

docs.BloomLibrary.org

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Introduction



This site is a work in progress. Our initial goal is to bring together in one place the various advanced documentation writeups we've done over the years.

The Bloom Platform

Bloom *Editor*, Bloom *Library*, and Bloom *Reader* comprise the Bloom *Platform*.

The Bloom Platform is an integrated approach to book-making which provides a robust and sustainable means for language communities to author, translate, publish, and distribute books for themselves in the language they speak or sign.

Bloom Editor



Bloom Editor is a software program for authoring, translating, and publishing books and sharing those books with your community through Bloom Library. Bloom Editor runs on the Windows and Linux operating systems.

Bloom Editor is designed for ease of use. Bloom is so simple that if you can type and use a mouse, then you can make a book!

But despite its simplicity, in recent years, Bloom Editor has increasingly become a feature-rich desktop editor capable of producing beautiful print and electronic books. And where a simple, printed book is not enough, Bloom Editor makes it easy to add narration, sign language, and audio image descriptions for the visually impaired.

To view all of Bloom Editor's features, see [this page](#) on Bloom Library.

Bloom Library

Bloom Library is a unique website that has more than 11,000 free books in 480+ languages. Books can be read online or downloaded in various formats for offline reading. The library interacts directly with the Bloom Editor for uploading and downloading books. The library also works with the free Bloom Reader Android app.

The screenshot shows the Bloom Library homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with icons for back, forward, refresh, and home, followed by a URL bar showing <https://bloomlibrary.org/read>. Below the URL bar is a red header with the Bloom logo on the left and two buttons: "READ" and "CREATE". The main title "Bloom Library" is displayed in a large, bold, black font. Below the title, a subtitle "Free Books in Your Language" is shown. The background of the page is white.

Key to Bloom's success is the generosity of local authors and organizations who freely share their openly-licensed books with the world, so others, in turn, can benefit from these materials and translate them into their languages.

Uploaded books are displayed using a “book card”. The book card shows a thumbnail image of the book’s front cover. Below that is a colored banner and 1-4 black dots to indicate one of four reading levels recognized by Bloom:

1. First words and phrases
2. First sentences
3. First paragraphs
4. Longer paragraphs

The image displays four examples of Bloom book cards, each featuring a different book cover and its details:

- Opposites and Differences 1** (English, Papua New Guinean Sign Language): A book card with a blue background featuring a large bird. It includes a yellow banner with a sun icon and three black dots.
- Zibu & Zizo (Print)** (English): A book card with a purple banner featuring two children. It includes three black dots.
- Ang Kaarawan Ni Emma** (Filipino): A book card with a green banner featuring a birthday cake with a single candle. It includes three black dots.
- Баттли асосй** (Russian): A book card with a dark blue banner featuring a person in a dynamic pose. It includes four black dots.

Special book features and the list of languages represented in the book are also indicated on the book card.

Bloom Reader

Bloom Reader is a free Android app that allows readers with Android devices to enjoy Bloom books offline. Books published to Bloom Reader can include all of Bloom Editor's advanced features: edge-to-edge images, synchronized audio narration, language switching (for books published with multiple languages), sign language video, audio image descriptions, and page navigation.



To get books onto a device that has Bloom Reader installed, users can either download from Bloom Library, transfer books directly from the Bloom Editor to their devices, or share from one device to another.

Organizations interested in mass distribution of Bloom books to a people group can transfer books onto SD-cards.

Bloom Enterprise

Bloom Enterprise is a special service for organizations that need additional program and publishing features. For more information about Bloom Enterprise, see [Bloom Enterprise Service Overview](#).



Installing Bloom

Bloom Editor is a program that runs on your computer. Before you can use Bloom, you need to install it on your computer. There are some additional programs that you should install, too, to use the Bloom image gallery.

System requirements

Hardware

Bloom is designed to run on fairly modest hardware. Your computer should have at least the following to run Bloom:

- 1.5 Ghz processor
- 4 GB memory (RAM)
- 2 GB available hard disk space

Operating system

Bloom is primarily a program for the Microsoft Windows operating system. To run Bloom, you need **Windows 8.1**, **Windows 10**, or **Windows 11**.



Bloom can also run on computers that use Ubuntu Linux. Bloom comes pre-installed in [Wasta-Linux](#), SIL's Linux distro. If you are using Ubuntu Jammy (22.04)+, you can download the latest version of Bloom as a Flatpak here:

<https://flathub.org/apps/details/org.sil.Bloom>,

For Ubuntu Bionic (18.04) and Focal (20.04), Bloom is distributed as apt packages from SIL's package repository. See <https://bloomlibrary.org/page/create/linux> for installation instructions.

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You can use older versions of Bloom with Windows XP and Windows Vista, but this is not recommended. If you must use these unsupported operating systems, you can download the required versions of Bloom from the [Bloom Library downloads](#) page.

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Fonts and keyboards

Bloom assumes that you have a way to type your language on your computer. That will often involve using a certain font. SIL offers a free, high-quality fonts for many scripts on its website at <https://software.sil.org/fonts/>.

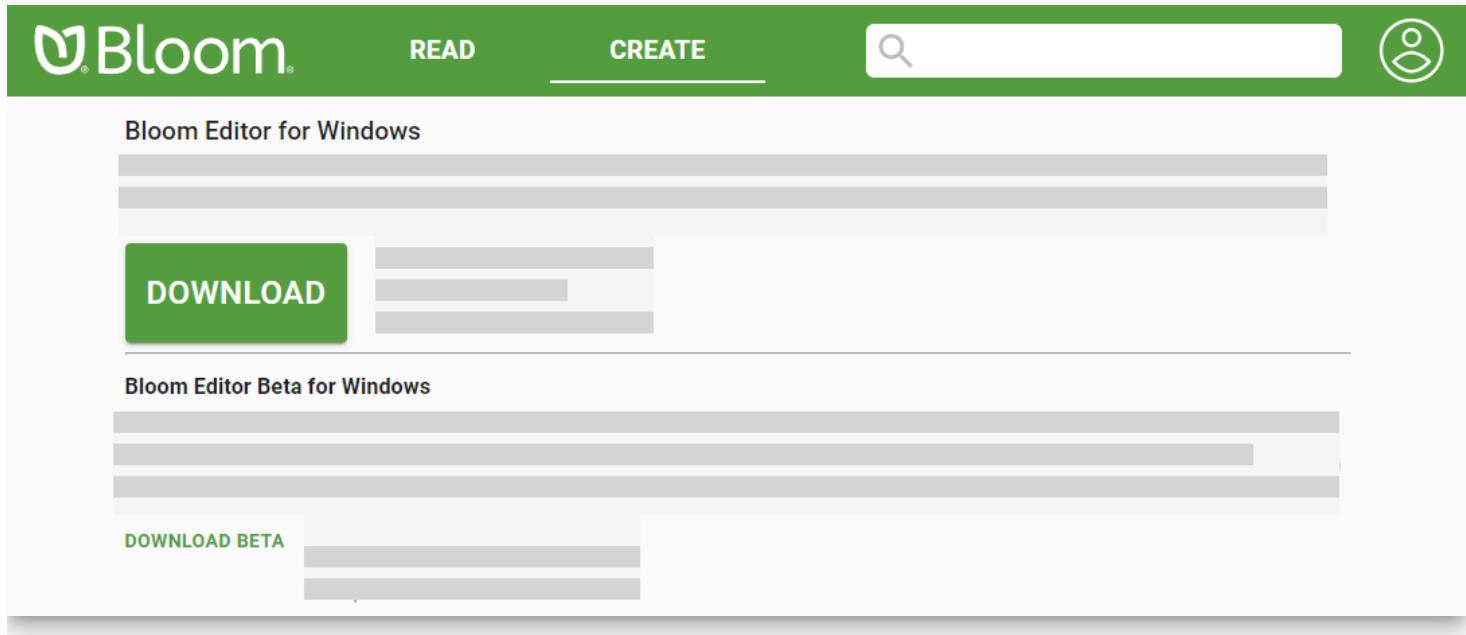
You may also need a special **keyboard layout** to let you type the characters in your language. **Keyman** is a free program from SIL that has many keyboard layouts. You can get Keyman from <https://keyman.com>.



If you need help to find a font or keyboard for your language, try looking on SIL's [ScriptSource](#) site.

Downloading Bloom

You can download Bloom installation program from the Bloom Library at <https://bloomlibrary.org/page/create/downloads>. Click the **Download** button at the top of the page to download the latest release version for Microsoft Windows.



Installing Bloom

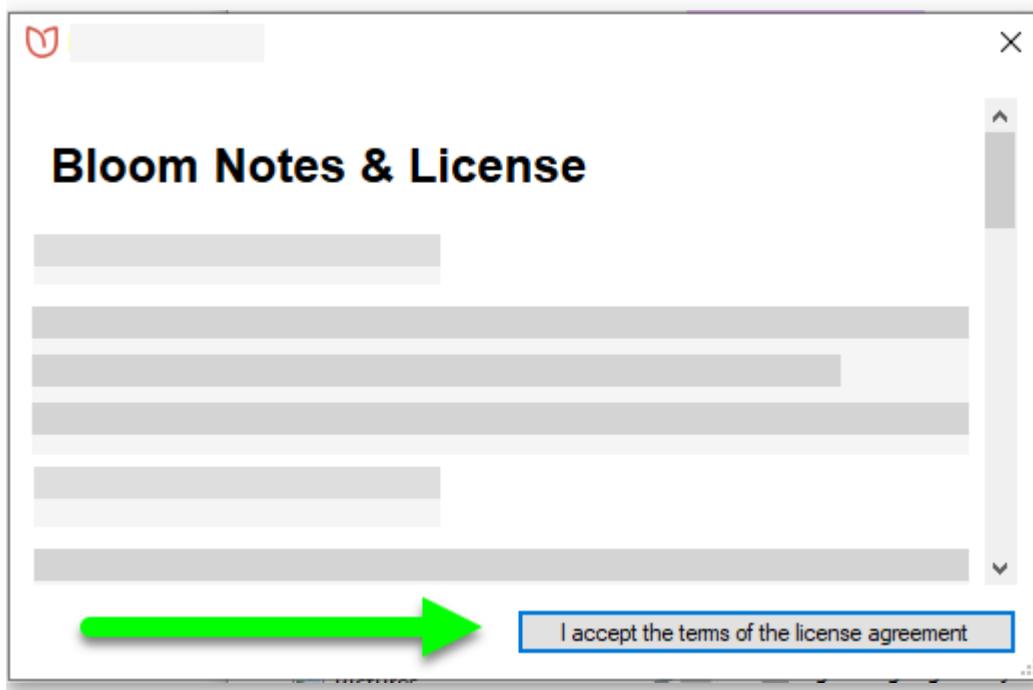
Double-click the installer program to install Bloom on your computer. While the installer is working, it will display this window.



After the installer has finished, it will show you a license agreement. Click **I agree to the terms of the license agreement.**

When you launch Bloom the first time, Bloom will ask you to create a **collection**. You may do so at this point, or you can create your initial collection later.

For more details on how to create a collection, see [Creating a new collection](#).

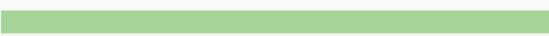
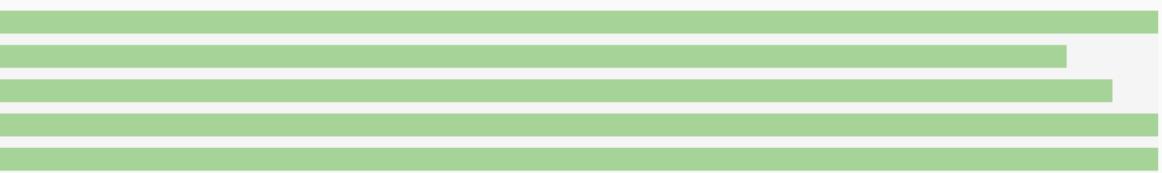
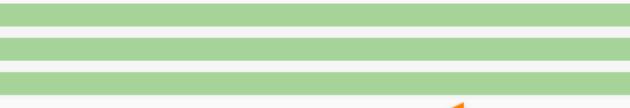


Installing *The Art of Reading*

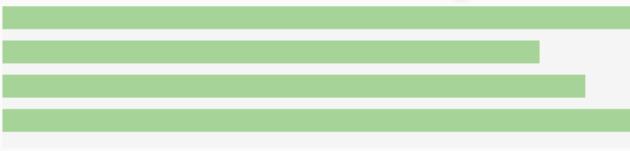
The Art of Reading is a collection of black and white line drawings from SIL International that you may use without cost.



To download *The Art of Reading*, click on **The Art of Reading illustration collection** link under "Related Software" on the Bloom installers page. That link will take you to the Art of Reading web page. Click on the link there that says, **Download Art of Reading version 3.3 installer**. The installer will download to your computer.

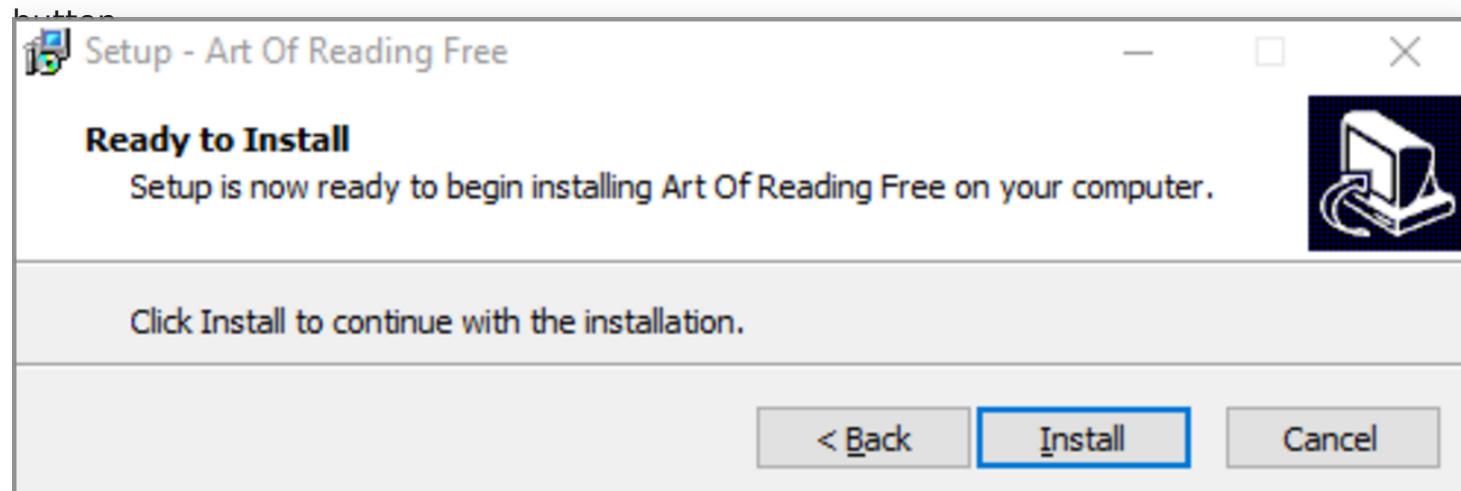
**Bloom Editor for Windows****Bloom Editor Beta for Windows****Bloom for Linux****Bloom Training Videos****Other Bloom Versions****Related Software**

The Art of Reading illustration collection



Next, Double-click *The Art of Reading* installer to install the image library. The installer program will take you through a series of screens where you will accept the license

agreement, find out more information about the collection, and, finally, click the "Install" button.



There is no icon or desktop shortcut for *the Art of Reading*. It will be available the next time that you run Bloom.

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If you are using Bloom for Linux, see <https://bloomlibrary.org/page/create/art-of-reading> for instructions on installing *The Art of Reading* from the SIL package repository.

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Troubleshooting

If Bloom does not install properly, try temporarily disabling your computer's anti-virus software. Then try to install Bloom again. It will probably install correctly this time.

CAUTION

Be sure to re-enable the anti-virus software after you have installed Bloom!

If this does not work, ask an IT expert to help you. You may find other ideas to help at:

<https://community.software.sil.org/t/how-to-fix-installation-problems/17>

Creating Accessible Books

The screenshot shows two side-by-side software windows. On the left is the 'Image Description Tool'. It features a large image of a character with a sad expression and messy hair. A yellow callout box contains the text: "Messy has her mouth turned down. She has many things stuck in her tangled hair." Below the image are several descriptive tips and a checkbox for 'This image should not be described'. On the right is the 'Talking Book Tool'. It displays a block of text: "'Mine is rough and tangled!' said Messy sadly. 'And there are things stuck in it. Can you see what they are, Bo?'" followed by "'Yes! There's a six-legged beetle here, a big, round button, and even a ting-ling bell!' said Bo." Both windows have language selection dropdowns at the bottom labeled 'Anglais'.

Image Description Tool

Keep these things in mind:

- Are there important actions, relationships, emotions, or things in the scene that add to the story but are not in the text?
- Use words that are simple enough for the listener.
- Keep it short.

Otherwise, check this box:
 This image should not be described.

For more information:
poet.diagramcenter.org

Talking Book Tool

- Check that you are recording into the correct device and that these levels are showing blue:
- Look at the highlighted text
- Speak
- Check
- Split
- Next

"Mine is rough and tangled!" said Messy sadly. "And there are things stuck in it. Can you see what they are, Bo?"

"Yes! There's a six-legged beetle here, a big, round button, and even a ting-ling bell!" said Bo.

Anglais

Anglais

3

Anglais

Anglais

Creating Accessible Books in Bloom

Accessible books are electronic books that have features to make their content more readily accessible or available to people with visual disabilities. Such features include audio recording of the text, descriptions of images, and text size that can be changed by the person reading the book. Bloom can help you create books with these features and that meet technical accessibility standards.

