



Libraries and Google Book Search

What is Google Book Search?

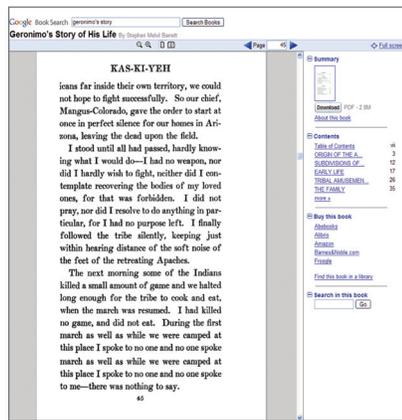
Google Book Search allows you to search the full text of books -- from the first word on the first page to the last word in the final chapter -- so you can find books that interest you. Book Search works like web search. You can try a search at Google Book Search (books.google.com) or on Google.com. When we find a book with content that contains a match for your search terms, we link to it in your search results.

What can I do with Google Book Search?

Search for and browse books online

After typing in your search phrase and clicking on a book result, you'll be able to see different types of results, depending on a few different factors:

- **Full view:** If a book is out of copyright or the publisher or rightsholder has given us permission, you'll be able to page through the entire book from start to finish.
- **Limited preview:** If the publisher or author has provided the book through the Google Books Partner Program, you'll be able to preview sample pages according to the publisher's specifications -- typically about 20% of the book.
- **Snippet view:** If a book is under copyright and the publisher or author is not part of the Partner Program, you'll find bibliographic information about the book and at most a few lines of text, or a snippet, to show your search term in context.
- **No preview available:** For books where we're unable to show snippets, you'll see only bibliographic information.



Full View



Limited Preview



Snippet View

Search within the book

Once you find a title of interest, you can search within the book. Try searching within Hamlet for “to be or not to be” to find the rest of the famous soliloquy, or enter a favorite phrase or quote of your own.

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Download public domain works

If a book is out of copyright (which varies depending on what country you’re in), you’ll be able to download, save, and print a free PDF to read at your own pace.

Why are libraries participating?

From increasing access to information to promoting cultural engagement, our library partners have a diverse range of goals they hope to achieve by working with us. You can read what each library partner has to say about why it’s participating at www.google.com/librarypartners.

“Stanford has been digitizing texts for years now to make them more accessible and searchable, but with books, as opposed to journals, such efforts have been severely limited in scope for both technical and financial reasons. The Google arrangement catapults our effective digital output from the boutique scale to the truly industrial. Through this program and others like it, Stanford intends to promote learning and stimulate innovation.”

– Michael A. Keller, University Librarian

How will this project impact the role of libraries and librarians?

We see our role as complementary to libraries and librarians. Our aim is to help people search and discover all the world’s books. For each book in Book Search, we provide a link showing readers which libraries have a physical copy in their holdings, so they can check out a print copy of the book and work directly with librarians for additional research.

We also help people locate books that haven’t yet been digitized. In many cases, the only way you can access a book is to borrow it from a library or buy it from a bookstore. For these books, we provide a link to local union catalogs, so anyone may find a print copy in a library – regardless of whether they’re searching from the US, Spain, Iceland, or Australia. We’re happy to be able to not only make the world’s books discoverable through Google, but also to promote access to books in libraries around the world.

Does the scanning process harm library books?

Absolutely not. We’ve developed technology designed specifically to scan the pages of books without harming them. In addition, we won’t scan any book that our library partners have deemed too fragile, and once we’ve scanned a book, it’s promptly returned to the library collection.

Which languages do you cover in Google Book Search?

Our goal is to include books from all the world's languages and cultures. All of the libraries we're working with have books in many different languages, and we aren't limiting our scanning to English-language books. That means we're constantly adding more books in every language, while working to improve our full-text search capability. You can already find books in dozens of languages.

How are digitization priorities set?

We work closely with each library partner to determine which materials to digitize and in what order. The project teams weigh factors such as maintaining accessibility to materials, scanning capacity, and the uniqueness of individual library collections.

Who's paying for this?

While each partner contract is unique, Google typically pays for the cost of digitization, while the library manages the cost and resource requirements for gathering and reshelving books.

Why is Google doing this? What's in it for Google?

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and make it universally accessible and useful. But the world's information isn't made up only of web pages. There's a wealth of information that can only be found offline – on paper, in the books on the shelves at our libraries, bookstores, and homes.

By bringing more human knowledge online and helping people find relevant books – especially books that are difficult to find any other way, such as those that are out of print or located in distant libraries – we hope to provide a better, more comprehensive and useful search experience for Google users around the world.

“The Bodleian Library's mission, from its founding in 1602, has been based on Sir Thomas Bodley's vision of a library serving the worldwide 'Republic of Letters,' with the Library's collections open to all who have need to use them. The Google Library Project in Oxford testifies to our ongoing commitment to enable and facilitate access to our content for the scholarly community and beyond. The initiative will carry forward Sir Thomas Bodley's vision and the ethos of the Bodleian Library into the digital age, allowing readers from around the world to access the Library's collections over the World Wide Web.”

– Sarah Thomas, Bodley's Librarian and Director of Oxford University Library Services

Which libraries are participating?

We're honored to be working with a number of the world's leading libraries. For a complete listing of our current library partners, please visit www.google.com/librarypartners.

Where can I find more information on the project?

To find out more about Google Book Search and the Library Project, please visit the comprehensive FAQ at <http://books.google.com/support>.