Are you following the W3C's Publishing Working Group?

Legend:
- Yes
- No

60%

40%
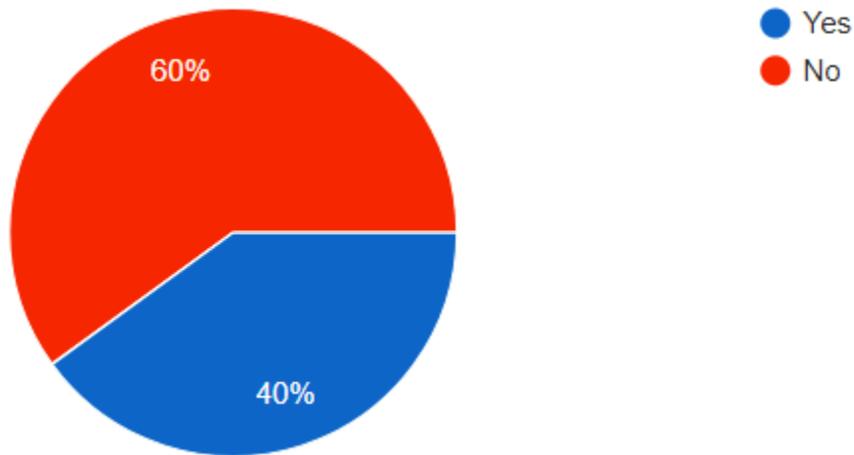
Yes 4
No 6

Would regular updates on the publishing working group be of value to you?

Legend:
- Yes
- No

30%

70%
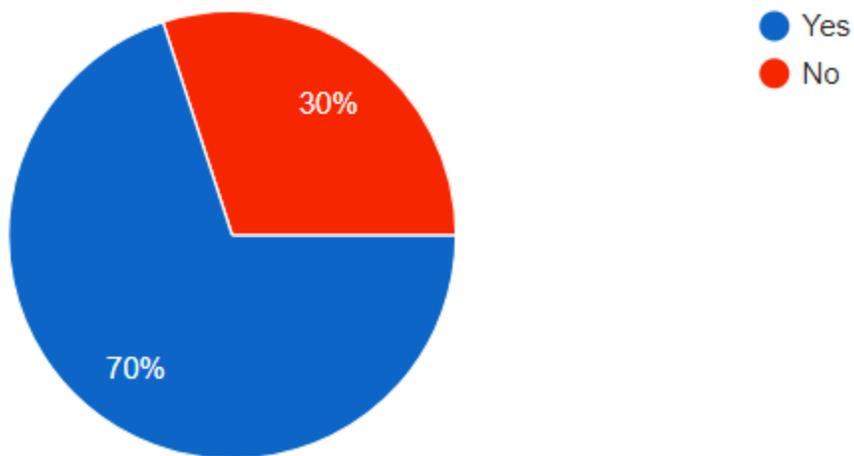
Yes 7
No 3

Are you familiar with the Web Publication specification being developed by this working group? (https://www.w3.org/TR/wpub/)
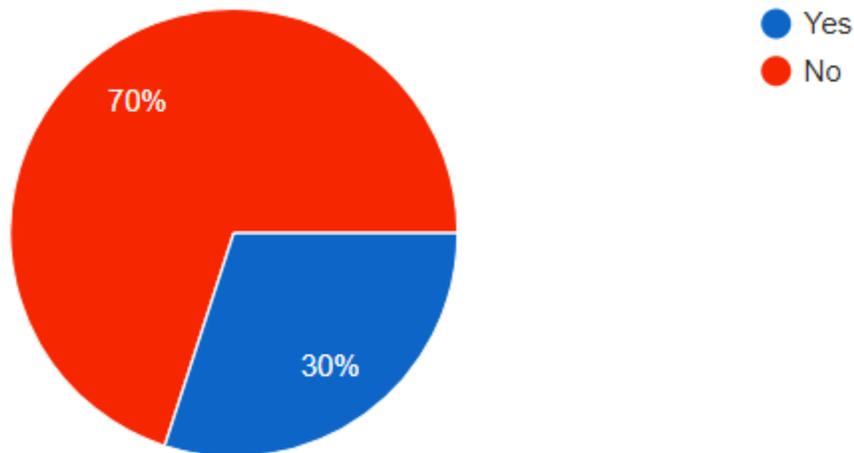
Yes 3
No 7

Based on the specification can you tell us what you think a web publication is?

It's an effort to systematize book-like content into units that can be cited and archived, like traditional books, while maintaining the dynamism and flexibility of the WWW. A compromise between a collection of WWW pages and an EPUB.

It's a digital publication that can be either opened online through a standard web browser like any regular website, or read offline through the reading apps as any regular ebook.

A web publication is essentially a book or other similar work that has been optimized for viewing in a web browser, outside the need for a specific reading "app".

An open and universally (provided a user has internet access) accessible way to consume content via a specific URL. It would remove the unique .epub or .pdf, etc formatting, and the requirement to have a specific device or app on which to consume the content.

The next step of evolution for online/offline reading

Web publication would be a browser-based digital publishing format, not restricted to what is currently considered "ebooks."

Collection of resources that allow users to have a tailored reading experience

Any publication that is readable through a browser and respects the guidelines mentioned in the specs.

The publication should be readable online and offline and I guess it should be more user-friendly since no application should be installed to read it on device.

