

A Few Sources for Free eBooks

Searching:

InkMesh

<http://inkmesh.com/>

Indexes numerous sites including SmashWords, Amazon and other book retailers. In addition to searching, it is easy to browse by both broad and narrow subject headings. Results can be limited by several factors including price.

Google government search

<http://www.google.com/unclesam>

Google searching limited to government websites. This is enormously more effective than using the standard Google search. The U.S. Government Printing Office is one of the largest publishers in the world, and a wealth of nonfiction is available.

General sites:

Project Gutenberg

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

Over 33,000 titles including fiction and nonfiction in all genres and categories, as well as multiple languages. This is probably the best site around for older fiction, especially if you're looking for out-of-print children's titles. Multiple formats are available for downloading for use on nearly all mobile devices. A number of titles are also available as audiobooks.

Internet Archive

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

Over 2.7 million texts, mostly nonfiction. The bulk of the titles have been contributed by academic libraries. This is likely the best source for historical works. In addition to the ebooks, the archive contains movies, video of music concerts, audiobooks, music, podcasts and the internet Wayback Machine for viewing archived websites.

SmashWords

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

Over 30,000 titles, mostly self-published, from independent authors and publishers. While not all the titles listed are free, it's very easy to limit browsing to only the free titles.

Many Books

<http://www.manybooks.net/>

Over 29,000 titles, primarily fiction. While there is quite a bit of overlap with Project Gutenberg, the site does contain some unique titles.

Forgotten Books

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

Almost 10,000 titles. Though there is quite a bit of overlap with Project Gutenberg, the site has some unique titles as well. Free low-quality PDFs are available to anyone. Free high-quality PDFs are available for site members. Most titles are also available through print-on-demand for a fee.

Scribd

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

Millions of documents including books, short stories, poems, pamphlets, brochures and government documents. Scribd describes itself as "the largest book club on the planet" with an emphasis on social networking. While texts can be read online at any time, downloading requires that you login with a FaceBook account.

Specialized sites:

There are hundreds (and probably thousands) of specialized sources for free ebooks. They exist for every fiction genre and nonfiction topic. A few are listed below.

Don't forget to check your favorite author's website for free offerings! Often short stories and novellas featuring favorite characters are posted for free.

Baen Free Library

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

Over one hundred current, copyrighted, science fiction and fantasy novels from Baen Books. Available in multiple formats, the collection includes works by David Weber, Eric Flint and Mercedes Lackey. Reprints of classic sci fi titles by James H. Schmitz, Keith Laumer and others are also available.

Munseys

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

Formerly known as BlackMask. A great source for thousands of pulp fiction and dime store novels. The titles are available for free download in a wide variety of formats.