

# 70,000 books in the palm of your hand

JULY 21, 2024

**How would you like to hold 70,000 books in the palm of your hand? It's now possible. You can [get them on a flash drive](#).**

If you're reading my blog, you've probably heard about Project Gutenberg (PG). This worthy project has been collecting digital editions of public domain books since Michael S. Hart first entered the Declaration of Independence in 1971. Since then, the project has added free books at an increasing rate, passing the 70,000 mark this year.

Why make all those books available on a thumb drive? There are good reasons, the first concerning the 501(c)(3) nonprofit Knowledge Standards Foundation (KSF).

**Support the nonprofit KSF.** Free knowledge is what the Internet is *for*, as far as I'm concerned. I've devoted my career to it. In this mission, PG preceded Wikipedia and, more recently, the KSF, which is collecting all the free encyclopedic data into a single open network, [the Encyclosphere](#). The KSF received FUTO's first "legendary grant," for which we're grateful. These funds are almost gone, however. So we made the drives as a mission-aligned fundraising tool.



Why offline books? Why a flash drive?

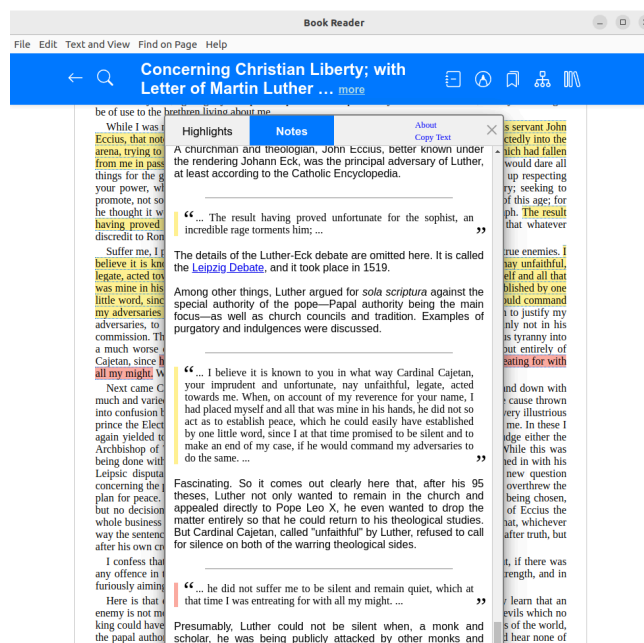
**It's a permanent library in your pocket.** Over 69,000 local copies of books, in the palm of your hand. It's pretty darned cool knowing that, as long as you have this drive, you will be able to access *all those books*. The fact that you can search and read the books, and highlight and take notes on them, on any computer with the drive just makes it better.

**Anti-censorship.** We are preserving (future-proofing, you might say) knowledge in the face of the very real threat of censorship. Having many copies of these thumb drives, with about 70,000 signed book files, helps us as a society to guarantee that there are many copies of the original Project Gutenberg files, as well as of the books themselves.



**AI concerns.** Our world is increasingly having to deal with AI-generated text, which makes it possible for unscrupulous people to counterfeit data. Your copy of the Project Gutenberg library is a massive trove of human-written content; the fact that the books are stored offline means your copies are stable and unchanging; and the digitally-signed ZWI format proves they are reliable.

**Hey, this software is actually good!** We put in the time needed to make this software usable. Title search is fast and works well. The category feature is useful. The bookshelf lets you highlight particular books in the library and track your reading history. And as far as the reader itself goes, works well: font choice and size, page zoom, bookmarks, highlighting and notes, find-on-page, and research tools. And, in our tests, the files looked consistently good—sometimes better than the Project Gutenberg originals.



Should be great for:

- Students
- Teachers
- Scholars
- As a gift

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by Larry Sanger



“Internet Knowledge Organizer.” Currently President of the [Knowledge Standards Foundation](#), started Wikipedia and various other educational and reference sites.  
Ph.D., Philosophy, Ohio State, 2000. [[read more](#)]

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