What to expect in this module

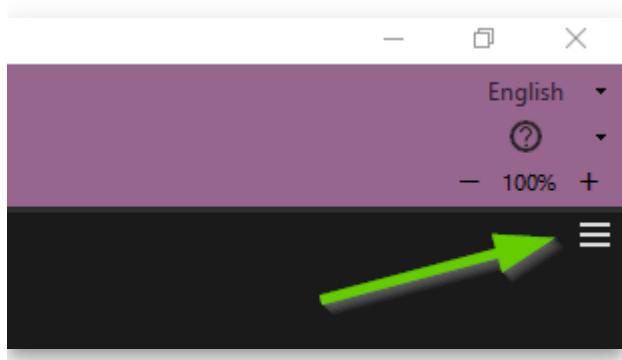
In this training module, you will learn how to:

1. Create image descriptions,
2. Record audio of the text in the book and in image descriptions,
3. Evaluate whether images need adjustment for visual impairment, and
4. Choose images that are going to be easier to perceive

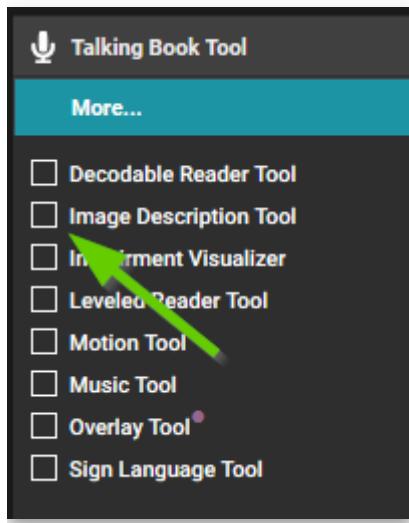
Activating the Image Description Tool

In order to access the Image Description Tool, click on the menu icon at the top right of the screen.

The toolbar will open. If the Image Description Tool is not listed at the top, click on the “More...” button at the bottom of the toolbar.



Then activate the **Image Description Tool** by clicking in the check box.



Create Image Descriptions

Now that the Image Description Tool is open, a space will be created next to the image for adding a text description. You may now type in the text which describes the image. If you are not familiar with how to write image descriptions, you may want to visit: poet.diagramcenter.org.

Messy has her mouth turned down. She has many things stuck in her tangled hair.

“Mine is rough and tangled!” said Messy sadly. “And there are things stuck in it. Can you see what they are, Bo?”

“Yes! There’s a six-legged beetle here, a big, round button, and even a ting-ling bell!” said Bo.

Keep these things in mind:

- Are there important actions, relationships, emotions, or things in the scene that add to the story but are not in the text?
- Use words that are simple enough for the listener.
- Keep it short.

Otherwise, check this box:
 This image should not be described.

For more information:
poet.diagramcenter.org

Help

Talking Book Tool

More...

Once you are satisfied with the image description, you can close the Image Description Tool by clicking on the X above the Image Description Tool window.

NOTE

If you are using the Overlay Tool to make comic books, Bloom allows you to have a background image. You can describe that image just like any other. However, the Overlay Tool also lets you drag images on top of the background, and Bloom does not currently allow you to add image descriptions to these draggable images. Instead, you will need to describe whatever the user needs to know about the scene based on your description of the background image.

Recording Audio of Text and Image Descriptions

Learning to Use Bloom tells how to record audio of the text in a book. Those instructions start on page 149. The process is the same for recording the audio of image description text. To make a book accessible, you need to record all of the text as well as all of the

image descriptions. Here we will show you how to record the image descriptions. Begin by switching the active tool from the Image Description Tool to the Talking Book Tool.

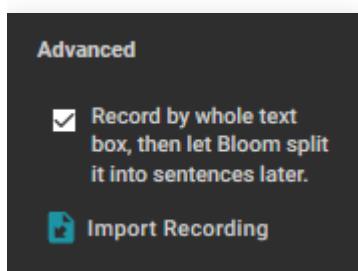
If needed, use the Next and Back button to change from one text box to another. If you are recording by sentence, The Next and Back buttons will move one sentence at a time.

The screenshot shows the Talking Book Tool interface. At the top right is a 'Change Layout' toggle switch. On the left, there's a small image of a character with a sad expression and a yellow speech bubble containing text. The main text area contains two paragraphs of a story. The first paragraph is: "Mine is rough and tangled!" said Messy sadly. "And there are things stuck in it. Can you see what they are, Bo?" The second paragraph is: "Yes! There's a six-legged beetle here, a big, round button, and even a ting-ling bell!" said Bo. Both paragraphs have the word 'English' at the bottom right. A page number '3' is centered below the text area. On the right side, there's a sidebar titled 'Talking Book Tool' with the following items:

- 1) Check that you are recording into the correct device and that these levels are showing blue:
- 2) Look at the highlighted text
- 3) Speak (highlighted with a yellow circle)
- 4) Check
- 5) Split
- 6) Next
- Back
- Clear
- Listen to the whole page

Recording by Sentence or by Text Box

Bloom allows you to record one sentence at a time, or to record the whole text box at one time. Some speakers find that recording the entire text box all at once will give a better recording. Others find it better to record one sentence at a time.



You can experiment with both approaches to determine which is best for your needs.

Some Bloom users like to record themselves using other audio equipment than the microphone in their computer. They then transfer these audio files to their computer and import them into Bloom. This imported audio must correspond to an entire text box.

Recording Image Descriptions by Text Box

TIP

This section will assume you are recording your audio on your computer with the Advanced setting, “Record by whole text box”.

Read aloud the highlighted text several times until you are familiar with the text.

When you are ready to record, click on and hold down the **Speak** button and start reading the highlighted text. While you are recording, the button will turn yellow.

—

Talking Book Tool

1) Check that you are recording into the correct device and that these levels are showing blue:

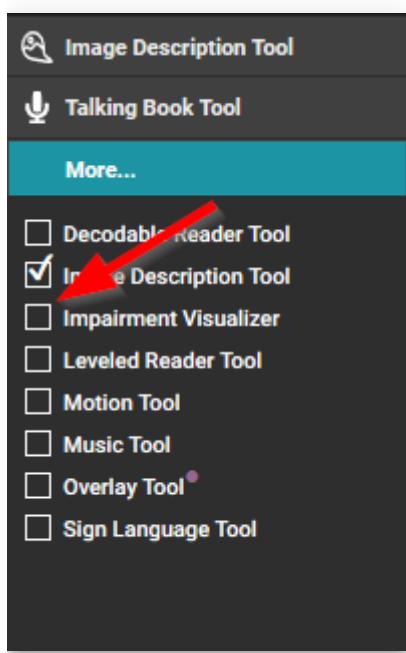


When you are finished reading, release the **Speak** button and Bloom will stop recording. Now, click the Check button to review your recording.

Activating the Impairment Visualizer

The Impairment Visualizer is another tool for creating accessible books. This tool allows you to select several filters that will show you what the image might look like to someone with several different kinds of visual impairment.

Activate this tool by clicking on More... in the Tool Panel and selecting Impairment Visualizer.



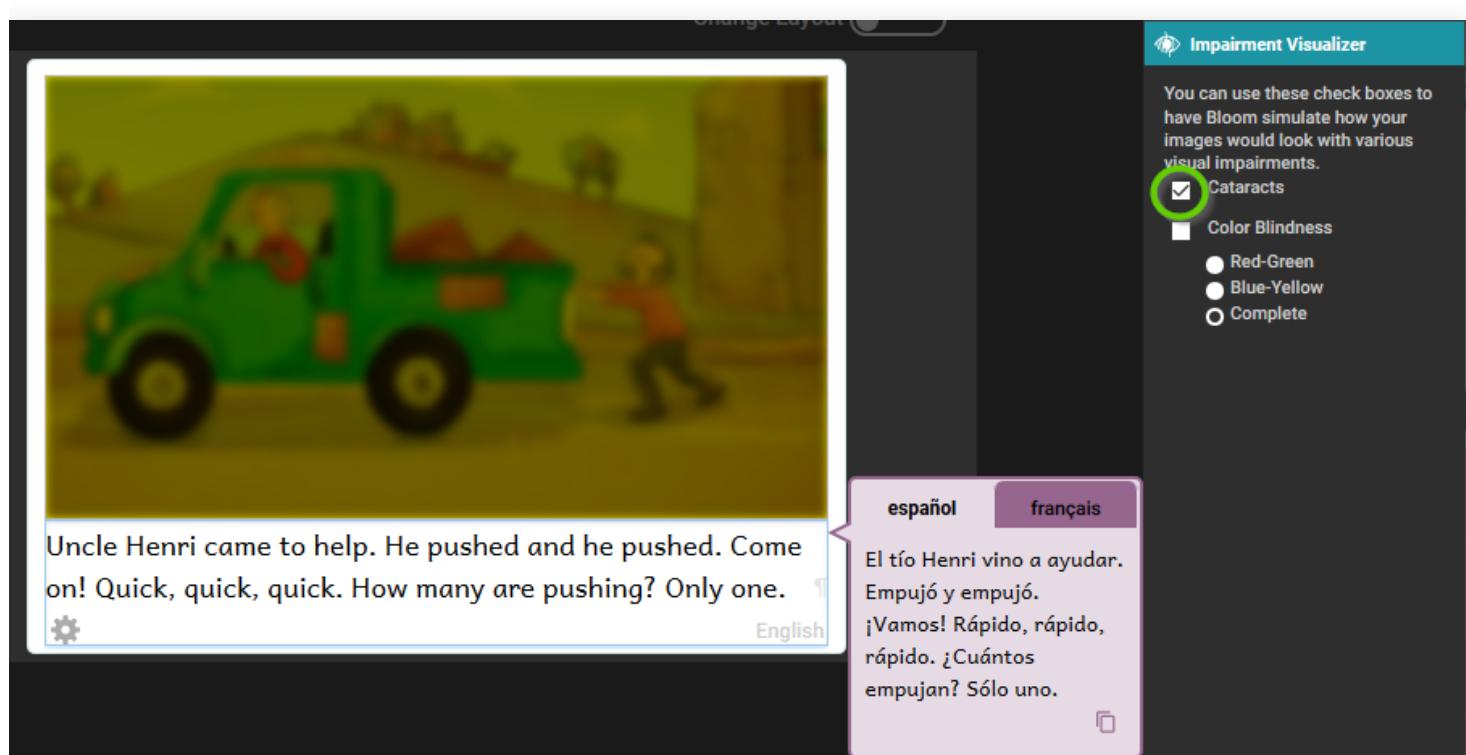
Using this tool, you can evaluate whether an image should be modified so that it is easier to interpret for people with these sorts of visual impairments.

You can use these check boxes to have Bloom simulate how your images would look with various

Bloom does not have a tool for editing images. If an image needs to be edited, you will have to use another program to do that.

Using the Image Visualizer

The first choice shows what the image might look like to someone with cataracts.



Uncle Henri came to help. He pushed and he pushed. Come on! Quick, quick, quick. How many are pushing? Only one.

English

Cataracts

Color Blindness

Red-Green

Blue-Yellow

Complete

español

français

El tío Henri vino a ayudar.
Empujó y empujó.
¡Vamos! Rápido, rápido,
rápido. ¿Cuántos
empujan? Sólo uno.

For color blindness, there are three possibilities. The first shows what the image might look like to someone with red-green color blindness.

The screenshot shows a digital storybook interface. On the left, a colorful illustration depicts a man pushing a truck up a hill. On the right, a sidebar titled "Impairment Visualizer" contains text and checkboxes for visual impairments. A green circle highlights the "Color Blindness" checkbox, which is checked, and a red arrow points to it. Below the sidebar, there are two language options: "español" and "français". The Spanish text reads: "Uncle Henri came to help. He pushed and he pushed. Come on! Quick, quick, quick. How many are pushing? Only one." The French text reads: "El tío Henri vino a ayudar. Empujó y empujó. ¡Vamos! Rápido, rápido, rápido. ¿Cuántos empujan? Sólo uno."

Change Layout

Impairment Visualizer

You can use these check boxes to have Bloom simulate how your images would look with various visual impairments.

Cataracts

Color Blindness

Red-Green

Blue-Yellow

Complete

español français

Uncle Henri came to help. He pushed and he pushed. Come on! Quick, quick, quick. How many are pushing? Only one.

El tío Henri vino a ayudar. Empujó y empujó. ¡Vamos! Rápido, rápido, rápido. ¿Cuántos empujan? Sólo uno.

English

The second option shows what the image might look like to someone with blue-yellow color blindness.

The screenshot shows a digital interface for 'Impairment Visualizer'. On the left, there's a colorful illustration of a teal van with a man driving and another man pushing it from behind. Below the illustration is the English text: 'Uncle Henri came to help. He pushed and he pushed. Come on! Quick, quick, quick. How many are pushing? Only one.' To the right of the text is a language selector with 'English' and a gear icon. On the far right, there's a sidebar titled 'Impairment Visualizer' with a sub-section for visual impairments. It includes checkboxes for 'Cataracts', 'Color Blindness' (which is checked), 'Red-Green', 'Blue-Yellow' (which has a red arrow pointing to it), and 'Complete'. Below the sidebar, there are two language options: 'español' and 'français', each with its corresponding translated text: 'El tío Henri vino a ayudar. Empujó y empujó. ¡Vamos! Rápido, rápido, rápido. ¿Cuántos empujan? Sólo uno.'

Change Layout

Impairment Visualizer

You can use these check boxes to have Bloom simulate how your images would look with various visual impairments.

Cataracts

Color Blindness

Red-Green

Blue-Yellow

Complete

Uncle Henri came to help. He pushed and he pushed. Come on! Quick, quick, quick. How many are pushing? Only one.

English

español

français

El tío Henri vino a ayudar. Empujó y empujó. ¡Vamos! Rápido, rápido, rápido. ¿Cuántos empujan? Sólo uno.

The third option shows what the image might look like to someone with complete color blindness.

A screenshot of the Impairment Visualizer tool. On the left, there is a grayscale illustration of a man pushing a truck up a hill. Below the illustration, the text reads: "Uncle Henri came to help. He pushed and he pushed. Come on! Quick, quick, quick. How many are pushing? Only one." To the right of the illustration is a settings menu titled "Impairment Visualizer". The menu includes a description: "You can use these check boxes to have Bloom simulate how your images would look with various visual impairments." It has four options: "Cataracts" (unchecked), "Color Blindness" (checked with a green circle around it), "Red-Green" (unchecked), "Blue-Yellow" (unchecked), and "Complete" (unchecked). A red arrow points to the "Complete" checkbox. At the bottom of the interface, there are language options: "español" (selected) and "français".

General considerations for choosing images

Choosing images that are appropriate for readers with low vision is a complex subject, but we can consider some general principles.

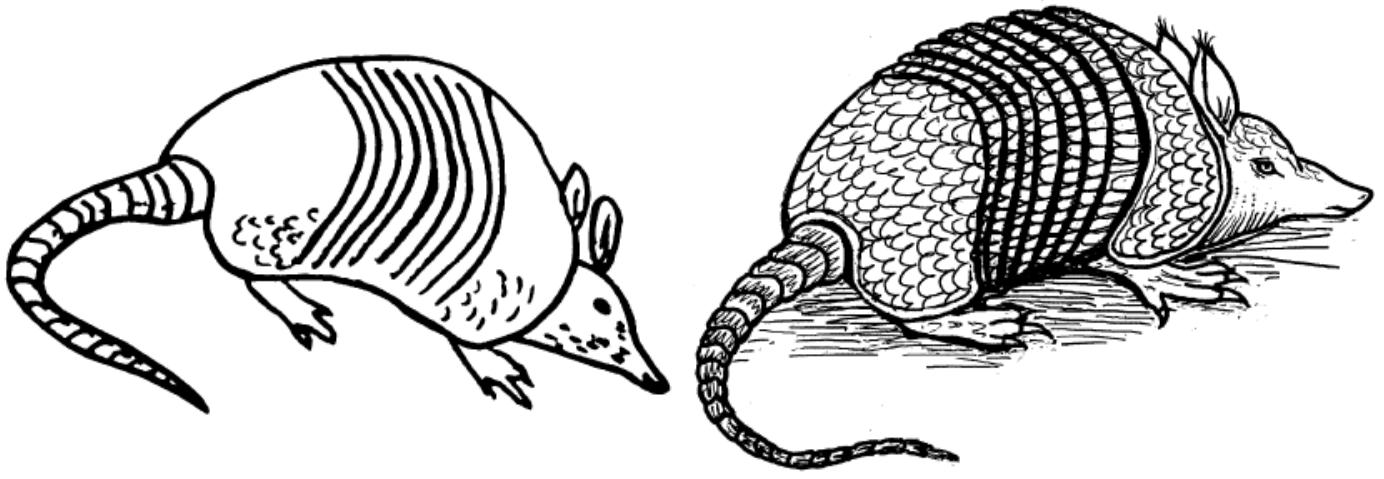
- In general, simple images are preferable.
- Graphics should be relatively large to make them easier to see.
- It is helpful for objects and key features to have a black outline.
- Black and white line drawings (such as come with the Art of Reading) serve well, but even then some have more details than others.
- If color is used, they should be colors that contrast well with one another.
- In line drawings, the lines should be thick and solid black. Use black and white images rather than grayscale.
- Photographs often have many details that can be hard to distinguish. Only use them if they are simple and not too detailed.

Now we will compare some images to provide some examples of these principles.

