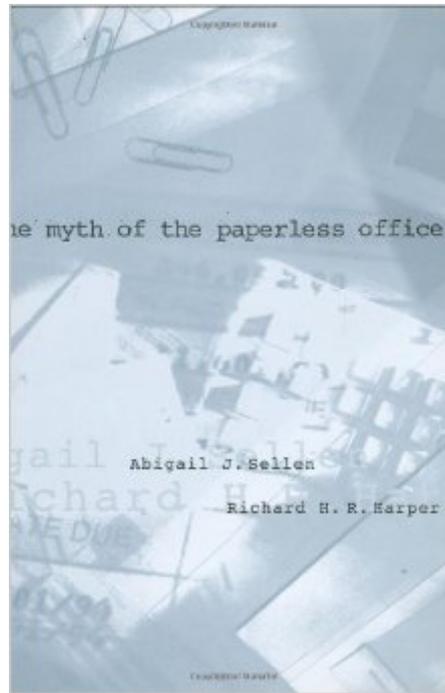


The book was found

# The Myth Of The Paperless Office



## Synopsis

Over the past thirty years, many people have proclaimed the imminent arrival of the paperless office. Yet even the World Wide Web, which allows almost any computer to read and display another computer's documents, has increased the amount of printing done. The use of e-mail in an organization causes an average 40 percent increase in paper consumption. In *The Myth of the Paperless Office*, Abigail Sellen and Richard Harper use the study of paper as a way to understand the work that people do and the reasons they do it the way they do. Using the tools of ethnography and cognitive psychology, they look at paper use from the level of the individual up to that of organizational culture. Central to Sellen and Harper's investigation is the concept of "affordances" -- the activities that an object allows, or affords. The physical properties of paper (its being thin, light, porous, opaque, and flexible) afford the human actions of grasping, carrying, folding, writing, and so on. The concept of affordance allows them to compare the affordances of paper with those of existing digital devices. They can then ask what kinds of devices or systems would make new kinds of activities possible or better support current activities. The authors argue that paper will continue to play an important role in office life. Rather than pursue the ideal of the paperless office, we should work toward a future in which paper and electronic document tools work in concert and organizational processes make optimal use of both.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 242 pages

Publisher: The MIT Press; 1st edition (November 1, 2001)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0262194643

ISBN-13: 978-0262194648

Product Dimensions: 9.2 x 6.3 x 0.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (7 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #912,623 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #83 in [Books > Business & Money > Processes & Infrastructure > Office Equipment & Supplies](#) #269 in [Books > Computers & Technology > Computer Science > Information Theory](#) #1349 in [Books > Engineering & Transportation > Engineering > Materials & Material Science](#)

## Customer Reviews

I bought this book from [Amazon.com](#) in 2005, and would recommend it to anyone with a professional or personal

interest in the ways people use paper and other types of information display surfaces. It continues to provide a valuable perspective on the uses of paper in the workplace and personal life. I especially appreciate the authors' approach to studying the way office workers (in their case studies) were interacting with paper documents, in ways that were not readily supported by available computers, screens and software. As another excellent reviewer said, in 2010: "What a difference 8 years makes. ... Selen and Harper's argument does remain relevant and thought-provoking in one important respect. They explain the unique functionalities of paper to argue why paper is better for certain tasks. In the last 8 years, some technologies have started to compete with the functionalities of paper. But [paper] remains more useful than screens for some tasks. Selen and Harper's arguments at least give us the analytical tools to think about whether certain tasks are better suited to paper or computers today." Today, more than a dozen years since the book was published, many office workers have had computers since childhood. • Some have very large screens, and some use two or three screens at a time. • Some office workers (and many travelers) get by with a tablet or smartphone, for many tasks – including reading books as well as email. • People are indeed using computers more, and printing paper less. • So we could call it the "paper-less" office. • However, paper still provides useful functionality, e.g.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The Myth of the Paperless Office (MIT Press) The Myth of the Paperless Office Your Office: Microsoft Office 2016 Volume 1 (Your Office for Office 2016 Series) Music by Heart: Paperless Songs for Evening Worship All About PDF Stamps in Acrobat® & Paperless Workflows Your Office: Getting Started with Project Management (Your Office for Office 2013) Your Office: Microsoft Excel 2016 Comprehensive (Your Office for Office 2016 Series) Your Office: Microsoft Access 2016 Comprehensive (Your Office for Office 2016 Series) How to Start a Family Office: Blueprints for setting up your single family office (Family Office Club Book Series 3) Programming Microsoft Office 365 (includes Current Book Service): Covers Microsoft Graph, Office 365 applications, SharePoint Add-ins, Office 365 Groups, and more (Developer Reference) The E-Myth Architect (E-Myth Expert) Myth-ion Improbable: Myth Adventures, Book 11 The E-Myth Financial Advisor (E-Myth Expert) Bundle: Illustrated Microsoft Office 365 & Office 2016: Introductory, Loose-leaf Version + SAM 365 & 2016 Assessments, Trainings, and Projects with 1 MindTap Reader Multi-Term Printed Access Card Enhanced Microsoft Office 2013: Introductory (Microsoft Office 2013 Enhanced Editions) Exploring: Microsoft Office 2013, Plus (Exploring for Office 2013) Bundle: Shelly Cashman Series Microsoft Office 365 & Office 2016: Introductory, Loose-leaf Version + SAM 365 & 2016 Assessments, Trainings, and ... MindTap Reader Multi-Term Printed Access Card Shelly Cashman

Series Microsoft Office 365 & Office 2016: Introductory, Loose-leaf Version Office 2016 For  
Beginners- The PERFECT Guide on Microsoft Office: Including Microsoft Excel Microsoft  
PowerPoint Microsoft Word Microsoft Access and more! Skills for Success with Microsoft Office  
2016 Volume 1 (Skills for Success for Office 2016 Series)

[Dmca](#)