

# Zaurus? Canon Wordtank? Or...?

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My trusty Zaurus is about ten years old now, and giving signs of being at the end of its tether. I'm looking for a replacement, and wondered what advice people might have.

Basically, I only use the Zaurus as a dictionary, so its PDA features are superfluous to my needs. As a dictionary, its main advantage over other electronic dictionaries is the handwriting recognition of kanji, coupled with easy cross-referencing of meanings, readings and combinations.

The only Zaurus models I've been able to find in the shops so far are the latest SL range, even the cheapest of which has dozens of PDA features that are superfluous to my requirements and bump the price up to much more than I paid for my current model.

However, I did notice that there is one electronic dictionary, the Canon Wordtank, which appears to have many of the Kanji handwriting recognition features which characterise the Zaurus. It can even be set to an English-language interface.

At first sight, this looks like a cheaper and better alternative to the Zaurus PDA, for my purposes. It'd take me some time to get used to the very different interface, but my initial impression is that, as a dictionary, it does everything my old Zaurus does and more (demonstrates stroke order for writing kanji, gives Chinese kanji where these are different from the Japanese ones – handy for working with older Japanese texts, especially those written in Sino-Japanese).

Can anyone speak from experience here? I'd be especially interested to hear from anyone who uses the Canon Wordtank or has any other recommendations for handwritten kanji recognition devices.

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