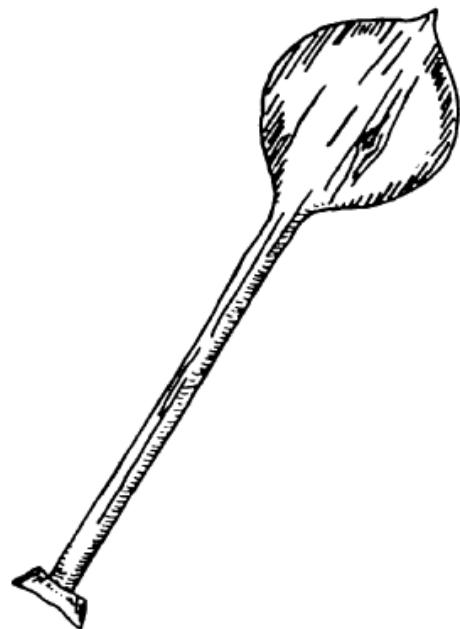
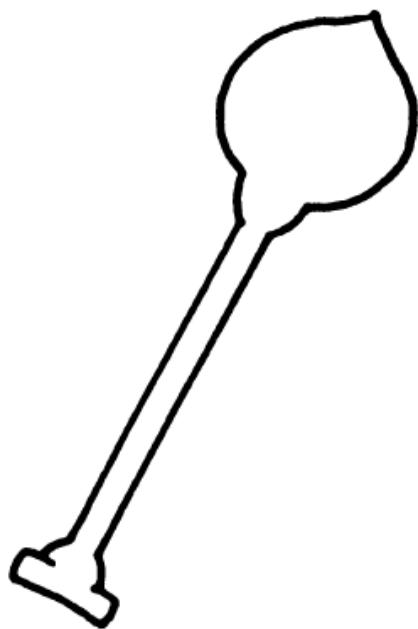
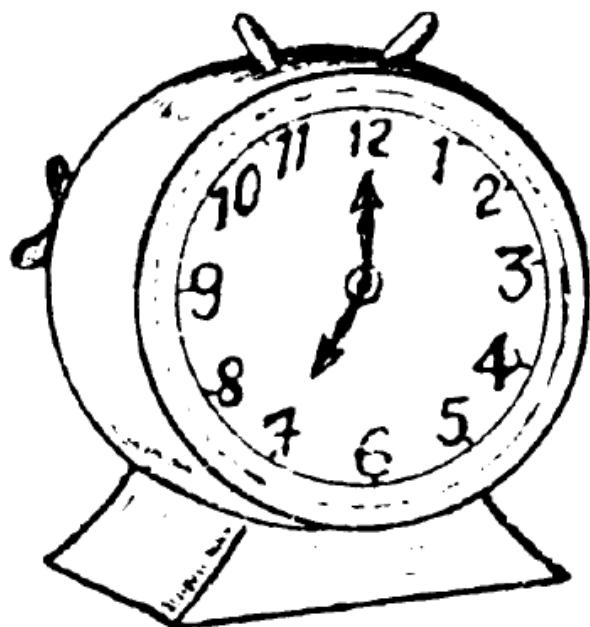
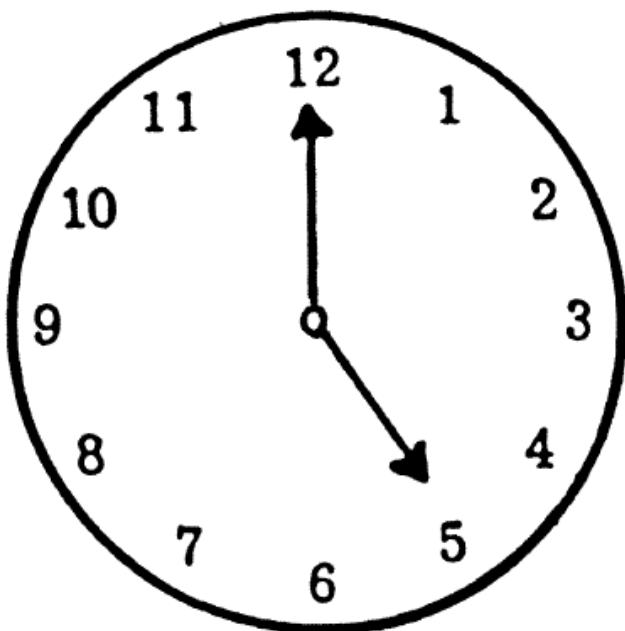
Considerations for choosing images: Amount of detail

Here are some examples of images with more detail compared with images with less detail. All of these images are from the Art of Reading. It will be better to use the images with less detail.

For example, the Images with less detail on the left, rather than the images with more detail on the right:



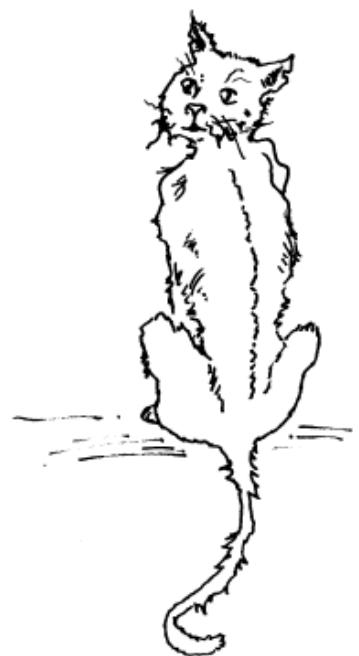
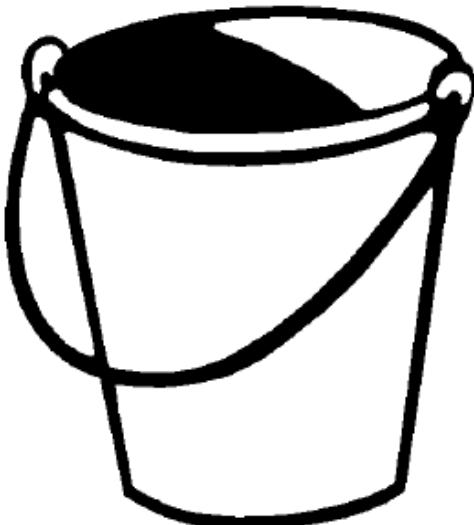
Here are some additional examples of images with less detail on the left and more detail on the right:



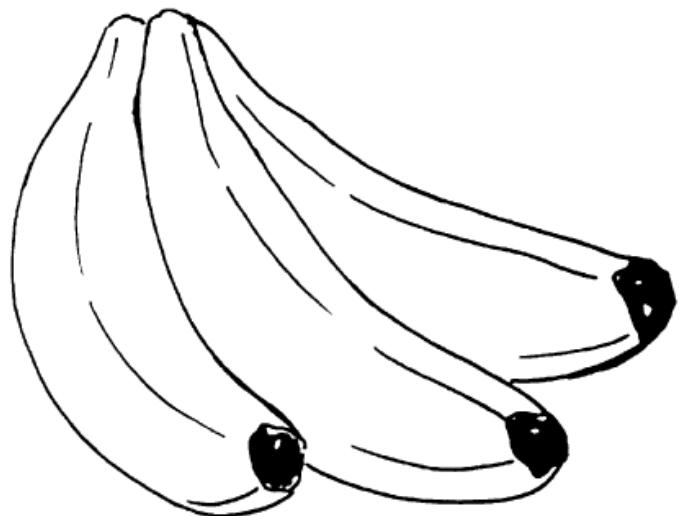
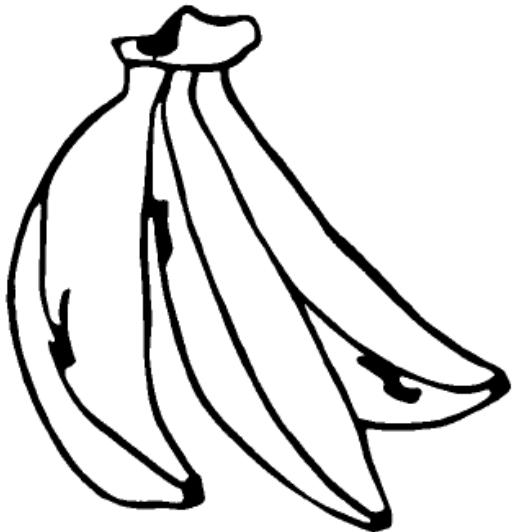
Considerations for choosing images: Thick black lines

These images from the Art of Reading illustrate images that have thick, solid black lines compared to images with thinner, less distinct lines. It will be better to use images with thick, solid lines.

The images on the left have thicker, solid lines, and the images on the right have thinner, less distinct lines.



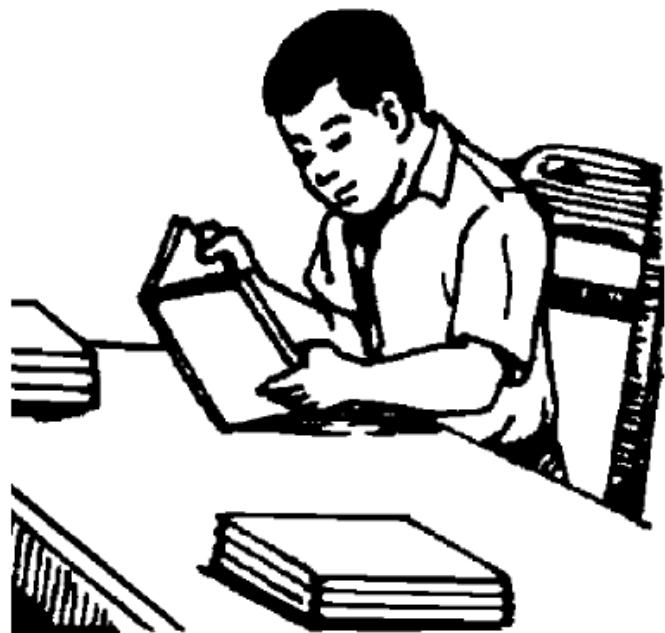
Here are some additional examples of images with thicker, solid lines on the left and thinner, less distinct lines on the right.



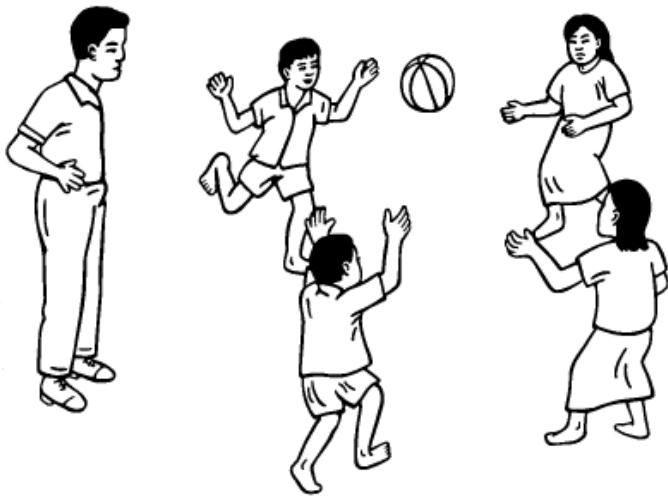
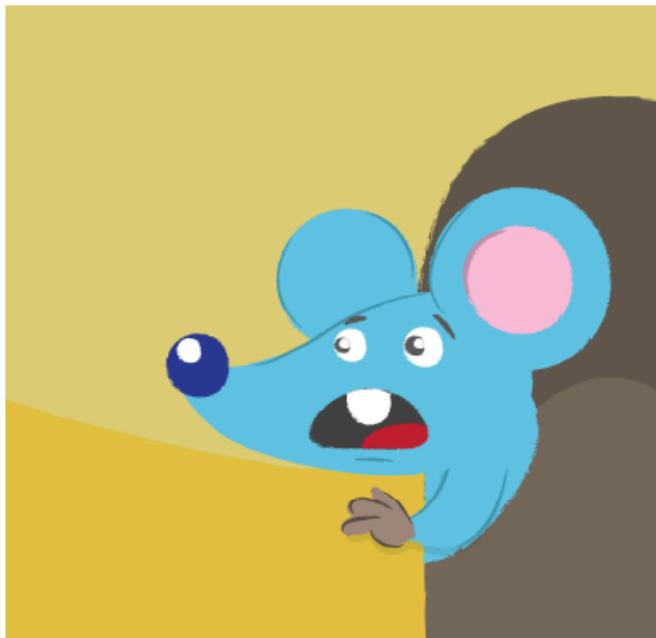
Considerations for choosing images: Color and photos

We all like photos and color illustrations, but they are visually more complex. Below you can compare line drawings to a photo or a color illustration or a simpler color illustration to a more complex one. It will generally be better to use simpler images.

The images on the left are simpler, while the ones on the right are more complex.



Additional examples of simpler images on the left and more complex images on the right:



Summary

In this training module, you learned how to:

1. Gain access to accessible book tools in Bloom,
2. Create image descriptions,
3. Record audio of the text in the book and in image descriptions,
4. Evaluate whether images need adjustment for visual impairment, and
5. Choose images that are going to be easier to perceive.

Managing Large Projects- new books and adaptations

Throughout the years, a number of organizations have used Bloom to make a set of self-authored books and oversee the translation of these books into other languages. Most commonly, these organizations employ the following simple workflow:

1. New books are authored in a particular chosen majority language such as English, French, Russian, Hindi, etc. This “SOURCE” collection of *original* books constitutes a type of “parent” collection.
2. The books in the parent collection are translated into a variety of other local languages in various “daughter” collections.

Chetana, for example, is an avid user of Bloom and they chose to write their original titles in English, and the various translations they have published (currently in 9 other languages) are *derived from* that collection of original editions.

Here is a sampling of Chetana’s home page on Bloom:

The screenshot shows the Chetana Bloom home page. At the top left is the Chetana logo and the text "Chetana TM". Below it is a brief description: "Chetana Charitable Trust develops locally relevant solutions to issues in child development, disability, health and education. They are based in Chennai, India. To learn more visit their website: www.chetana.org.in". It also states "98 books in 10 languages".

The main area displays five collections of books:

- English:** A grid of 10 books including "A Holiday in the Woods", "I am sick", "Bo, Messy and Shampoo", "Bo, Messy and Shampoo ISL...", "Catch a butterfly", "Chincho's Ching Ching", "Curious Cat", "Detective Stick and the 5 lost coins", "Detective Stick and the Lost...", and "Dream".
- Hindi:** Three books: "चलो तिरली पकड़ें", "बो, मेस्सी और शैम्पू", and "मैं बीमार हूँ!".
- Tamil:** Three books: "ஆடு காட்டின் இக்கார்கள்", "எனக்கு உடம்பு சரிவில்லை", and "இரு சுத்தமான நாள்".
- Malayalam:** Three books: "ആരை கூட்டுல மெற்றாலோரி", "എനிக்க ஸுவமால்", and "எழன் கூண்டுபிடி அமிளோ?".
- Marathi:** Three books: "ओरे वनातील देव", "बो, मेस्सी आणि शैम्पू", and "मी आजारी आहे!".

Green arrows point from the English collection grid down to the Hindi, Tamil, Malayalam, and Marathi collections, illustrating the relationship between the original English books and their translations.

In the following, we will present the steps for setting up the Bloom Collections for the Chetana project.

Setting Up your “parent” collection

The project leader and administrator will first set up the parent collection. This collection of original titles — your organization’s “original editions” — should be set up as Bloom “Source Collection”:

 Create New Bloom Collection X

Choose the collection type. English ▾

Local Language Collection
A collection of books in a local language.

Source Collection (arrow pointing to this option)
A collection of shell or template books in one or more languages of wider communication. You will be able to upload these shells to BloomLibrary.org. You may also make a Bloom Pack to give to others so that they can make local language books with your shells.

If you already have a collection you want to open, click the 'Cancel' button.

Back Next Cancel

All of the other Bloom Collections — the “daughter” collections — should be set up as “Local Language Collections”.

Choose the collection type.

English ▾

Local Language Collection

A collection of books in a local language.

Source Collection

A collection of shell or template books in one or more languages of wider communication. You will be able to upload these shells to BloomLibrary.org. You may also make a Bloom Pack to give to others so that they can make local language books with your shells.



If you already have a collection you want to open, click the 'Cancel' button.

Back

Next

Cancel

After setting up your Bloom collections, your workflow will differ depending on whether or not you have reliable internet; it will also depend on whether your organization holds a Bloom Enterprise Subscription.

Since Chetana has good internet and has an Enterprise subscription, we'll begin with that scenario.

Workflow 1: Organizations with reliable Internet and an Enterprise subscription

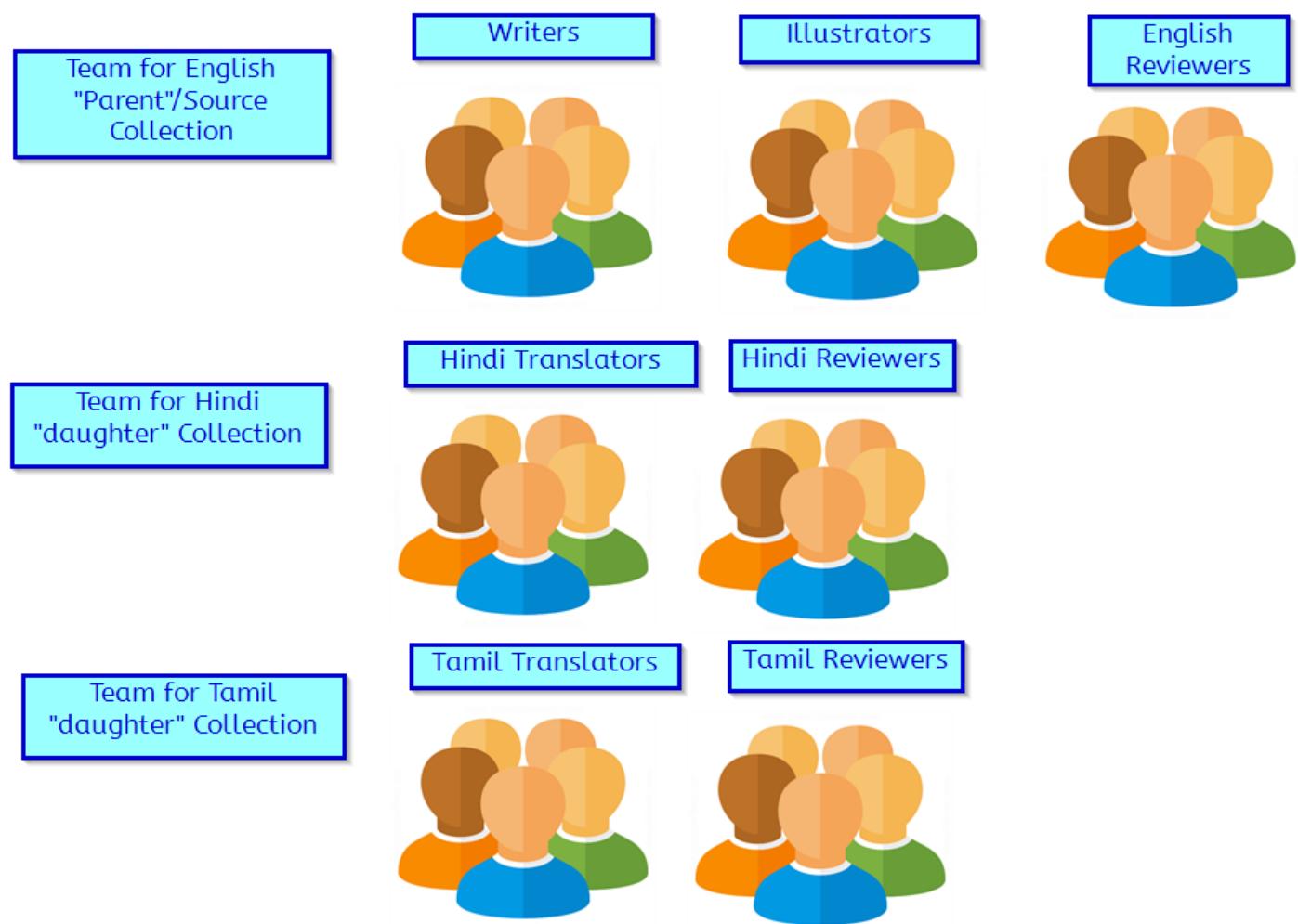
Organizations with reliable internet and an Enterprise subscription will want to take advantage of Bloom's powerful collaborative tool: Team Collections.

