



A Selected List of E-BOOK Websites By Cynthia Whisennand

Listed below are some of the best resources for e-book information.

<http://www.lib.rochester.edu/main/ebooks/index.htm>

Electronic Books in Libraries (formerly known as the Electronic Book Evaluation Project) is a professional website. Among its offerings are: e-book studies, e-book products, and e-book websites. On this website you also find the "Librarian's eBooks Newsletter" which is a free bimonthly newsletter created specifically for librarians.

Many e-books are original works; therefore getting reviews from standard reviewing sources may be next to impossible at this time. The good news is that many of the publishers put sample pages on the web and some have the entire work on line so that you may read it before you download. Below are samples of e-book sources. I focused on sites, which included Children's Books and /or YA selections.

<http://www.antelope-ebooks.com/>

Antelope, a family oriented publisher, sells browser readable books on CD-ROM. You can read your book with or without sound. Text and graphics are available for Mac and PC. Cost of the books is between \$12.50 and \$14.50. Offerings include original picture books for the younger child and classics for the older child.

<http://audible.com/adbl/store/welcome.jsp>

Audible has Pocket PC, AudibleReady, and MP3 player formats. The listener may play the audio using RealPlayer or WindowsMediaPlayer. They sell downloadable audio only e-books (no print). I included this site because it gives us another definition of what an e-book is. You purchase the book and either use audio streaming to listen to it online or you download it to listen to it offline. Cost of books is between free - \$20.00. It showcases about three hundred children's titles including classics, popular modern titles, and easy readers.

<http://www.bartleby.com/>

Bartleby supplies unlimited access to books on the web for free. Advertisements will appear in the top banner while you are reading. Holdings are mostly reference books including: dictionaries, Roget's Thesaurus, Harvard Classics (all 70 volumes), poetry anthologies, and Bullfinch's Mythology. In the index, the author's last name or genre organizes fiction and poetry. This website is useful mostly for middle and high school students.

<http://www.bibliomania.com/0/-/frameset.html>

Bibliomania has thousands of books, poems, articles, short stories and plays as free e-books to read on the web. You can read works by the worlds greatest authors: Dickens, Joyce, Shakespeare, Mark Twain, Anton Chekov, and Edgar Allan Poe. Ad banner at the bottom of the book pages. Selections are for upper Elementary to Adult.

<http://www.blackmask.com/>

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<http://www.diskuspublishing.com/classics.html>

Disk Us Publishing e-books are available in Html, PDF, PalmPilot, and Microsoft Reader. Classics are salepriced at \$2.00 each. Classics include House of Seven Gables, Peter Pan, Wizard of Oz, Ben Hur etc. Other books average \$4.50 for a download and \$7.50 for a diskette. Only six early childhood books are currently posted on the website and seven are listed as Young Adult.

<http://www.classicbookshelf.com/library/>

Classic Bookshelf uses any browser that is readable with a Java interface. The ebook is free if you read it on the web. The best value besides free is the Classic Bookshelf 200. It has 200 books by 46 authors on one CD-ROM for \$37.00. The reader may change the size and color of the fonts on the pages that he or she is reading. The books listed truly are classic literature including: The Christmas Carol, Little Women, 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea, Black Beauty, Tale of Two Cities, and The Secret Garden.

<http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/>

The Electronic Text Center at the University of Virginia Library has two objectives: to build and maintain an internet-accessible collection of SGML texts and images, and to build and maintain user communities adept at the creation and use of these materials. "The Electronic Text Center's holdings include approximately 51,000 on- and off-line humanities texts in twelve languages, with more than 350,000 related images (book illustrations, covers, manuscripts, newspaper pages, page images of Special Collections books, museum objects, etc.)" "The copyright holder restricts some of the online texts. The offline texts are mostly on CD-ROM. Holdings include works by Shakespeare, Alexander Hamilton, Chaucer, and Zane Gray.

<http://cdl.library.cornell.edu/>

This is the Cornell University Library Digital Library Server . Four of the e-book collections are open to all – one is not. The three of them that are open are Making of America Collection <http://cdl.library.cornell.edu/moa/index.html> Windows on the Past Collection <http://historical.library.cornell.edu/> Technical Reports and Papers <http://techreports.library.cornell.edu:8081/DPubS/UI/1.0/GenHome>

<http://www.digitalbookindex.com/about.htm>

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<http://content.cdlib.org/escholarship/>

The eScholarship Editions collection includes almost 2000 books from academic presses on a range of topics, including art, science, history, music, religion, and fiction. Access to the electronic books is open to all University of California faculty, staff, and students, while select books are available to the public. Print versions of many of the electronic books can be purchased directly from the publishers.

<http://www.icdlbooks.org/>

1100 children's books online. The mission of the International Children's Digital Library Foundation is to excite and inspire the world's children to become members of the global community – children who understand the value of tolerance and respect for diverse cultures, languages and ideas -- by making the best in children's literature available online.

<http://librivox.org/>

LibriVox provides free audiobooks from the public domain. There are several options for listening. The first step is to get the mp3 or ogg files into your own computer:

http://www.planetpdf.com/free_pdf_ebooks.asp

Planet PDF eBooks archive. – mostly classics.

<http://www.wings-press.com/>

Various genres for adults and about a dozen young adult offerings

<http://www.worldwideschool.org/>

Welcome to the World Wide School. The best place on the Internet to learn just about anything. Just read, click and learn. We wish you the best. This site is dedicated to the collection, preservation and presentation of educational material. To participate in the World Wide School all you need to do is to invest your time. For whatever reason, many people may find it difficult to broaden their education by traditional means; attending high school or college can seem like an impossible dream. That is why we are offering an education via the Web.