Some vendors call a digital camera on an extensive frame a scanner. This is misleading since scanner technology is very different from digital camera technology. There are good reasons for these differences.

The purpose of a digital camera is to capture a scene containing objects at various distances to the camera in a short time at limited resolution. Digital cameras use expensive area CCDs with short exposure times for this purpose to avoid possible distortions caused by the movement of some of the objects in the scene. As in a natural environment, some objects are in focus, others are not.

A scanner works fundamentally differently. All scanners, whether sheetfeed, flatbed or wide format; use line cameras to capture a high resolution scan line in a very short amount of time. In each scanner, either the object or the line camera is moved line by line to capture a very high resolution image with an exceptionally high degree of sharpness.

In the case of the Bookeye 4 book scanner, the line camera even follows the curvature of the book, something a digital camera cannot do at all. Other book scanners scan from the back to the front and therefore also lack the ability to follow the curvature of the book.

A detailed discussion of this topic can be found in our presentation “Line Scanner Technology versus Digicams”

- True line camera, 210 megapixel resolution
- Stays in focus on curved surfaces
- Extremely short exposure time, no blur