Team Collections enables multiple people to collaborate together on Bloom books in a convenient, disciplined and safe way using Dropbox's cloud services. In a Team Collection, team members can "sign out" books. When they do so, they indicate to the rest of the team that they are working on the book, and while the book is signed out, other team members are prevented from accidentally editing that book, thus erasing their work. In this way, the Team Collection system allows books to be edited in a safe and disciplined way.

The Team Collection must be set up by a chosen Team Collection administrator. The administrator will control the overall Bloom settings for the books in their charge.

After creating all of the Team Collections, the administrator will share the resulting Dropbox folders with the respective members of each particular language team. For the “parent” collection, this will be the writers, illustrators, and reviewers for the “parent” language, which for Chetana, is English.

For the daughter collections — say the Hindi collection — there will be translators skilled in English to Hindi translation, as well as Hindi reviewers or proof-checkers, and perhaps others.

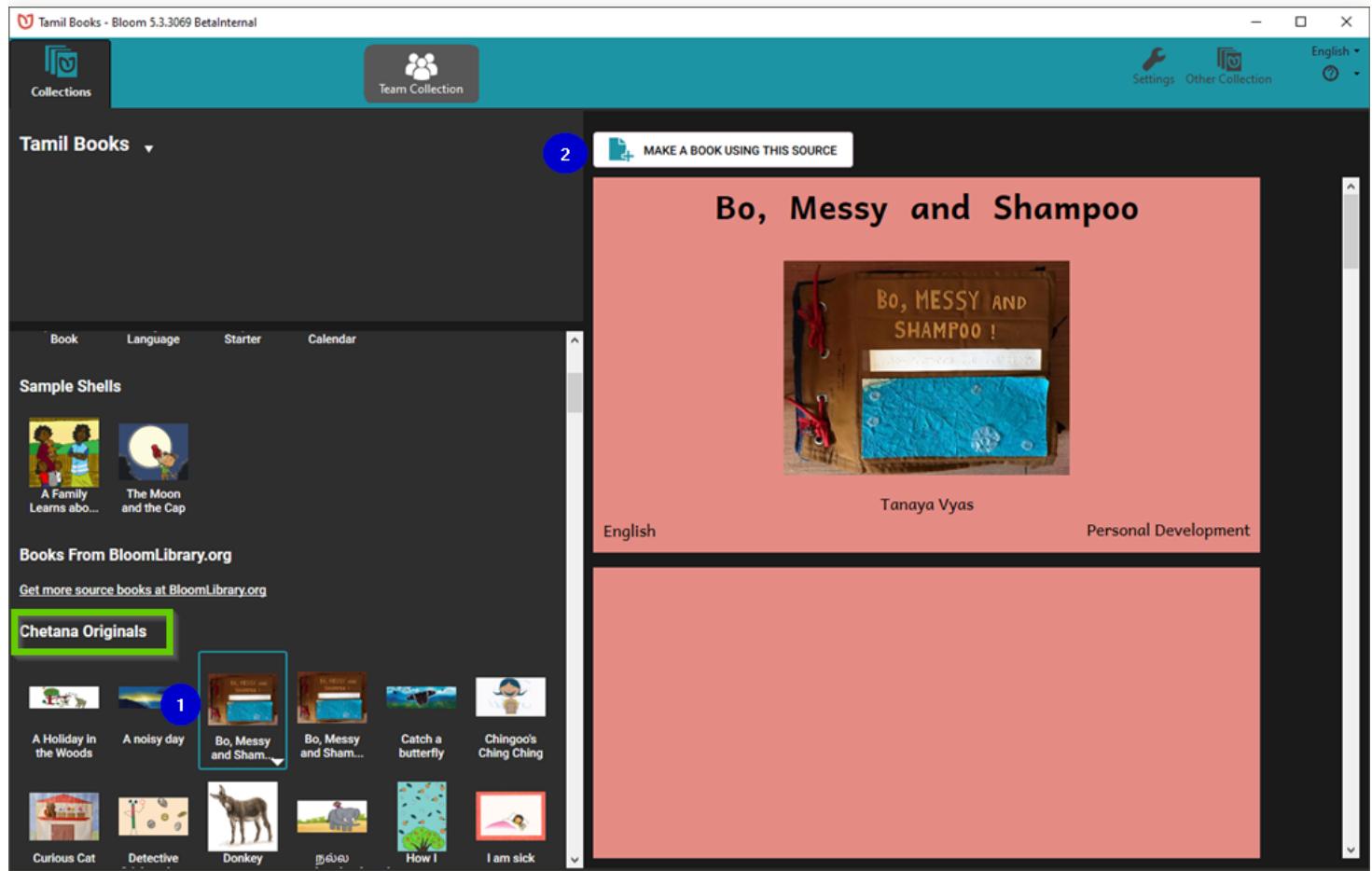


As soon as a new original title has been added to your parent/source collection, and this title has been *thoroughly* reviewed and checked and double-checked and triple-checked... it is ready to be translated into other languages!

So, open up any of your daughter collections. Now, because your main parent collection of originals was flagged as a “Source” collection, Bloom will display all of those books on the Administrator’s computer in the bottom left panel under **Source For New Books**. Scroll

down past **Templates**, past **Sample Shells**, and past any books in the **Books From BloomLibrary.org** section, and you will see your parent collection and its books.

(1) Choose a book, and then click on (2) MAKE A BOOK USING THIS SOURCE:



Doing this will create a **Bloom-approved** copy of the original book and add it to the daughter collection.

TIP

Warning: If you use Windows file explorer to create a copy of a Bloom book, that will lead to many problems; that copy will *not* be a “Bloom-approved” copy of your original book.

At this point, the book will be “checked out” to the administrator. Typically, the administrator might then immediately check the book *back in* so that the translation team can begin its translation.



This book is checked out to you

...

Are you done for now? Click this button to send your changes to your team.

What changes did you make?

Checking in brand new title.

CHECK IN BOOK

The new book will be uploaded to the cloud using the Dropbox service, and then downloaded/synced to the computer of other team members.

Once the synchronization is completed, the team members will be noticed that there are updates available. After restarting Bloom, the book will become available for editing:



This book is available for editing

...

When you check it out, no one on the team will be able to modify it or see your changes until you check it back in.

CHECK OUT BOOK

The newly added book to the Tamil collection is now available for editing and can be Checked Out. Using the original English text as a guide (1), the translator can type in the Tamil translation (2) into the book.

The screenshot shows a mobile application interface for a children's book. At the top, there is a dark header bar with a "Change Layout" toggle switch. Below the header, on the left, is a photograph of a yellow circular character with straw hair and a small red beetle on it. To the right of the photo is the main content area. The content is divided into two columns. The left column contains the original English text with numbered callouts (1 and 2) pointing to specific words. The right column contains the corresponding Tamil translation. A purple sidebar on the right provides a direct translation of the English text into Tamil. The bottom of the screen shows a page number "3" and a "தமிழ்" (Tamil) language indicator.

Change Layout

हिन्दी English

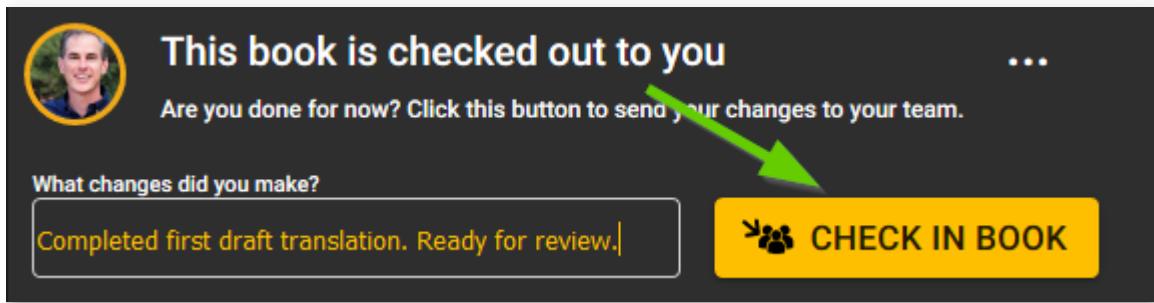
"Mine is rough and tangled!" said Messy sadly. "And there are things stuck in it. Can you see what they are, Bo?"

"Yes! There's a six-legged beetle here, a big, round button, and even a ting-ling bell!" said Bo.

1 2

3 தமிழ்

After the translation is complete, the translator can add their change comments, and check the book back in.



The above is the *typical* workflow for organizations with reliable internet and an Enterprise subscription.

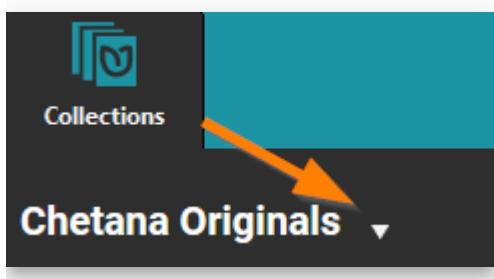
Additional guidance would be needed if your books are going to be subdivided according to reading level.

Workflow 2: Organizations with unreliable internet, or organizations with no Enterprise status

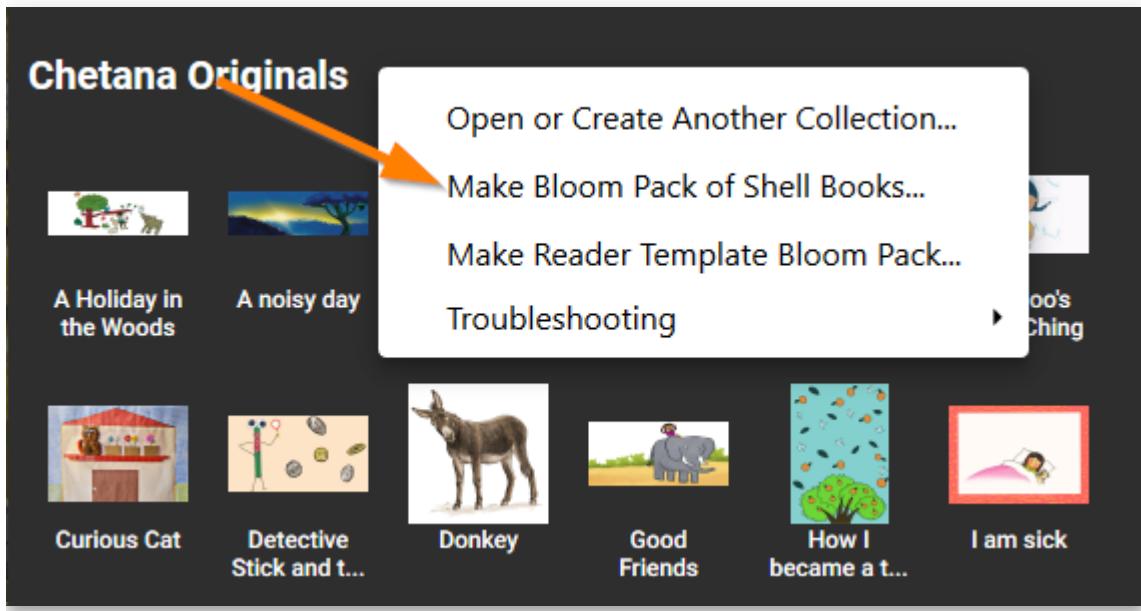
If the internet is not reliable for your team, then Bloom's Team Collections will not be a viable option. In this case, the project coordinator will need to carefully manage by various other means (USB keys, external hard drives, zip files, etc.) the creation, checking, revision, and publishing of new book titles.

Once a collection of original titles are ready to be translated, Bloom does offer a means to bundle those files together in a package.

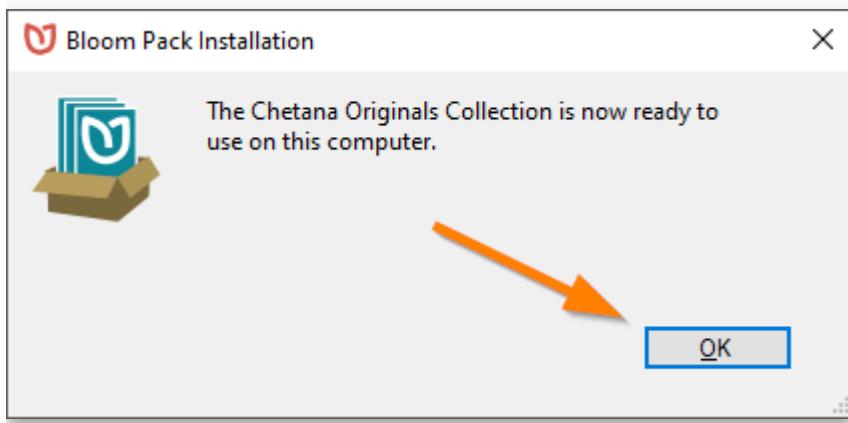
Click the arrow beside your collection name:



And then choose “Make Bloom Pack of Shell Books...”



Distribute the .BloomPack file to your colleagues to copy to their computer. They should then click on that file. Bloom will then install that Source collection on their computer.



Once installed, that collection will appear in the Source For New Shells section, and they can begin the translation process.

Two Different Approaches to Publishing Books in Multiple Languages

Several organizations like to publish their books to the Bloom Library in *multiple languages*. We encourage this, but also want to outline two different workflows or approaches and discuss the resulting ramifications of using each approach.

Method 1

Publish one single book to Bloom Library which contains multiple embedded languages for your original title

Advantages:

- There is only one book folder on your computer to manage for each original book title.
- When published to Bloom Library, your book will automatically become visible in all of the embedded languages.
- It is easy to “tweak” your book and republish it just once, and for that to immediately affect *all* versions of your book in the various languages on Bloom Library.
- The Bloom Reader version of your book (online or offline) can be viewed in any of the published languages and switched using the built-in language chooser.

Disadvantages:

- The online PDF of the book will only be available in a single language.
- The exact same structure of the book – sizing of images and number of pages – must suit all of the languages.



Regarding the “tweaking” mentioned above, if your book is not yet ready to show to the entire world, mark the book as a draft.

Legitimate “tweaking” of an already published Bloom book might include things like *adding* or improving the audio narration, or perhaps adding a forgotten book acknowledgment, or some other minor change.

Method 2

Publish one source language book, and then create derivative copies of the book in other languages

Advantages:

- An online PDF will be available for *each* language.
- The structure of the book – sizing of images and number pages – can be adjusted to suit each individual language.

Disadvantages:

- You cannot easily “tweak” all versions by republishing once since there are multiple copies of the book which each need to be corrected.

Now that you understand the advantages and disadvantages of these two methods, let's talk about how your workflow would differ for each method.

Workflow for Method 1

For this method, you will create just *one* Bloom collection on your computer which will serve as a “master” collection and it will hold *all* of your books in *all* the languages you desire. When you wish to Edit a book in a different language, you will simply switch languages in your collection’s Language Settings. Bloom will then reboot and open your collection in the new language.

Repeat this process until you have completed adding all the languages you desire for a given book.

Once you are ready to publish your book, set your language setting back to the language you want the book’s PDF available in.

Click Publish, then Web. Under Upload Text, select the check boxes for each language you want to become available for your book and be sure to select Narration if you want your audio to become available.

If, at a later date, you need to update your book for any reason, you will need to upload the book again. When you do so, Bloom will present a screen showing the book already in Bloom Library compared with the one you are uploading. If the thumbnail and title match, then click on “Yes, this is an update of my book”.



Is this an update of your existing book?

BloomLibrary.org already has a book with this ID from you

Already in Bloom Library



I Am Tashi

English

Tibetan

Uploaded 2022-06-24

Last updated on 2022-06-24

Uploading



I Am Tashi

English

Tibetan



Yes, this is an update of my book

Update the book. Bloom will remove the version on bloomlibrary.org and replace it with your upload.

No, these are different books

Add a new book. Bloom will fix the ID of your book and upload it. The old book on Bloom Library will stay the same.

[What caused this problem?](#)

[ASK FOR HELP](#)

[UPLOAD](#)

[CANCEL](#)

Workflow for Method 2

In Bloom, create a separate Bloom collection for each language your organization is working with.

Then, for each new book you author, you will need to decide which language will be considered the “source” or the “original” language for the book in question. That language choice need not be the same for each book, but if you think you will sometimes be using (say) English as the “original” language for one title, and (say) “French” for some other title, then you will need some system to keep track of where your original book is located, otherwise, you may run into some confusion should you need to revise your book at a later date.

Once you’ve decided the language choice for your new book, open the corresponding language collection and create a new book in that collection. When completed, upload your book to the Bloom Library.

Versions of that book in other languages can then be done by you (or someone else in your organization) by downloading that book from the Bloom Library into the appropriate language collection and translating it. This book is called a “derivative” and Bloom assigns this “derivative” a unique book ID, different from the original book. So, when this “derivative” is uploaded to the Bloom Library for the first time, it will not replace the original – it will stand on its own.

Effective use of Styles

There are a number of simple “best practices” to follow to ensure your Bloom publications will display *optimally* on a variety of devices with Bloom Reader (or ePUB), or on Bloom Library.

When a user does not follow these best practices, the resulting book will be less flexible and less adaptable to changes in font settings and various publishing options.

Another way of saying this is that books which don’t follow best practices will be more “fragile” and more prone to “break” if you make a change in font settings or publishing format.

