



Bestsellers Search — Helper Guide

✖ Overview

This desktop app allows you to search and explore **New York Times Bestsellers (1942–2013)** quickly and interactively.

It supports **dark/light themes**, **live filtering**, and **exporting to CSV** — with a modern, responsive interface.

□ Interface Layout

Header Bar

- Displays how many books are loaded and the current data file name.
- Buttons:
 - **Theme:** Toggles between Dark/Light.
 - **Open...:** Load a different .txt data file (needs to be structured like bestsellers.txt).
 - **Clear:** Resets all filters.
 - **Export CSV:** Save the current filtered results to a .csv file.

Search Section

- **Live search:** Instantly filters books as you type (matches title, author, publisher, or date).
- **Tabs:** Four tabs for more specific queries:
 1. **Between Years** – Filter by a start and end year.
 2. **Month & Year** – Find books published in a specific month/year.
 3. **Author** – Search by author name.
 4. **Title** – Search by title text.

Results Table

- Displays all matching records with sortable columns:
 - *Title, Author, Publisher, Month, Day, Year.*
- Click column headers to sort ascending/descending.
- Double-click a row to see detailed book information.

Right-Click Context Menu (NEW)

Right-click any book in the table (or **Ctrl-click** on macOS) to open a small menu:

- **Search Google: Title + Author** — opens your default browser and searches for both.
- **Search Google: Title only** — searches only the book title.
- **Search Google: Author only** — searches only the author.

This uses your system's default web browser and automatically URL-encodes the query.

Themes & Caret

- **Theme: Dark / Light** toggle changes all widget colors instantly.
 - The **typing cursor (caret)** color automatically adapts for both themes to stay visible.
-

File Format

Expected format for the input text file (tab-separated):

Title<TAB>Author<TAB>Publisher<TAB>MM/DD/YYYY

Example:

The Exorcist	William Peter Blatty	Harper	07/25/1971
A Breath of Snow and Ashes	Diana Gabaldon	Delacorte	10/16/2005

Exporting Data

- Click **Export CSV** to save your current search results.
 - The output CSV includes headers:
 - **Title, Author, Publisher, Month, Day, Year**
-

Known Issues in Version 1.1

- **Tabs Column (specifically the year not showing up the right way)** Needing to be stretched and then shrunk to show year correctly
 - **Google search can be wonky sometimes depending on default browser set.**
 - **Typing cursor invisible in Light Mode:** typing caret will not show properly sometimes.
 - **Data not loading sometimes:** Ensure the file path is correct and formatted properly (tab-separated).
-

Fixes in Version 1.1

- **Tabs not showing text:** (custom tab-bar ensures visibility in macOS dark mode between toggles).
 - **Typing cursor invisible in Light Mode:** caret color now enforced through both theme and style layers.
 - **Data not loading:** Ensure the file path is correct and formatted properly (tab-separated).
-

Future Ideas

- Keyboard shortcuts: ctrl+f – live search, ctrl+l – toggle theme, ctrl+o – open new .txt file, ctrl+e – export to csv. Esc/delete key – clear results.
 - Save your last used theme and file automatically. (User settings)
 - Add context options like *Copy Title* or *Open Goodreads/Kindle* links.
 - Optional “Stats” tab (e.g., most common authors or decades).
 - Maybe modify this program to use API, off of best sellers online.
-

(C) 2025 – Chris McKay

Feel free to modify or extend for personal use.