Collected Knowledge & Wisdom on

Google Books API

Provides:

This API provides access to the Google Books collection of all the books in their database, along with relevant information about that book, including, but not limited to, title, author, published year, publisher, keywords, description, pageCount, averageRating, ratingsCount, and more. A more specific API search can give access to all the books in a Google Books user's public bookshelf (using their user ID), as well as all the books in your own library (you need to log to Google in first).

Key Provisioning: **Pain factor** (*0=ezpz...5=nightmare*): **_0_**

- Does not require a key at all
- However, having a key might help for accessing information that requires authentication, such as accessing a Google Books user's library and your own library.

Quotas:

- If you don't have a key, there should be no quota.
- Otherwise, the quota is around 1000/day, but you can request for more through this website: https://code.google.com/apis/console

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The Good:

- No key necessary!
- You can search up any book using almost any information about it as long as you specify in the url what variable you're providing the API with. Values used to search can be: titles, authors, ISBN numbers, and more. Remember: they should be specific to the book you're looking for!

The Bad:

- Difficult to retrieve data if you know nothing about the book or user you're trying to search for.
    - For example, if you want to look at another user's library, you need to know their ID first. To see a specific shelf from the user, you need both the userID and shelfID. To look at a book's information, you may need to know it's volumeID first. It is difficult to find those IDs online. However, there are ways to combat this: see The Good.
- If you misspell or make a mistake when providing a value to the API query, it may return a result that isn't what you're looking for. The API cannot catch the mistake so you'll only find out after the results are returned. For example, giving the value of "sdfsdfsdfs" as the title actually gives results to books like "Parliamentary Papers" and "Journals of the House of Commons," even though the titles are clearly not "sdfsdfsdfs".
- Sometimes a value can produce more than one book result. See above example with "sdfsdfsdfs". This can be bad when you only want one specific book, and you'll have to deal with the extra data.

The Ugly:

- May require logging in to your Google account first in order to access more specific information regarding books in your library. Does this count as stealing your information and selling your soul? Maybe.

* Pink text is where you input your query information

General Location: https://www.googleapis.com/books/v1**/insertSpecificsHere**

If you have an API key, append this to all urls: `key=`**`yourAPIKey`**

- To look for books:
    1. `[GET]` https://www.googleapis.com/books/v1/volumes/**volumeID**
    2. `[GET][This is a LIST]`

        https://www.googleapis.com/books/v1/volumes?q=**{search terms}**

        Search terms can be: title, author, pageCount, publisher, ISBN number, keywords, or basically any relevant information about a book that has a variable within the database.
        For example:
        https://www.googleapis.com/books/v1/volumes?q=title:When%20You%20Reach%20Me for the book "When You Reach Me." The characters "%20" are just to separate the words, but they are not needed when writing the query; just use spaces.
- To look at a user's (public) library:
    1. `[GET][Thi is a LIST]`
        https://www.googleapis.com/books/v1/users/**userId**/bookshelves
    2. `[GET]`
        https://www.googleapis.com/books/v1/users/**userId**/bookshelves/**shelfID**
    3. `[GET][This is a LIST]`

        https://www.googleapis.com/books/v1/users/**userId**/bookshelves/**shelfID**/volumes

- To look at your own library (this may require logging in first):
    1. `[GET]`
        https://www.googleapis.com/books/v1/mylibrary/bookshelves/**shelfID**
    2. `[GET][This is a LIST]`

        https://www.googleapis.com/books/v1/mylibrary/bookshelves
    3. Having access to your own library means you can do other things like moving a book from one bookshelf to another, adding a book to a shelf, removing a book, and more.

The specifics and all documentation can be found here:

https://developers.google.com/books/docs/v1/reference/mylibrary/bookshelves

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