There are two bad habits that violate best practices:

- Using spaces to center or indent text.
- Formatting entire text boxes using *character* formatting instead of using the text box style.

Using Spaces to Center or Indent Text



Donne-nous aujourd'hui notre pain de ce jour.



français

Often users need to center text or indent the first line of a paragraph. Bloom provides a way to do this, but new users sometimes miss this and attempt to center or indent text using spaces.

The trouble with this approach is that doing any of the following will cause the text to no longer be centered:

- Changing the text in any way (adding a word, deleting a word, etc.)
- Changing the font size
- Change the font to a different font

For example, increasing the font size results in the text shifting to the right making it no longer fit on one line:

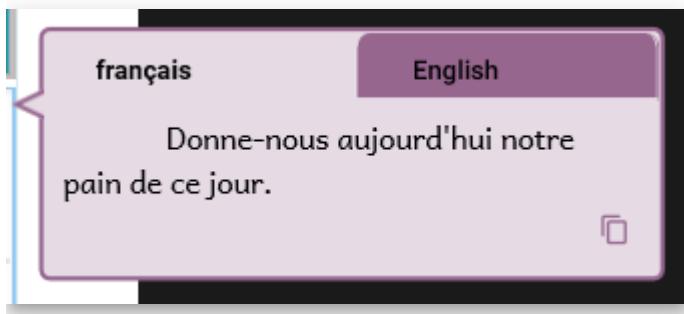
Donne-nous aujourd'hui notre pain de
ce jour.



français

Likewise, changing the paper size will break the perfect centeredness of the text.

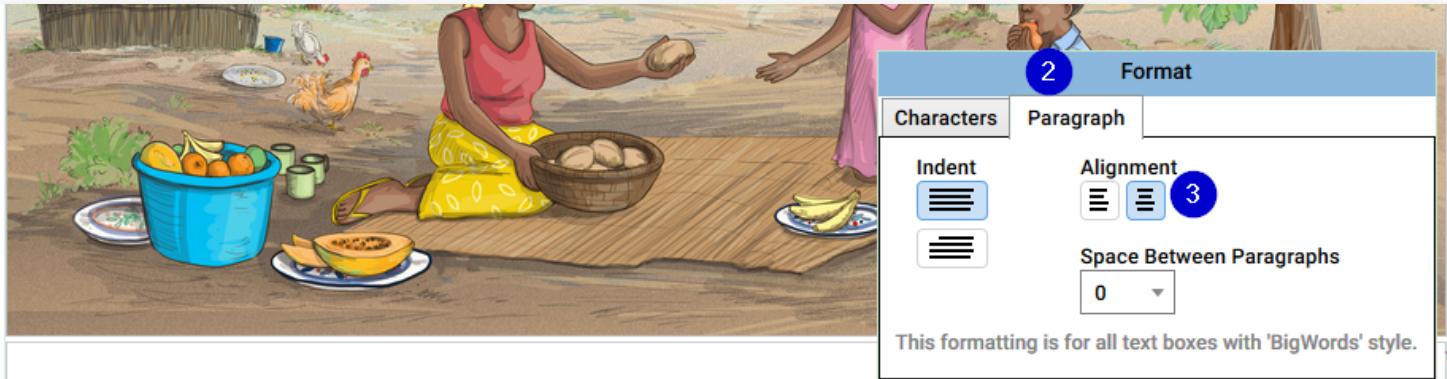
Also, if you upload your book to Bloom Library and then later someone downloads the book in order to translate it into their language, the translation bubble will retain those spaces:



This could be confusing for people.

TIP

Conclusion: Do not use spaces to center text or to indent text. Instead, use a centered text box style, or an indented paragraph style.



Donne-nous aujourd'hui notre pain de ce jour.

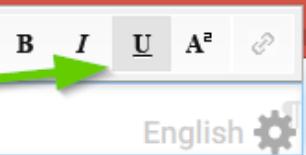
 1

français

Formatting the entire text box using **character** formatting instead of using a style

Bloom allows you to select certain words in a text box and make them bold, italic etc.. This is useful for highlighting particular words, e.g.:

Check Your Understanding



1. Which of these words was not used to describe Linus?

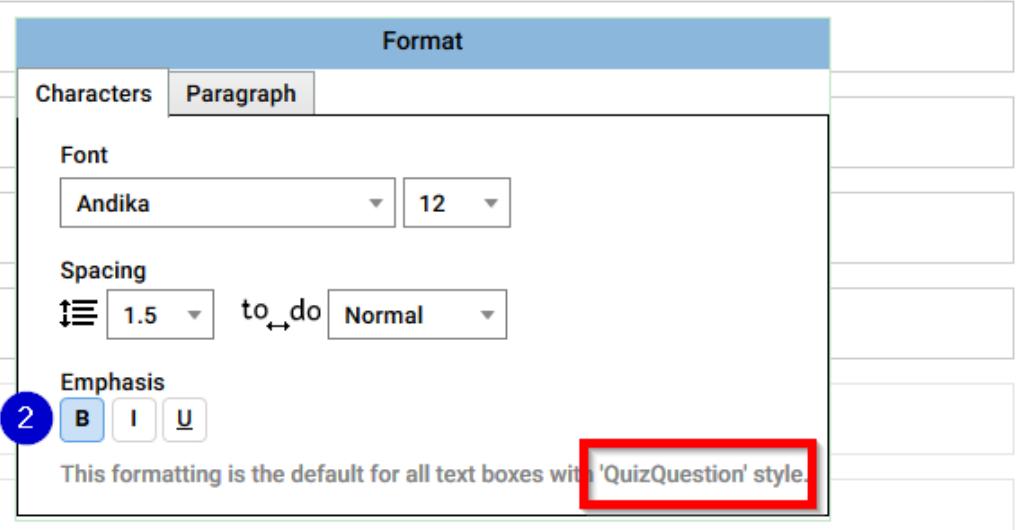
English

But if want an entire text box to be (say) Bold, you should set that formatting using the text box style, e.g.:

1. Which of these words was not used to describe Linus?

Er 1 h

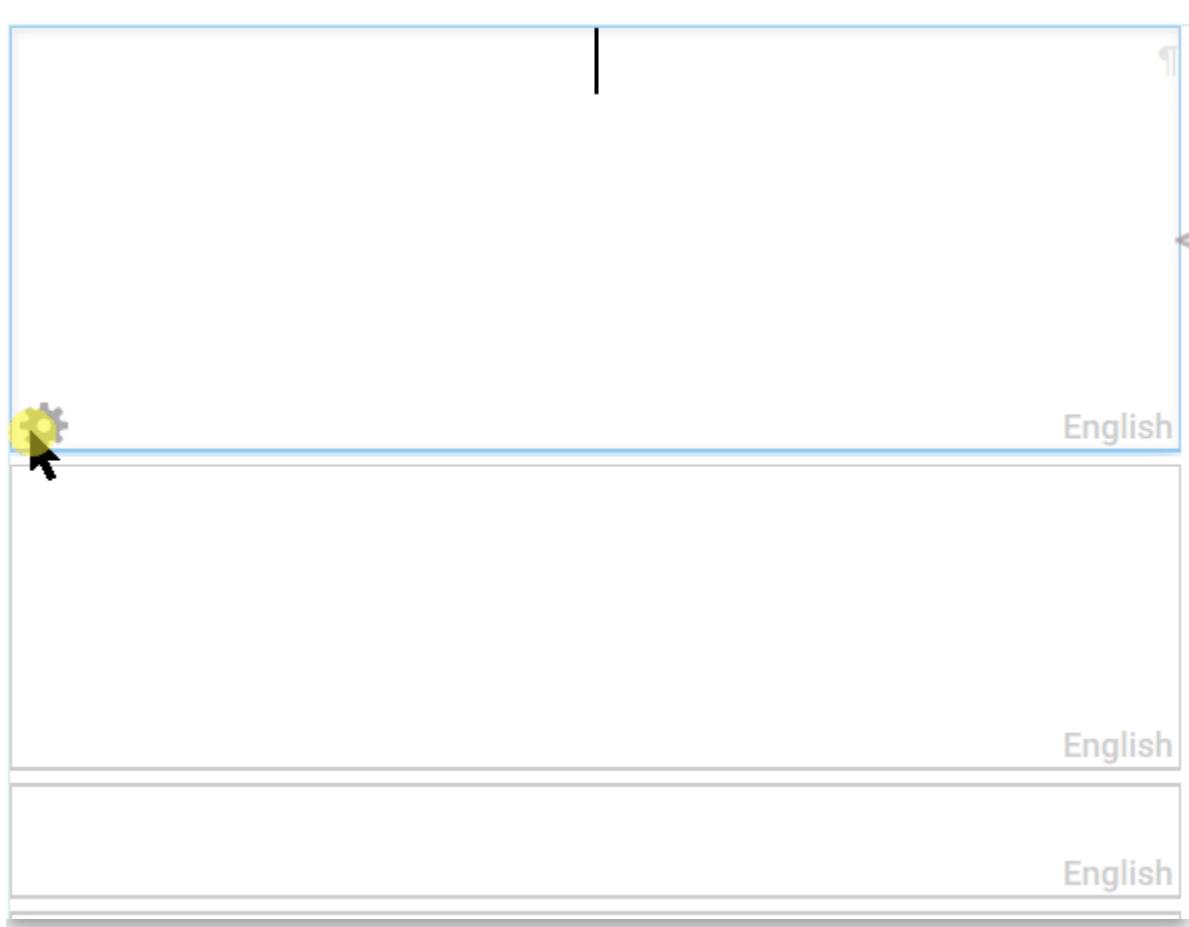
- a) Clever
- b) Tired
- c) Slow
- d) Fat
-
-



TIP

Key principle: use character formatting to highlight particular words or phrases in a text box, and use text box Styles to format an entire text box.

If you need a new Style for a text box, Bloom provides a simple way to create one:

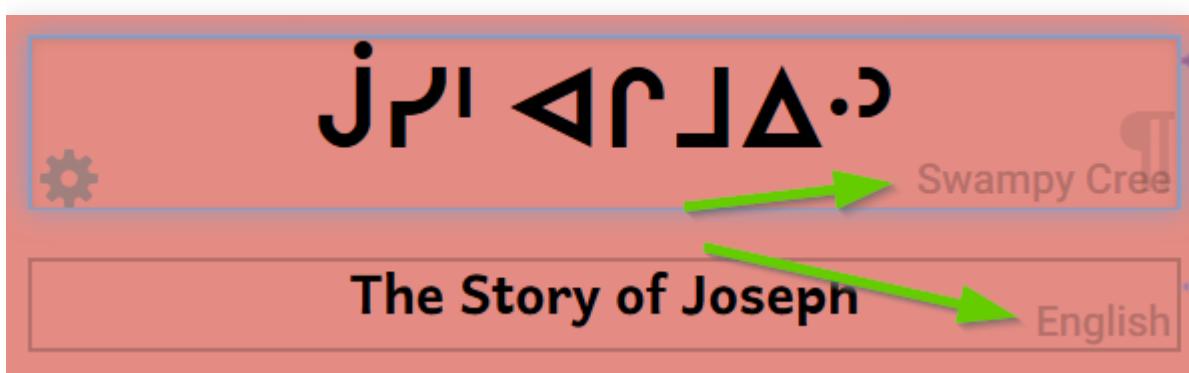


Accurate Language Tagging

TIP

Key principle: the actual text typed in any text box needs to accurately correspond with the language tag associated with it.

When you are editing a book in Bloom Editor, Bloom indicates the language which should go in each text box using a light grey “language tag” located in the bottom right of each text box:



When you are making books in Bloom, it is *very* important that these language tags accurately correspond to the actual language written contained within each text box.

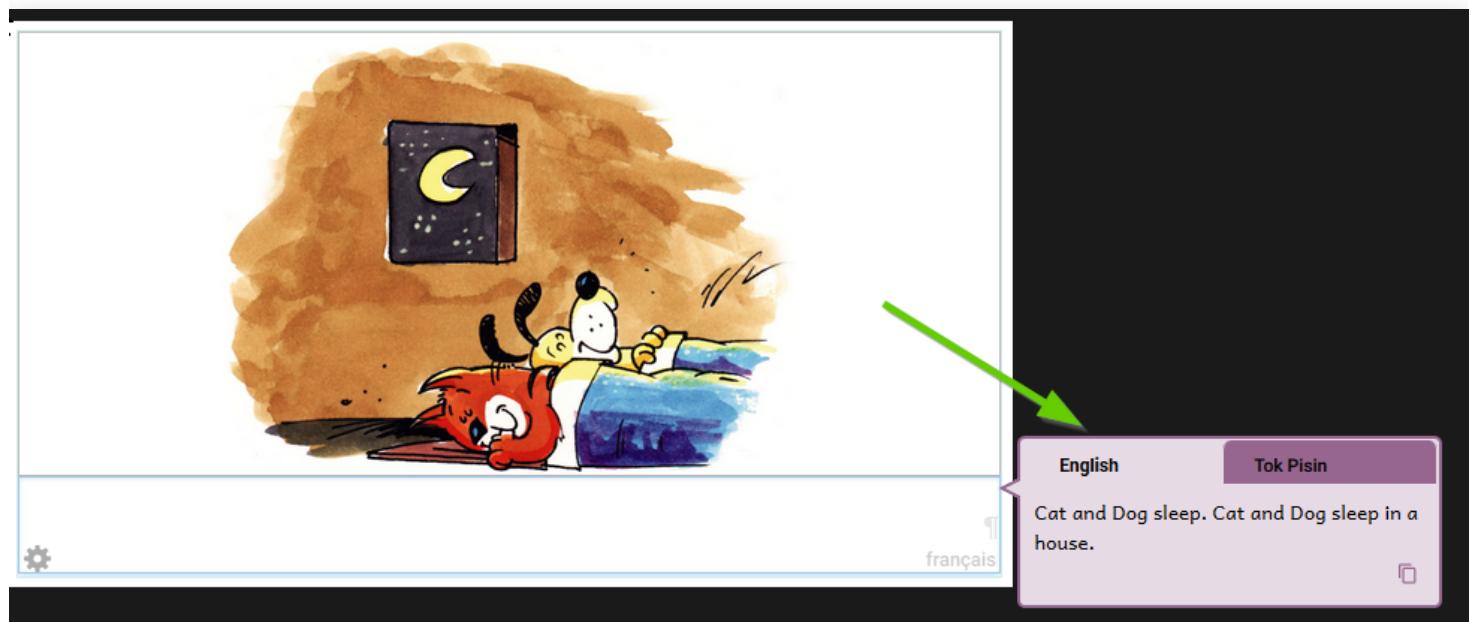
If you are simply printing your book, then having inaccurate language tagging will not negatively affect yourself or anyone else.

However, if you want your book to participate in Bloom's "ecosystem", i.e. the Bloom Platform, then accurate language tagging is absolutely crucial so that books on Bloom Library can be found in the correct language category:

The screenshot shows a search interface for 'cree'. A search bar contains the text 'cree'. To the right of the search bar is a magnifying glass icon and the text '487 Languages'. Below the search bar are three language categories: 'Cree, Swampy' (1 book), 'Swampy Cree' (1 book), and 'Haitian Creole' (267 books). Each category has its name, a small image, and the number of books.

Language Category	Books
Cree, Swampy	1 books
Swampy Cree	1 books
Haitian Creole	267 books

In addition, if someone downloads the book to translate it into another language, the language displayed in the "translation bubble" is also accurate:



Typically, this won't be a problem since whatever language you specified as your main language will also be the same one used for any text box you add to your book.

Where the need does arise to pay attention to accurate language tagging is you are making a bilingual or trilingual book. Now, typically, when you specify you want to show

two or three languages in your book, Bloom will show the 2 or 3 languages *stacked* one upon each other like this example:

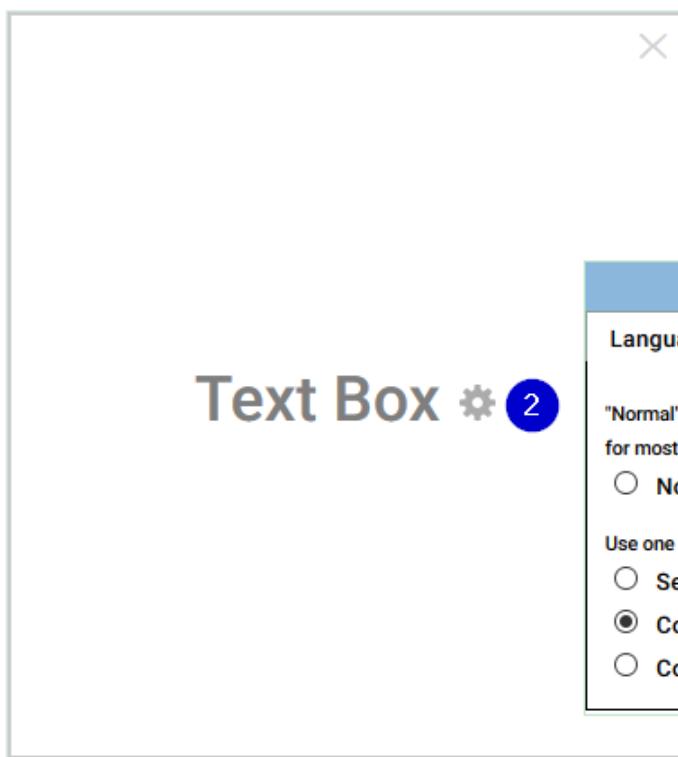


But you may wish to deviate from the above “stacked” orientation for your bilingual (or trilingual) book. For example, you might want a layout that has one language on the left, and another on the right:

Owl English
The owl hunts mice in the night. English

Hibou français
Le hibou chasse les souris la nuit. français

To achieve this specialized layout like the above, you will (1) slide the Change Layout slider across, (2) click on the gear icon of the text box, and (3) choose the desired language:



2

3

Image Credits

Please ensure that you have accurately filled out the copyright and licensing information for all images in your book.

For ideas on options for illustrations, please refer to [this important article](#).

Issues around derivative books

There are only three approved ways to make a book in Bloom.

1. Make a brand new book from a book template, such as the Basic Book template.
2. Make a book using an existing book in Sources for new books, typically, to translate it into another language.
3. Duplicate an existing book.

