like, "In recent decades, the average attention span among adults in North America has reduced from 150 seconds to 45 seconds. This has raised concerns about attention spans..."

Commented [J2]: The description of the research objective in the introduction section also mentions that you examined adults, given that most of the previous research has been conducted on students. For clarity, you may want to mention this element of your objective here.

Commented [J3]: I appreciate that you've provided your paper's conclusion in the appropriate place in the abstract. However, this is written in somewhat vague language, making it difficult to see what the main conclusion is. Please see your Content Analysis Report for specific advice on resolving this potential issue.