

All About Books

By John Carter, October 26, 2020

eBook formats (only four of the 21 formats discussed)

ePub

The .epub or OEBPS format is a technical standard for e-books. The Apple Books app works well with this format.

Mobi

The .mobi or .prc format is called the Mobipocket and is based on the Open eBook standard using XHTML and can include JavaScript and frames. It also supports native SQL queries. Works with the Amazon Kindle device and Kindle app.

PDF

Portable Document Format invented by Adobe Systems. Provides a platform-independent means of exchanging fixed-layout documents. Because the format is designed to reproduce fixed-layout pages, re-flowing text to fit mobile device and e-book reader screens has traditionally been problematic. The Apple Preview app and the Apple Books works well with this format.

Kindle

The .azw, .azw3, .kf8, and .kfx formats for specifically for Kindle readers.

Others:

DOC, DOCX, TXT, RTF, HTM, HTML and more.

Comparison tables

See wikipedia:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison_of_e-book_formats

Available in the App Store

Books

The default ebook reader for Apple devices. Choose from thousands of books and audiobooks, including classics, bestsellers, and more. Create your personal library. Customize your reading experience by adjusting a book's text size, background color, and font. iCloud keeps track of your place so you don't have to. Many books interact with video, audio, and more. Highlighting, add notes, bookmarks, study cards, glossaries, and definitions. Share book quotes (up to 200 words) in Mail, Messages, or Notes.

Kindle

The Kindle app gives users the ability to read eBooks on a beautiful, easy-to-use interface. You may also read your book on your phone, tablet, and Kindle e-Reader, and Amazon Whispersync will automatically sync your most recent page read, bookmarks, notes, and highlights, so you can pick up right where you left off. Kindle keeps track of your place so you don't have to. The Kindle reading device has a better battery life than the iPad.

Nook

Recently, Barnes & Noble had a ransomware attack that disabled all customer's books and exposed their email address, phone number, and shipping address. The Nook reading device has a better battery life than the iPad.

Audible

A subscription system for audiobooks.

OverDrive (Desktop/mobile) and Libby (mobile device)

Access thousands of ebooks, magazines, and audiobooks from your local library. Works just like checking out books at the library, meaning you have just a few weeks to read and maybe get an extension.

OverDrive is best for the desktop, and Libby is best for mobile devices.

Yomu Ebook Reader

Yomu is an independent reader for book lovers. Yomu's design is carefully crafted for ebooks and offers custom sales for better readability and distraction-free reading. Designed to let you focus on reading, Yomu has no unnecessary preferences. Just open a book and start reading. Yomu's fluid layout dynamically adjusts all text properties and margins depending on your preferred styles and device, giving you an optimal reading experience.

Calibre (desktop) and Calibre Companion (mobile)

Calibre is an easy to use open-source e-book manager and reader. The tool allows you to convert from one format to another, change the font size, margins, and metadata, and by adding an auto-generated table of contents. It helps you to save time to manage your e-book collection. Can read and convert between almost all e-book formats.

Scribd

Scribd's digital library includes bestselling and trending audiobooks and ebooks in every genre. A \$9.99/mo membership includes access to sheet music, articles from hundreds of magazines, and unlimited access to the world's largest document library.

iReader (iPhone/iPad)

For novel and comic readers.

PDF Reader (Free and Pro Lite)

Features include annotation, edit, form filling, OCR, convert, create, sign, bookmark, and password protect. The Pro version can merge, insert pages, and convert to MS Office formats. Just like Preview!

MapleRead (SE, CE, and CX)

Another ePUB and PDF reader.

Google Play Books

For iPhone, iPad, and iPod Touch. For e-Books and audiobooks.

tiReader

For iPhone, iPad. Another eBook, audiobook and comic reader app.

Supports epub, pdf, mobi, html, txt, mp3, m4a and others.

Epic - Kid's Books & Reading

getepic.com is the place to find ebooks for this reader. Watch out for the billing after you subscribe. Can be hard to unsubscribe.

Goodreads: Book reviews

For the iPhone. Get book reviews. Reader app itself is for Android.

And others, too numerous to include here.

Third party apps

Adobe Digital Editions (DRM reader for computer)

PocketBook Reader

KyBook, KyBook 2

Adobe Acrobat eBook Reader

My books

PDF Editor, PDF Book Reader

MoboReader

Where to get eBooks

TakeControlBooks.com

Take Control was started in 2003 by the husband-and-wife team [Adam](#) and [Tonya](#) Engst. By the time they began Take Control, they had authored or edited more than 25 traditional books and written hundreds of magazine articles for major Mac magazines.

overdrive.com

Overdrive is the cleanest, fastest, and most legal way to access millions of ebooks---not just ones in the public domain, but even recently released mainstream titles.

libgen.rs

Library Genesis is a search engine for free reading material, including ebooks, articles, magazines, and more. As of this writing, Library Genesis indexes close to 3 million ebooks and 60 million articles. It would take several lifetimes to consume everything on offer here.

centslessbooks.com

Unlike the other sites on this list, Centsless Books is a curator-aggregator of free Kindle books available on Amazon. Its mission is to make it easy

for you to stay on top of all the free ebooks available from the online retailer.

gutenberg.org

Another of the best free ebook download sites is Project Gutenberg. It's a charity endeavor, sustained through volunteers and fundraisers, that aims to collect and provide as many high-quality ebooks as possible. Most of its library consists of public domain titles, but it has other stuff too if you're willing to look around.

manybooks.net

ManyBooks is a nifty little site that's been around for over a decade. Its purpose is to curate and provide a library of free and discounted fiction ebooks for people to download and enjoy.

feedbooks.com

Feedbooks is a massive collection of downloadable ebooks: fiction and non-fiction, public domain and copyrighted, free and paid. While over 1 million titles are available, only about half of them are free.

pdfbooksworld.com

Between the three [major ebook formats](#)---EPUB, MOBI, and PDF---what if you prefer to read in the latter format? While EPUBs and MOBIs have basically taken over, reading PDF ebooks hasn't quite gone out of style yet, and for good reason: PDFs offer universal support across platforms and devices.

openlibrary.org

Open Library offers an easily searchable directory of all the free ebooks that are available on The Internet Archive. You might be surprised at the number of books available. The total library is pushing towards 1.5 million items.

free-ebooks.net

Free-Ebooks.net offers thousands of free ebooks. The content is broadly split into six categories: Fiction, Non-Fiction, Romance, Sci-Fi, Self Help, and Business.

en.childrenslibrary.org

If your grandchild is a bookworm, you could find yourself spending masses of cash on new titles. Unless, that is, you find a reliable source of free ebooks for kids. As such, the International Children's Digital Library is a godsend for anyone who has young readers in the house.

eBooks.com

eBooks.com is a popular ebook retailer with a reputation for innovation, integrity and independence. eBooks.com operates as a recommendation service and e-bookstore. Books can be read online with their own reader. This is a membership program. A mobile app is available.