Book IDs

When you make a book using any of the above Bloom-approved methods for making books, the Bloom Editor will generate a unique number and assign that number to your book. This “book ID” is unique and it will follow that book *wherever* that book “lives” even when it is uploaded to the Bloom Library.

Consequences of using Windows Explorer to make a new book

If you use Windows Explorer to make a new book by copying a book folder from one collection into another collection, then the two books will have the *same* ID. This could cause confusion later on.

The problem will surface when you upload the two books sharing the same ID to Bloom Library, Bloom will then present you with an opportunity to correct this problem and assign a new ID to your copied book.

You will see a dialogue like this:



Is this an update of your existing book?

BloomLibrary.org already has a book with this ID from you ([\[REDACTED\]](#)).

Already in Bloom Library



[Camping](#)

Uploaded 2022-07-11

Last updated on 2022-07-11

Uploading



[Le plaisir de la randonnée](#)

French

- Yes, this is an update of my book**

Update the book. Bloom will remove the version on [bloomlibrary.org](#) and replace it with your upload.

- No, these are different books**

Add a new book. Bloom will fix the ID of your book and upload it. The old book on Bloom Library will stay the same.

[What caused this problem?](#)



[ASK FOR HELP](#)

[UPLOAD](#)

[CANCEL](#)

In this example, based on the two *different* thumbnail images and the *different* titles of these two books, we can safely determine that they are indeed different books. So, we select the second option, “No, these are different books”. In other cases, however, it may not be so obvious that they are different books.

To avoid this problem, here is the key point to remember:



TIP

To ensure that all of your Bloom books receive a unique book ID, it is important to *only* use the Bloom Editor – not Windows Explorer – to create a book, duplicate a book, or make a derivative.

Publishing Draft Versions of Books

One very powerful feature of Bloom is its ability to harness the generosity of its global user-community – book-creators from all over the world – who allow their original works to be freely translated into other languages. And so, a user in (say) India, can create a beautiful book using Bloom, upload it to the Bloom Library, and make it available to the entire world to freely adapt and translate into other languages.

It's wonderful.

However, this powerful feature comes with an important caution because once people start downloading and making adaptations of your books, any mistakes or glitches in your original book will be *propagated* to those adaptations.

For this reason, *before* publishing original works to the Bloom Library, you should ensure that everything in the book is absolutely perfect: spelling, formatting, logos, copyright, licensing, credits, acknowledgments, audio, etc.

If your book is *not* yet ready to show to the entire world, but you need some way to share the book with others for review, you may consider uploading it to Bloom Library, and marking the book as a draft:



Hannah and Asher go to the bookstore

English

Hannah and Asher's grandfather gives them some money to buy some books. What will they buy?

DRAFT

READ



Translate into your language!

Download into Bloom Editor

Features



Download



GET BLOOM READER

17 pages

Copyright © 2020, SIL

License: cc-by-nc-nd

First uploaded 12/11/2020 by colin_suggett@...

Updated on 4/26/2021

60 reads, 9 devices, 21 downloads for translation

Tags: Story Book

Keywords:

Share Report Delete



Show this book only to reviewers with whom I share the URL of this page.



HTML5 Widgets

Bloom pages can embed little custom HTML5 activities called “widgets”. When published as a bloompub, these widgets will work on the web, Bloom Reader, and RAB Apps. You can see examples of widgets in [these interactive books](#) in the Bloom Library.

Many of these widgets already exist on the web, because they work with Apple's iBooks and other software. You can also make your own using programs like [Active Presenter](#). Most widgets don't have any custom programming, but if software like Active Presenter is not sufficient for what you need, you can hire a web developer to do something even more advanced.

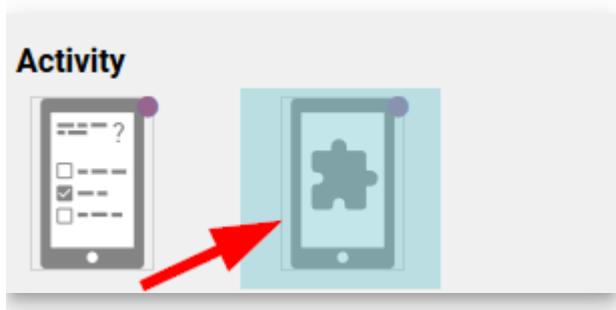
Format

Bloom can import any of the following widget formats

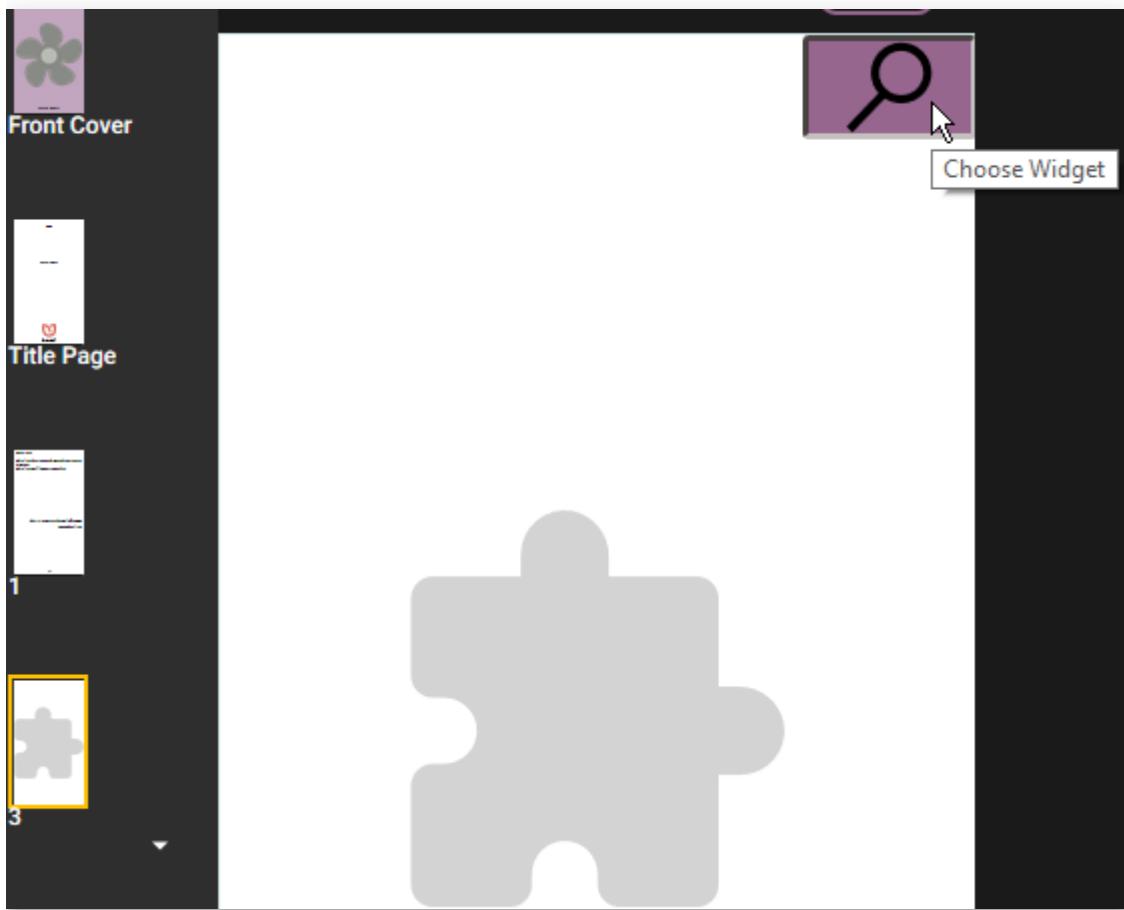
- a zipped set of files ending in ".wdgt". which contains a file named "index.html", or, if the .wdgt file is not zipped, you can import the index.html file.
- the main .html file from a saved Active Presenter output.

Adding to Bloom

To add a widget, Click “Add Page” and then select one of the template pages. These have an image of a puzzle piece:



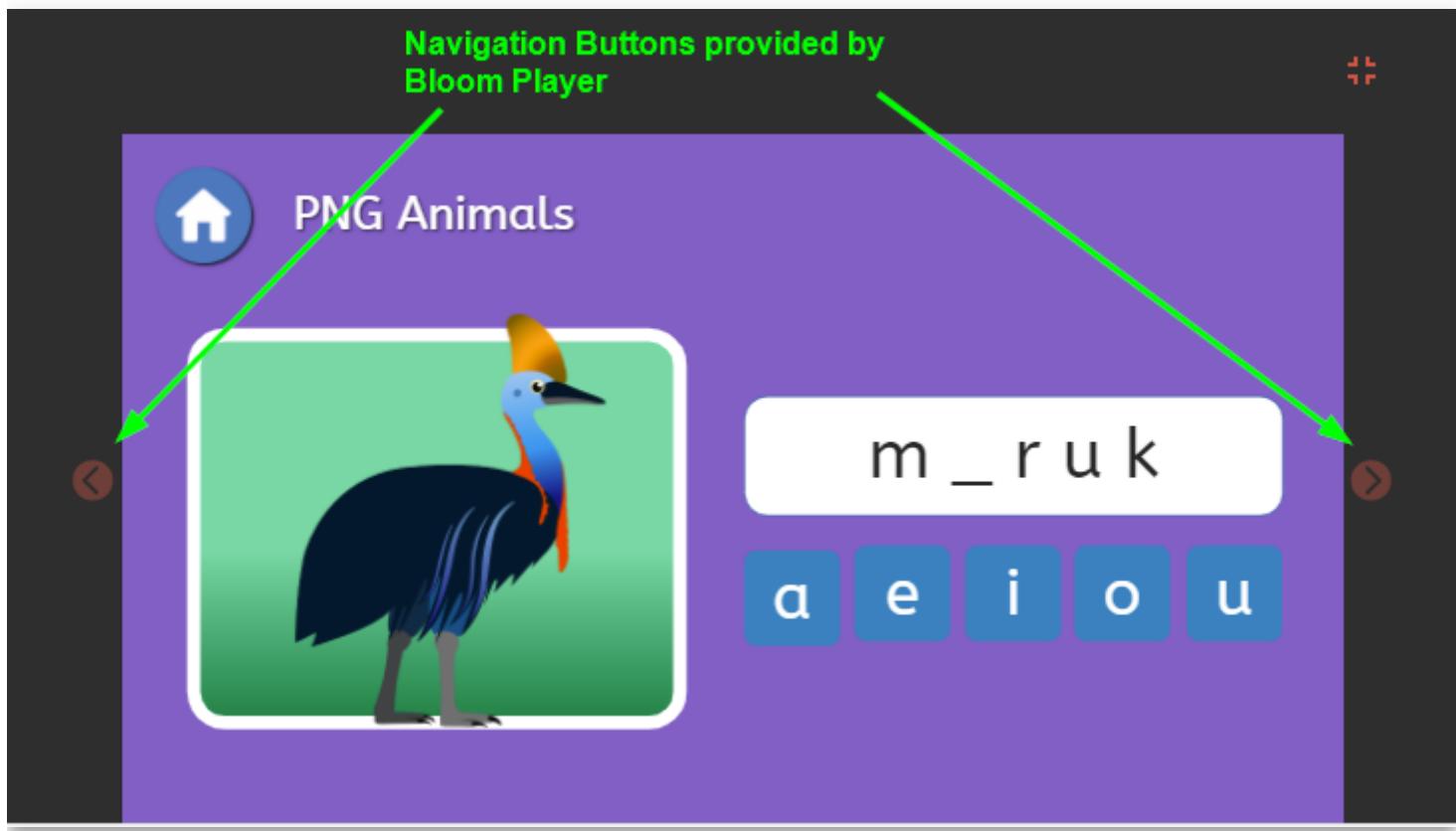
Then click on the button in the corner of the widget:



In the file chooser dialog, you can either choose a .wdgt file, an .htm file, or an .html file. A “.wdgt” file is just a zip file containing all the files of the widget. If you instead choose an HTML file, Bloom will gather up and import all of the files in that same folder.

Captive Widgets

Normally, when Bloom Player shows a widget, it also shows page navigation buttons:



If you want to hide these navigation buttons, follow these steps:

1: Use the special page template

In Bloom (version 5.1 or later) when you choose “Add Page”, you should see a “Captive Widget” page:

A screenshot of the Bloom software's "Add Page..." dialog. On the left, there are several categories of widgets: "Activity" (with a calculator icon), "Arithmetic" (with flower icons), and "Captive Widget Page" (which is highlighted with a light blue border). The "Captive Widget Page" section contains a large preview image of a puzzle piece inside a rounded rectangle. To the right of the preview, the text "Captive Widget Page" is written. Below this, a descriptive note reads: "Bloom Reader hides its own navigation buttons when showing this HTML5 widget. The widget itself will need to provide a way to exit. This is useful for things like tests where you don't want the student to leave until they have completed the test."

Bloom Player will not give the user any way to navigate away from this page except by leaving the book entirely. It will be up to your widget to tell Bloom Player when you want the user to leave this page and go forward or backward in the book.

2: Send navigation messages

To tell Bloom Player to navigate, you will need to add some javascript to a button:

```
window.parent.postMessage('{"messageType": "control",  
"controlAction": "navigate-to-previous-page"}', "*");
```

or

```
window.parent.postMessage('{"messageType": "control",  
"controlAction": "navigate-to-next-page"}', "*");
```

What Bloom Branding can do

A typical Bloom book has prebuilt **content slots** in the front and back matter. A custom **branding pack** can fill these slots with text or graphics to create a consistent branding across a collection of books.

Standard branding slots include the following:

- Front cover top
- Front cover bottom
- Credits page top
- Credits page bottom
- Title page bottom
- Outside back cover top
- Outside back cover bottom

In addition, a branding pack can declare:

- Default copyright notice
- Default license notice
- Default license notes

Creating a custom branding pack is a paid service. If you think you need a custom Xmatter pack, contact the Bloom team at info@bloomlibrary.org.

 **NOTE**

You can do a lot with a custom branding pack, there are limits: see [What Bloom branding cannot do below](#).

Branding pack samples

Here are some examples of front and back matter pages that have been customized using a custom branding pack

Cover Page

Branding can include image and text here (cover-branding-top).



Branding Sample



Foodo



Branding can include image and text here (cover-branding-bottom).

Title Page

The Moon and the Cap

Written by Noni Illustrations by Angie and Upesh

Tangshang Naga



Title Page Bottom

Credits Page Top

Credits Page Top



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(from Suluh-INOVASI)

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Originally published by Pratham Books, a not-for-profit organization that publishes quality books for children in multiple Indian languages. Their mission is to "see a book in every child's hand" and democratize the joy of reading.

www.prathambooks.org



Credits Page Bottom

Back Cover Top



USAID
АМЕРИКАНЫН ЭЛЛИНЕН



Министерство образования и
науки Кыргызской
Республики

If you ne
the book
the back



French

Created with Bloom

Back Cover Bottom

If you ne
the book
the back



English

Produced for Papua New Guinea under the Rapidly Improving Standards in Elementary program.

The Rapidly Improving Standards in Elementary program is supported by the Australian Government in partnership with the Autonomous Bougainville Government and the Government of Papua New Guinea.

Rapidly Improving Standards in Elementary is delivered by Save the Children in Papua New Guinea in partnership with Callan Services for Persons with Disabilities National Unit and the Summer Institute of Linguistics Papua New Guinea.

Not for re-sale.



Back cover bottom



SULUH INSAN LESTARI



(Suluh-INOVAS)

What Bloom branding **cannot do**

Making a branding pack in Bloom is like decorating a house: it's easy, but there are limits. In contrast, making a custom **Front/Back Matter pack** is like moving walls or adding on new rooms. With a custom front/back matter pack (called an **Xmatter pack**), you can add

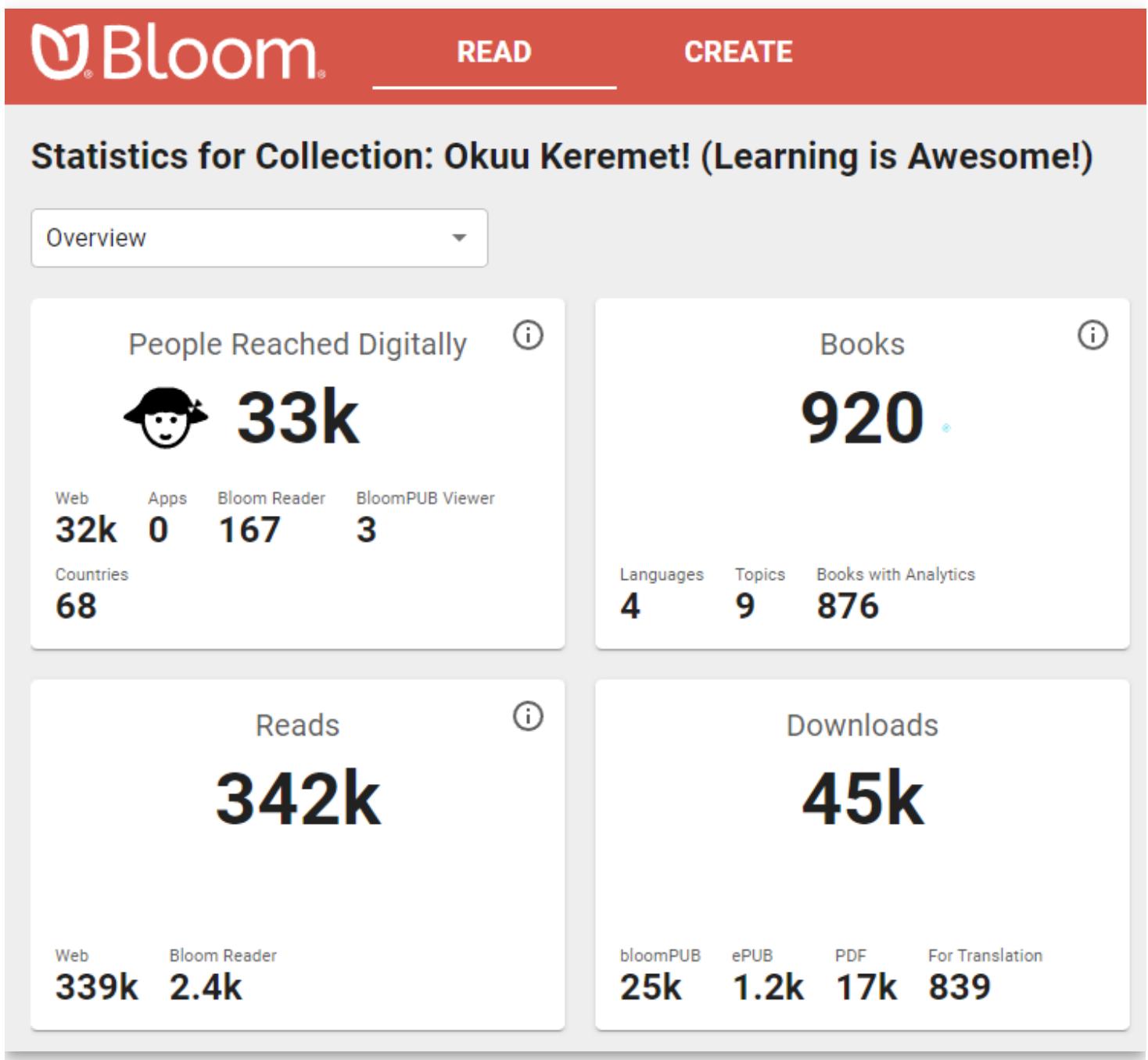
new front and back matter pages and new branding slots. Custom Xmatter packs must be created by a Bloom developer.

