

# Re: Out-of-print math books: An Update

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  - *Date:* 7 Oct 2008 12:43:04 GMT
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Bill Dubuque <[wgd@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:wgd@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote in  
[news:y8zfxn9arcc.fsf@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:y8zfxn9arcc.fsf@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx):

And, seemingly, an aversion to posting replies of substance.

This has been the problem all along. You seem to be unable to apply any definition of "substance" but your own rather narrow one. That someone else might have a notion of "substance" that is not (scarily) utilitarian is unthinkable to you. So as you rattle off all the nifty little utilitarian advantages to e-books, the only counter-argument you would accept is one of utility. Anything that argues for something that is not on the subject of "utility" has no "substance".

Welcome to the Borg.

I could have bought a very fancy electric keyboard which:

1. Had action indistinguishable from a grand piano.
2. Had sound indistinguishable from a grand piano.
3. Cost 1/5 what my grand piano cost.
4. Also made other sounds, such as harpsichord, organ, saxophone, drums, guitar, etc.
5. Took up much less space.
6. Was WAAAAAYY easier to move.
7. Would play songs by itself.
8. Could upload my playing to my laptop and have it typeset.
9. Was immune to changes in humidity.
10. Didn't require semi-annual visits from a tuner/tech.

But, I spent 5 times the cash for a giant, unwieldy chunk of metal and wood. The only advantage is that I can make music when the power goes off. I know this is unfathomable to you, but I know I made the right decision. Why? Because my definition of "substance" includes arguments that assume personal enjoyment is a worthwhile pursuit.

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I like the look of the polished mahogany. I like the angle  
the lid makes when it's propped up. I even like the fact  
that I'm clever enough to move the thing with only the help  
of