

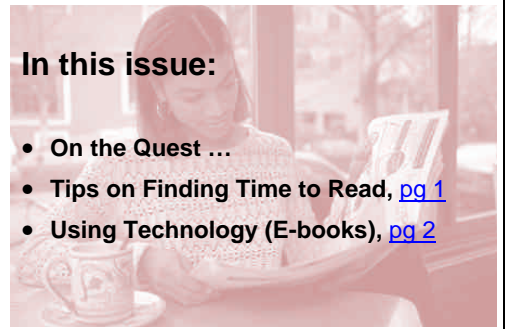
# Quest

*Information and ideas for your quest*

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## On the Quest ...

Greetings Q Reader,

Now that summer is here, many of us are traveling on vacation or enjoying long weekend getaways. It's the perfect time to take along a book or magazine ... right? Yes, but what about the rest of the year? What about the books and magazines that are stockpiled in your office and home? I'll bet many of you have books that haven't see the light of day since you fanned the pages with fervor in the bookstore.

I'm guilty of the same literary crimes, but I've discovered how to find more time for reading. I admit that I don't always read every book from cover to cover or every article to the last word. My attention span is sometimes too short. (I accept this about myself.) My goal is to explore new ideas, exercise my mind and enjoy a forgotten solitary pleasure.

Celebrities appear on TV encouraging kids to read. These public service announcements should be targeted to us as adults. Scanning the newspaper or an occasional business publication is not reading. It does little to capture our imagination, challenge our thinking or ignite our spirits.

Let's get back to reading. I hope one of the tips from this issue's featured article "[Finding Time to Read](#)" will persuade you to read regularly. Getting started is only a short trip to your stockpile.

Wishing you many successful quests,

Jennifer

## Finding Time to Read

Who has time to read? That's the question that appears on the faces of many when I recommend a book or publication. Of course, they don't say that out loud. Instead, they politely jot down the title and author.

Despite today's frenzied lifestyles, we need to find time to read. Reading is a valuable tradition we must preserve. Here are 10 ways to help you find more time to read.

**Get organized** – Store articles in a designated "reading" file folder. When you're ready to read, grab your folder. Put a reading folder in your car. It will come in handy when you're waiting in the car (e.g. drive-thru lines, picking someone up from the airport or from school). Carry your folder with you whenever you have an appointment (doctor's, client, etc.) and catch up on your reading while waiting.

**Focus** – When you receive a magazine or newsletter, go to the contents page, identify the articles of interest to you, tear the articles out and pitch the rest. Avoid the urge to subscribe to periodicals that you are not willing to read on a regular basis.

**Go electronic** – Explore the world of e-books (SEE “[Using Technology](#)” in this issue for details).

**Join a book club** – Find a local group that meets regularly. Being a member of a book club will give you an incentive to read. You can also start your own book club or simply swap favorite books with a friend. For more information on book clubs, contact your local bookstore or library.

**Listen** – Increasingly more books are available on audiotape and CD. Listen while you’re getting ready for work, driving in the car or exercising. Shopping yard sales and public library book sales is an inexpensive way to build your audio library. (Technically this is not reading, but it’s still a great way to enjoy books.)

**Relocate** – Find a pleasant place to read (e.g. the park, coffee shop, library, bookstore or your favorite chair). If you’re looking for the perfect chair or reading lamp, check out Levenger’s catalog (800-544-0880 or [www.levenger.com](http://www.levenger.com)).

**Reserve time** – Your lunch hour or breaks are perfect for reading articles and short pieces.

**Turn off the tube** – Give the television remote a rest one night a week or reduce your TV viewing each night.

**Use the Internet** – Many libraries offer on-line services. You can view their catalog, call ahead to have your selections pulled from the shelf and pick up materials at the drive-thru window. Plus, renewing books online is fast and easy. There are countless on-line bookstores. If you’re looking for bargain books, try [www.bookcloseouts.com](http://www.bookcloseouts.com).

**Wake up early** – Roll out of bed earlier and enjoy the quiet, or set aside time before retiring at night. Even 30 minutes can make a difference.

## Using Technology

Curling up with a good book has never been easier or more futuristic. We are now living in the age of electronic everything, including electronic books (e-books). For many of us who love the experience of holding a book and turning the pages, this new technology will seem sterile. But I think e-books are here to stay and that many of us will come to appreciate them. Perhaps even become fans.

E-book technology allows you to read books and articles via your computer (desktop or laptop), PDA portable devices like Palm and Handspring Visor, or hand-held units dedicated to reading e-books. Full-length novels, articles and magazines are delivered to your computer via Internet downloads. Pick a topic: business, history, sports, travel, poetry, Sci-Fi, medicine, career, food & nutrition, spirituality and humor. From classics like Mark Twain to Star Trek to Fast Company Magazine to Sesame Street’s Elmo, e-books offer something for everyone.

Let’s look at the advantages:

**Affordable** – Download e-book reader software for free or at a nominal cost (less than \$30.00). Some e-books and e-book materials are free.

**Fast and Convenient** – Download and go. Books are just a click away, 24-hours a day. Plus, no more late fees for overdue books.

**Portable** – Carry your favorite books anywhere on your laptop, PDA or hand-held dedicated reader unit.

**Space Saving** – Experience less clutter and enjoy more space with fewer printed books and magazines.

Software and hardware advantages include:

- **Adjustable Font Size** - Tailor the print for reading comfort.
- **Audio and Print** – Hear spoken text and print pages (with publisher's permission).
- **Backlit Screen** - Read at night without disturbing others.
- **Bookmark** – Mark sections for fast retrieval.
- **Highlight and Notes** – Highlight important information and make notes in the margins.
- **Interactive Dictionary** – Look up definitions instantly.
- **Search Function** - Find any word or phrase.

Because the technology is relatively new, e-book providers are still working out the bugs. The drawbacks include:

- **Proprietary Formats** – Not all e-books are created alike. There are different file formats that require different software programs (e.g. Microsoft, Adobe, preloaded software on hand-held dedicated reader units).
- **Limited Selection** – Although more e-book titles are becoming available, the selection is still limited.
- **Screen Quality** – Quality varies considerably from computer to computer.
- **Software Features** – Document reader software is still in its infancy stage and has limitations. The ideal software is still somewhere on the horizon.

Are you ready to take the plunge? If so, here are some good resources to get you started:

- **Barnes & Noble** – You'll find an "eBooks" tab on their home page <http://www.bn.com/>. "Comparing eBook Readers" [http://ebooks.barnesandnoble.com/education/compare\\_readers.asp?userid=46AZUZVRAT](http://ebooks.barnesandnoble.com/education/compare_readers.asp?userid=46AZUZVRAT) is a good article. You can download the reader software for free from this site and purchase e-books and RCA's hand-held unit dedicated to reading e-books (\$299.00). The site also offers a free online course on eBooks.
- **Ebookconnections.com** – Looking for reading material? Here you will find an extensive list of e-book sources. [http://www.ebookconnections.com/PalmOSGuide/Finding\\_Reading\\_Material.htm](http://www.ebookconnections.com/PalmOSGuide/Finding_Reading_Material.htm)
- **Libraries** – Some public libraries offer e-books via netLibrary and have dedicated hand-held reading units available. Contact your local library for details.
- **PalmPower Magazine** – Check out Larry Stedman's two-part article for PDA users on selecting a document reader. <http://www.palmpower.com/>
- **Peanutpress.com** – PDA users will find a variety of e-books. <http://www.peanutpress.com/home.cgi/06661649-3647-63149>



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