Creating custom Xmatter packs is a paid service. If you think you need a custom Xmatter pack, contact the Bloom team at info@bloomlibrary.org.

Bloom Analytics For Publishers

BloomLibrary.org Stats pages

Bloom Enterprise subscribers get a URL that gives them analytics on the reach of the books in their collection, updated once a day.



There are various reports:

Statistics for Collection: Oku

Overview

Overview

Bloom Reader Sessions

Book Statistics

Comprehension Questions

Locations: City Table

Locations: Country Map

Locations: Country Table

Web

Apps

Bloom Reader

BloomPLR Viewer

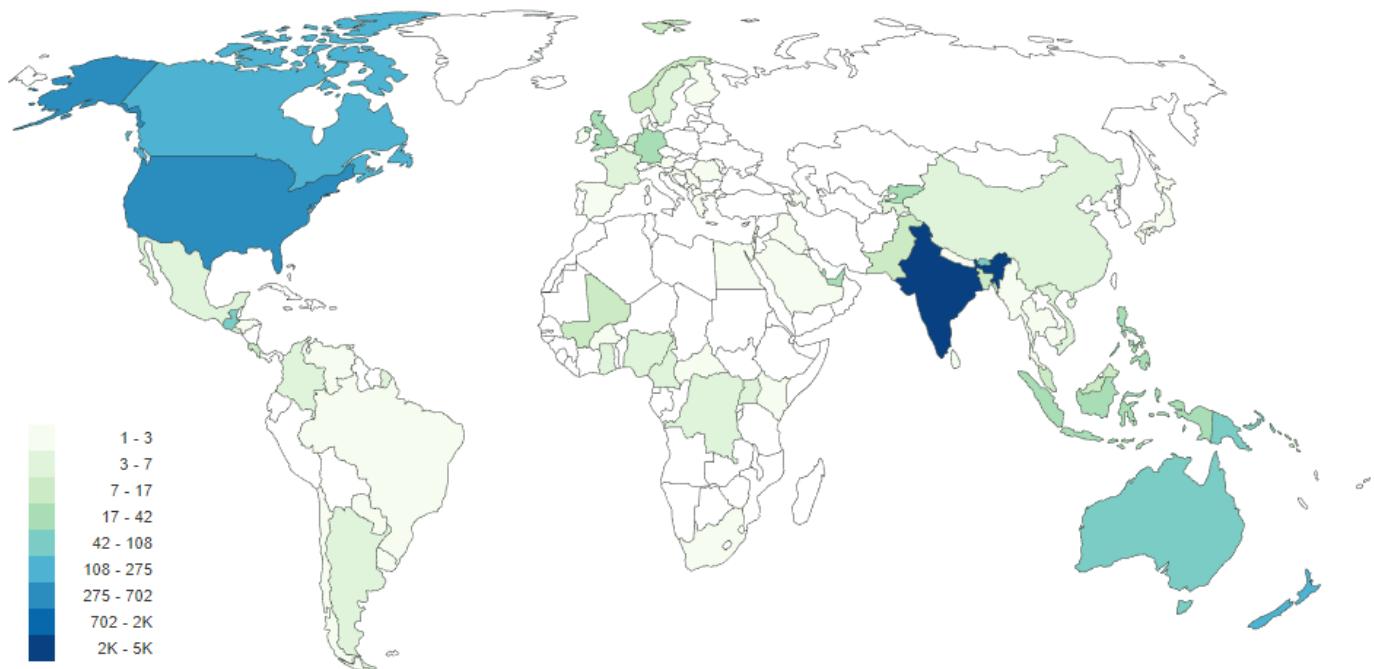
Statistics for Collection: Chetana

Locations: Country Map

Bloom Book Reads by Country from "Chetana" Collection

Through October 20, 2022

All Digital Sources: Web, Bloom Reader, Apps.



Each report comes with buttons to get an image or a spreadsheet file of that data:

485 1,200

PNG

CSV

Advanced low level access to analytics data

We can also supply the raw data to your project through access to our SQL database. You can use this with your own custom dashboards.

See [Available SQL Fields](#)

Example dashboards using this data: [PNG RISE](#), [PNG Western Province E-Learning](#).

Events that we measure

All Bloom Player contexts (Bloom Library, Bloom Reader, BloomPub Viewer, RAB apps)

- Pages read
- Was the last (numbered) page in the book read?
 - This is some indication that the entire book was read. Note: it is possible to just flip past pages, or to move randomly through the book. So it wouldn't be hard to cheat this system.
- Time spent
- Comprehension Quizzes
 - including how many questions were present and how many answered correctly.
- Duration of audio and video playback
- Book branding
- Bloom Library
- Downloads
- Bloom Reader Specific events
- Installations

No events at this time:

- Shared book
- Shared bookshelf
- Shared APK
- Share Link to app on Play Store
- EPUB

User Information that we collect

Web

- IP address (--) city / country?)

Bloom Reader only:

- Named device ids
- ANALYTICS_DEVICE_PROJECT
- ANALYTICS_DEVICE_ID
- Location
- Latitude, longitude, locationSource, locationAccuracy, locationAgeDays

We record the locations available from each of the standard providers (network, gps, and passive) explicitly. But for the standard location for this report, we mainly want the most recent location we can get; precision is not very important.

However, we know from experience that in poor countries, IP address doesn't give us reliable location, and we expect that wifi and other networks will be similarly unreliable as means of location. So if we have a reasonably recent high-precision location we will take that in preference to a lower-precision one that may be even more current. (Elsewhere we request one location per hour from GPS, if available, to ensure that the "last known location" for the gps provider will be reasonably recent.)

- Districtution Source
- Hardware info
- Android version?

Difficulties getting analytics

- Getting analytics from devices that are normally offline
- No internet
- Effect of blocking cookies?
- Firewalls

- No events on EPUB
- Privacy Issues
- No emails
- IP addresses?
- Cookies
- GPS resolution
- GPS opt in/out
- Device hardware IDs
- Named Device IDs

Analytics Fields

| [View field documentation](#)

Internet Connection Issues

How much bandwidth?

These are the most common analytics events sent by Bloom Reader:

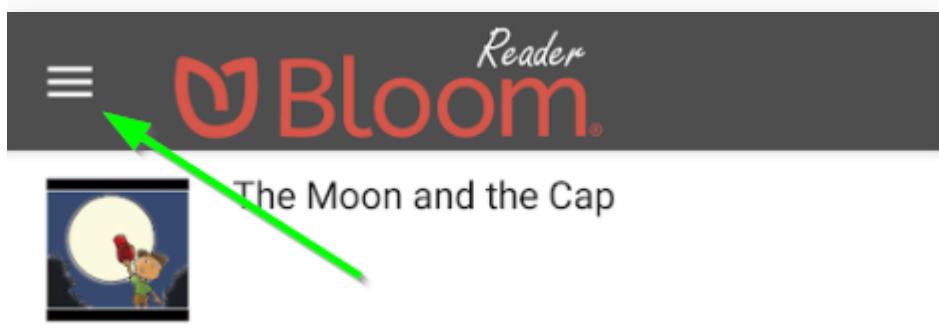
- Bloom Reader started
- Bloom Reader backgrounded
- Book Opened
- Book Closed

Each event is less than 3KB. So a person who runs Bloom Reader, reads 2 books, then quits will send less than 18KB.

What if the user is not connected to the internet?

If the user is not connected to the internet, Bloom Reader will cache their events. The cache is limited to 1000 events.

To prompt Bloom Reader to send all of its events *right now*, open the menu:



At the bottom of this screen, you will see Bloom Reader's progress in sending the events:

About SIL



Attempting to send reading stats...

✓All reading stats sent.



How to Collect Bloom Reader Analytics by Device

When a project owns and distributes hardware to use with Bloom Reader, it is possible to get analytics that are specific to each device. To make this work:

- You will need to tell Bloom Reader the ID you want to appear in the analytics. To do this, there are two options:
 - Option 1: Enter the information directly within Bloom Reader.
 - Option 2: Create and place a special file on each device. Make sure Bloom Reader has permission to read this file.
- You will need to be directly reading from our analytics database. This device ID will not be available from a BloomLibrary.org stats page.

Option 1: Steps for adding the information directly within Bloom Reader

1. Decide on a project ID and device IDs for each device.
2. Open the menu by clicking on the menu at the top-left of the book list.
3. At the bottom of the menu, there is an item which indicates it is trying to send stats information or all stats have been sent.
 - i. Tap the menu item three times.
4. The following form will then allow you to enter the project ID and device ID:
5. Save. 2. You may change the IDs using this form, but the only way to remove them completely is to clear the app settings (from the Android settings) or uninstall.
6. See

Verification below.

Option 2: Steps for creating the file that identifies each device

1. Decide on a project ID and device IDs for each device.
2. Create a file called deviceId.json. { project: 'projectID' , device: 'deviceID' } 2.
Example: \ { project: 'RISE2' , device: 'STUDENT NORTH FLY 001' }

1. The file content must be \

3. Put the deviceld.json file on the device in the Bloom folder which contains the Bloom Reader books (at the root of Internal Storage).
4. Restart Bloom Reader. 3. This may require actually closing the app if it is currently running. 4. The user will see a brief message indicating the failure or success of loading the project and device IDs. The message is only shown once. The only way to change it after it is initially set is to clear the app settings (from the Android settings) or uninstall.

5. See

Verification below. 6. If this is not working, it means that Bloom Reader does not have permission to read from the Bloom folder at the root of Internal Storage. 5. Open the

menu at the top-left of the book list. 6. Tap “Find lost books”. 7. Navigate to the Bloom directory if needed, then tap “Use this Folder” or “Select” to give permission to the directory.

Verification

To verify the setup was successful, open the

at the top-left of the book list. There will be a new item at the end which will display “Stats ID: {device ID} (project)”.

Once the device is properly set up, it will begin reporting analytics with these values in the device_project.hardware_code field of various analytics tables. The value will be projectID-deviceld.

Introduction

Distributing SD cards that are *pre-loaded* with BloomPUBs is a fast and convenient way for an organization to grant users access to an *entire library* of Bloom books. This is a particularly useful distribution method when the intended consumers of these books have limited or no access to the Internet in their home environment. An additional benefit of distributing BloomPUBs pre-loaded on SD cards is that the books are safeguarded from accidental deletion from within the Bloom Reader app. (They can, of course, be deleted through other means.)

An alternative is to sell phones pre-loaded with the Bloom Reader app already installed and a library of books.

In this article, we will provide step-by-step instructions for both methods.

1. [Distributing Bloom books on SD Cards](#)
2. [Distributing Books via Pre-loaded Phones](#)
3. [Advanced Options](#)

1. Distributing Bloom books on SD Cards

When **Bloom Reader** starts, it automatically looks for an SD card and for certain private folders reserved for the app. If it finds such a folder, it includes the books it finds there in the list of available books to read. If it finds `.bloomshelf` files, Bloom Reader also organizes the books according to those *shelves*.

There are three steps:

1. **Gather your BloomPUBs**
2. **Create the required folder on your SD card**
3. **Copy over the BloomPUBS**

1.1. Gather your BloomPUBs

Gather all the books you want to distribute. These books will have an extension of either `.blooomd` or `.bloompub`. You can get BloomPUBs by [downloading them from the Bloom Library](#) (or perhaps a colleague has sent you a BloomPUB directly).

Downloading BloomPUBs from the Bloom Library

From [Bloom Library](#), click on the book you desire and look for the Download section. Then click on the BloomPUB icon; for example:



The battle of the White Blood Cells

English

1 books that may be translations

Comic on vaccination against COVID-19. Target audience: young people. Format: 16x9

READ



Translate into your language!

[Download into Bloom Editor](#)

Features



Download



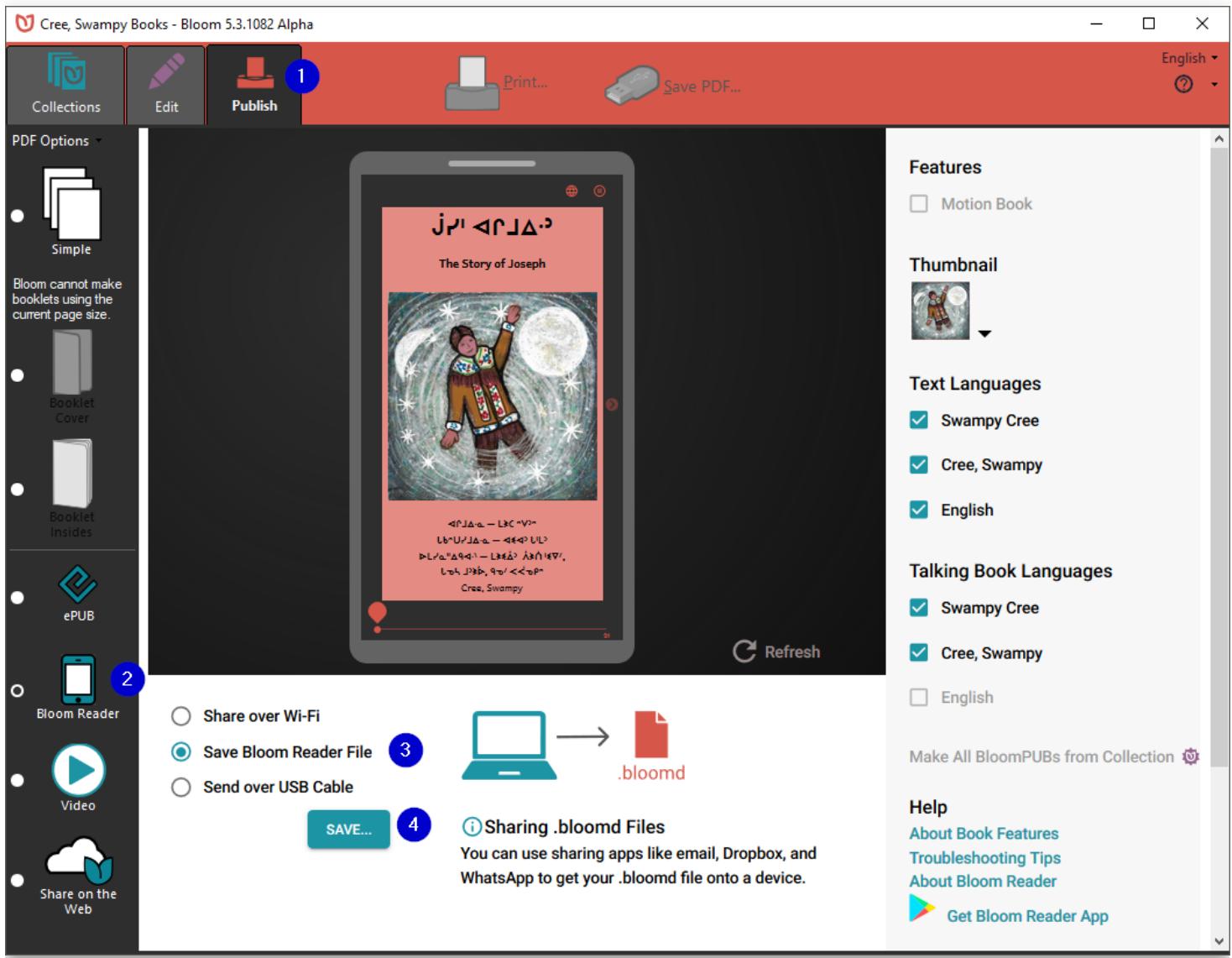
[GET BLOOM READER](#)



Publishing BloomPUBs from the Bloom Editor

Using the Bloom Editor, you can make a BloomPUB file of any book in your collection by choosing the Publishing tab ①, selecting the Bloom Reader button ②, selecting the **Save Bloom Reader File** button ③, then clicking the **Save...** button ④:





1.2. Create the folder on your SD card

After gathering all your Bloom books on your computer, you will then use your computer to create the following series of folders on the SD card:

Android\data\org.sil.bloom.reader\files\Books

For example, if you mount the SD card as drive **D** on a Windows PC, you will first create the Android folder:

D:\Android\

Then, in the Android folder, you'll add the data folder:

D:\Android\data\

And so on until you have a series of nested folders as follows:

D:\Android\data\org.sil.bloom.reader\files\Books

 **Note that capitalization must be exactly as shown.**

1.3. Copy over the BloomPUBS

Copy the BloomPUBs into the folder.

The SD card is now ready to distribute.