It appears to be describing something akin to an "app as webpage" concept

Would the Web Publication format solve any problems you have?
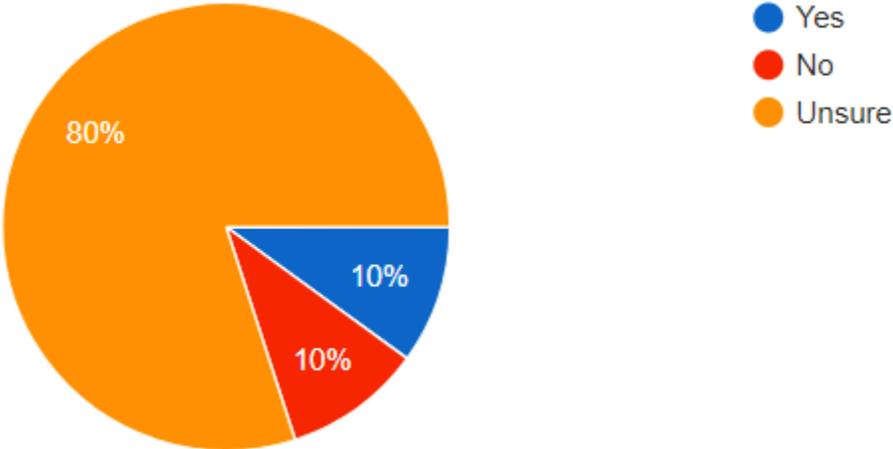
Yes   1
No   1
Unsure 8

Do you think you will ever use the Web Publication format?
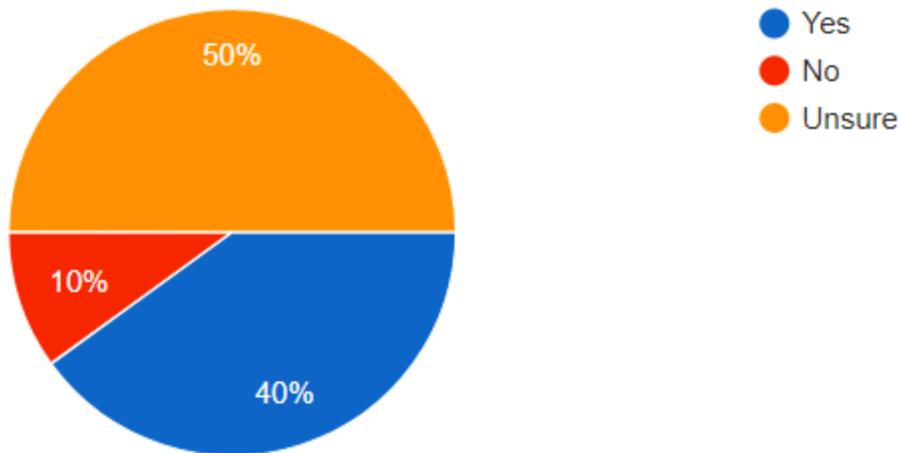
Yes   4
No   1
Unsure 5

How challenging do you think it would be to convert epubs to Web Publications?

Unsure, but interested in following the specification.

It's not easy. But it's extremely important to design the new standard in a way that allows any EPUB to be automatically converted in a Web Publication.

Given my basic understanding of web publications and my more extensive knowledge of epubs, it doesn't seem like it would be too difficult to convert epub to Web Publications.

All of the assets/elements (css, html, fonts, images, etc) are present within an EPUB, so it seems like it would be doable. There would need to be a way to extract these elements for little or no cost into the Web Publication. Publishers have already invested in the cost of conversion to EPUB, and they won't want to spend money converting to yet another format. I don't know what that conversion would look like exactly, though.

Challenging to implement maybe, but must be automatic and invisible for publishers

I would hope relatively easy, as they are both HTML5, CSS3, and sometimes Javascript.

Given that an ePub already has a manifest, a ncx file and html/css elements, I'm guessing it should not be too complex to convert into a Web Publication. The real problem would be for ePubs that have not been correctly built from the start.

General structure appears similar between the two, but may require overhaul of currently used HTML/CSS styles. Moderate difficulty

Can you offer any other feedback on the Publishing Working Group and/or Web Publications?

It's a good concept, and I will be following the progress with interest.

There should be an easy and affordable way to automatically turn any EPUB to a Web Publication.

none at this time.

The 5th question is unclear - it might be that it's missing a word. I read it as "solve any problems *you* have" - but I wanted to call it out anyway! Other feedback are questions, as I don't know much about this format. How would the URL be generated? Would it be a unique URL from each platform which sold the Web Publication format? Is DRM protection an option with the Web Publication format? Is there a market for it from the perspective of a retailer, as it seems like it levels the playing field a bit? The proprietary platforms could become nonexistent. If publishers created this format, where could they sell it? I do think there could be a value in this format, provided that I'm understanding it correctly, but it's going to be a slow process for any type of adoption. It reminds me of the XML output file for pre-press - the theory being that during the book's design/layout process, there would be specific tags, etc added to create a "universal" or master XML format that could be output to any type of format, print-ready PDF, EPUB, whatever. One of our printing/pre-press partners is/was doing this, but none of our publishers took advantage from what I understand. It's a really interesting concept, but adoption is another thing entirely! Happy to answer any follow up questions - I find this all very fascinating and we work with a lot of publishers who are often willing to be guinea pigs. Thanks, Mallori (mbontrager@ipgbook.com)

no, i am sorry

Not really

I think web publications are a good solution for some types of content, but as a children's publisher, I doubt fixed layout content would look great as a web publication. I'm assuming it's mostly being pursued as a reflowable, text-heavy format, but I welcome being pleasantly surprised if that is not the case.

It sounds like a great idea!

I think the project of a web pub