1.4 Optional: Folders & Bookshelves

Beginning with **Bloom Reader** 3.0, you can organize this folder using subfolders. For example, you could have:

Android\data\org.sil.bloom.reader\files\Books\FooGrade1\letters.bloompub

Android\data\org.sil.bloom.reader\files\Books\FooGrade1\numbers.bloompub

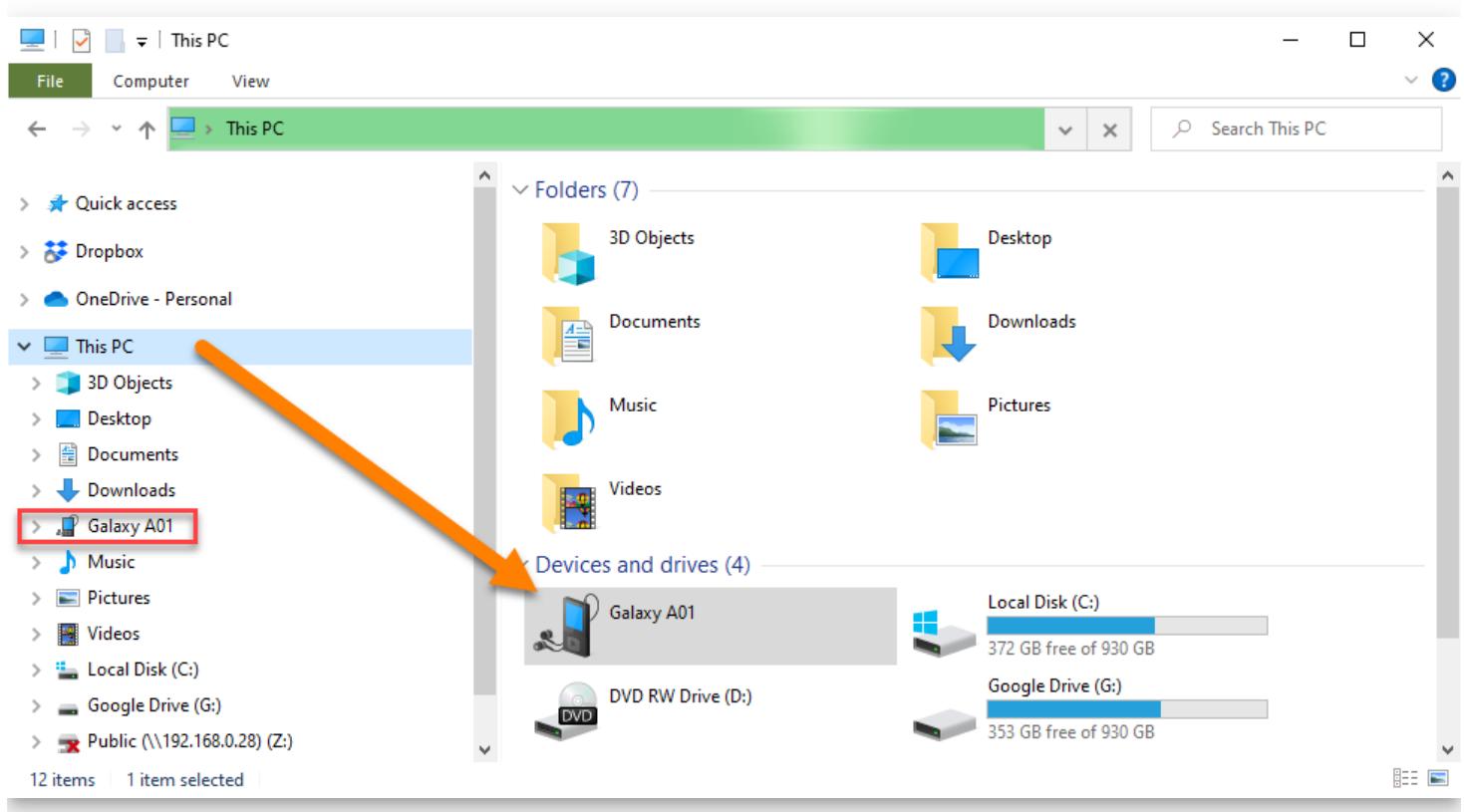
Android\data\org.sil.bloom.reader\files\Books\FooGrade2\animals.bloompub

2. Distributing Books via Pre-loaded Phones

2.1. Connect the phone to your computer

To pre-load your books onto a phone, you will need to connect the phone through a USB cable to your computer. Depending on the device and its version of Android, it may or may not allow immediate access. If immediate access is granted, then the phone will show up in Windows Explorer under “This PC”.

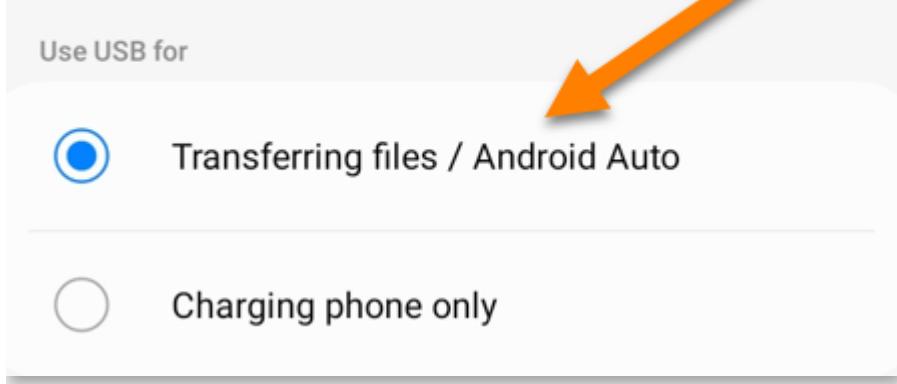
Here's an example:



If you cannot see the connected phone, you will need to open your phone's settings and find “USB settings.” There will be an option to allow you to transfer files.

Here's an example:

< USB settings



2.2. Create a folder called “Bloom”

Once the phone is successfully connected, using Windows File Explorer, create a new folder called “Bloom” on the root of the Internal storage.

2.3. Copy over the BloomPUBS

Drag and drop all the desired books to the newly created Bloom folder.

2.4. Install Bloom Reader

Install Bloom Reader on the phone, either through the Google Play store or by copying the app to the Download folder and then “side-loading” the Bloom Reader from the phone’s file manager app.

To “side-load” the Bloom Reader app, you will need to grant permissions. For example, you may see something like this:



My Files

For your security, your phone currently isn't allowed to install unknown apps from this source. You can change this in Settings.



Cancel

Settings

Click **Settings** to modify the permissions for installing unknown apps. Grant permission to your file manager by sliding the slider to the right ①. Then click to Install Bloom Reader ②:

< Install unknown apps



Installing apps from this source may put your phone and data at risk.



Bloom Reader

Do you want to install this app?

Cancel

Install

2

271 MB



My Files

5.41 MB

1



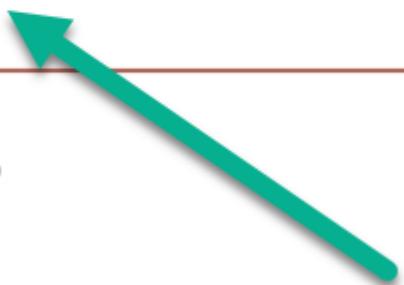
2.5. Check for Lost Books

When Bloom Reader opens and detects the folder “Bloom” in the internal storage, a prompt will appear to allow you to retrieve these books.

Click on “Check for Lost Books”:



Check for Lost Books



The Moon and the Cap



Click **OK** to the following prompt:

Select Bloom directory

To find lost books, you will need to give Bloom Reader permission to use the Bloom folder at the root of Internal Storage. Touch USE THIS FOLDER



USE THIS FOLDER

OK

The file manager will then show the Bloom folder. Click on the blue button, “USE THIS FOLDER”:

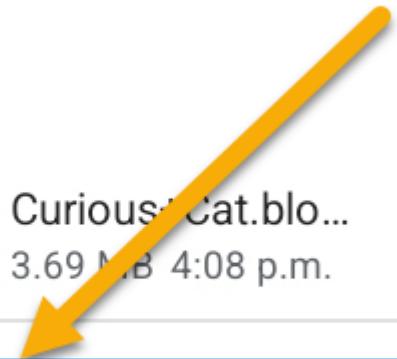
Files in Bloom



Animals+in+Pap...
8.84 MB 4:08 p.m.



Curious+Cat.blo...
3.69 MB 4:08 p.m.



USE THIS FOLDER

Finally, another prompt to confirm access will appear. Click ALLOW:

Allow Bloom Reader to access files in Bloom?

This will let Bloom Reader access current and future content stored in Bloom.



CANCEL

ALLOW

Bloom Reader will transfer all the BloomPUBs from the Bloom folder into its private folder.

The phone is now ready for distribution.

3. Advanced Options



This section described advanced options and is *not* recommended for most users.

...

Using Bloom Reader Beta or Alpha

The private books folder is *specific* to each ‘channel’ of Bloom Reader. Unfortunately, this means that if you want to make an SD card that will work seamlessly with Bloom Reader Beta, the books must be placed in:

Android\data\org.sil.bloom.reader.\b**eta**\files\Books

and for Bloom Reader Alpha, in

Android\data\org.sil.bloom.reader.\b**eta**\files\Books

If you wish, and you have enough space, you can place the same collection in all these locations on the same SD card, so that it works with multiple “channels” of Bloom Reader.

Support for older Bloom Reader versions

Bloom Reader will also notice the existence of the older system using a \BloomExternal folder at the root of the SD card, if it does not find \Android\data\org.sil.bloom.reader\files\Books.

N.B. : you can use *either* the \BloomExternal folder, or the private Books folder, not both at the same time. (Both can be present, as explained below, to support both old and new versions of BloomReader, but the newer versions will ignore \BloomExternal if they find the private Books folder, expecting it to be a duplicate.)

This is more complicated and is *not* recommended. The following are technical notes for those who need to know:

If Bloom Reader finds a \BloomExternal folder and does not find the private books folder described above, it will show a button the user can click, which will show instructions and guide the user through the process of giving BloomReader permission to access the folder. Once this permission is granted, books in \BloomExternal work just like those in the

private books folder (except it will be somewhat slower, especially for larger books). If you have a need to support both newer (3.0+) and older (pre-3.0) versions of Bloom Reader, you can place the same collection of books in both places. However, we don't expect this to be necessary for long, since devices will typically upgrade automatically to the latest version. It does mean, though, that SD cards made for older versions of Bloom will go on working, albeit less conveniently.

So, you can:

- Make SD cards with just books in `\Android\data\org.sil.bloom.reader\files\Books`. They will be ideal for current BloomReader.
- Keep using or making SD cards with just books in `\BloomExternal`. They will work with all versions of Bloom Reader, but will be slower with newer versions and require the user to give special permission
- Make SD cards with the same books in both `\Android\data\org.sil.bloom.reader\files\Books` and `\BloomExternal`. They will work well with both new and old versions of BloomReader.

When Bloom is prevented from changing its image files

Some users regularly run into an error in which something is preventing Bloom from updating some image files.

We are investigating this and will put more information here as we learn more.

Starting with Bloom 5.5, if you get this error, you will be directed to this page for more information.

Likely Cause

Our leading theory is that these users have some non-Microsoft anti-virus program installed that is aggressively preventing Bloom from working with its own files, particularly .png files (these files are known to be able to carry viruses).

For now, if you run into this problem, please help us learn:

1. If the problem comes and goes, or if it is constant.
2. If you are using an extra antivirus program (beyond the built-in Windows Defender), try telling your antivirus to exclude Bloom. This is called “whitelisting”. For help with this, please refer to [this article](#). If you do not feel comfortable doing that, try temporarily disabling your antivirus.

Let us know if that helps so that we can spread the word to other people.

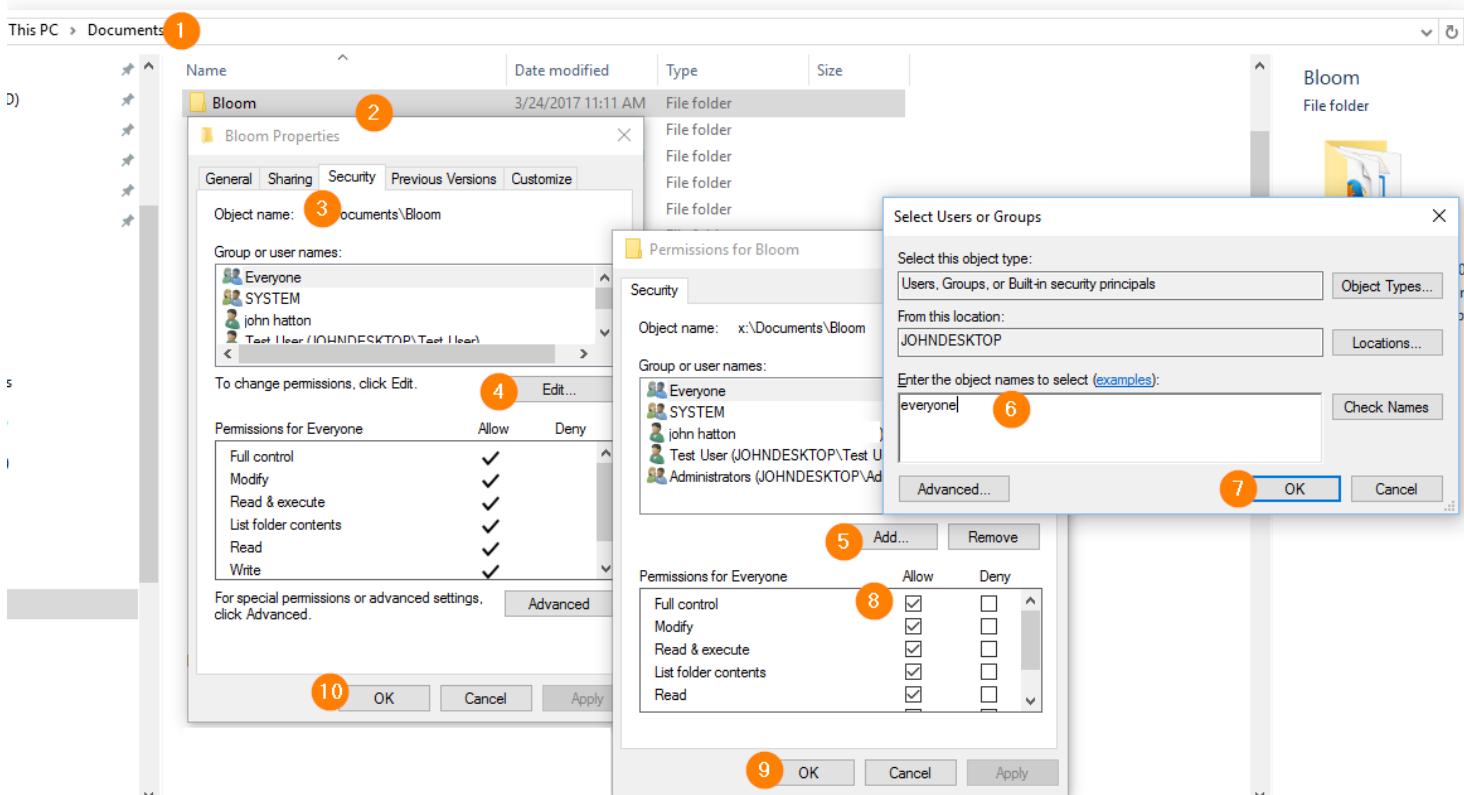
Alternate Causes

If you are *not* using a non-Microsoft anti-virus program and you are encountering this problem, then there are a number of less-likely, yet possible, causes:

User access settings for Bloom folders

About once a year, we work with someone whose Windows computer won't let Bloom access its own files. We don't know what causes that, but here's how to fix it:

1. Locate your Bloom folder. Normally this folder is Documents/Bloom.
2. Right click on the folder and choose "Properties".
3. Click on the "Security" tab.
4. Click Edit.
5. Click Add.
6. Type **everyone**.
7. Click OK.
8. Next to "Full Control", tick the box next in the "Allow" column.
9. Click OK.
10. Click OK.



Interference from a backup program

If you are using a cloud backup program, such as OneDrive, Dropbox, or Google Drive, then it is possible that there could be a very brief disruption when Bloom is trying access some particular files. If this happens, the problem should resolve itself almost immediately.

Introduction to the problem

Bloom works great with the antivirus program that is built into Windows, which is called “Windows Defender”. Most people don’t need or want anything more than that.

However, some people choose to add a second antivirus program. These programs often wrongly say that Bloom is a problem. Bloom has a small audience, so these programs don’t recognize it. They assume the worst and start interfering with it. For example, you might see:

The screenshot shows a software interface titled "Scanner" with a "Threat Scan results" section. The table displays the following data:

	Name	Type	Object type	Location	Items detected	Scan time	Items scanned
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Adware.Bloom	Malware	File	C:\Users\colin\AppData\Local\Bloom...tation\AndikaNewBasic-features.odt	3,084	15m 1s	356,072
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Adware.Bloom	Malware	File	C:\Users\colin\AppData\Local\Bloom...tation\AndikaNewBasic-features.pdf			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Adware.Bloom	Malware	File	C:\Users\colin\AppData\Local\Blo...ldocumentation\DOCUMENTATION.txt			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Adware.Bloom	Malware	File	C:\Users\colin\AppData\Local\Blo...dikaNewBasic\AndikaNewBasic-B.ttf			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Adware.Bloom	Malware	File	C:\Users\colin\AppData\Local\Blo...ikaNewBasic\AndikaNewBasic-BI.ttf			

If your antivirus program is complaining about Bloom, do not write to us about it — there is nothing we can do. Instead, if you trust Bloom, you can tell your program that Bloom is OK. This is sometimes called “whitelisting”.

In this article, we will show you how to do this in a couple of different programs.

General Instructions for Whitelisting Bloom

When you install Bloom, it adds a special folder to your computer. The path to this folder will be:

```
C:\Users\YOUR USER NAME\AppData\Local\Bloom
```

Every antivirus or antimalware program provides a way for you to tell it that **Bloom** is safe. You do this by telling your antivirus or antimalware program that this Bloom *folder* is safe.

For some programs, you will add the Bloom folder to a list of “allowed” folders.

For other programs, you will add the Bloom folder to a list of “excluded” folders.

In either case, the result is that your program will no longer scan the Bloom folder looking for virus threats or Adware threats.

Each antivirus program will have its own method for doing this. Here are two:

[link_to_page](#)

[link_to_page](#)

PDF Downloads

[PDF of English Docs in A4](#)