

READING A BOOK ON THE WEB



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Well, it was holiday time, the library was closed and I did not want to spend another cent on a book, due to the number of books I had already bought. So I Googled 'reading free books online'. Immediately I was met with magic. Almost 40 million hits indicated the very large number of sites for this purpose.

Some of the sites will only allow you to read a part of the book as a teaser to make you buy the book. www.amazon.com is an example of this advertising method. The site will definitely help you decide whether to buy the book using the first few pages, index or contents page as assessment tools.

<http://www.publicbookshelf.com> focuses mainly on romance, but has a fast-growing library of other genres and by now, more than 500 titles to choose from.

On [YouTube.com](http://www.youtube.com) you will even find short video clips explaining how to read e-books on-line. If you are very creative, there are web sites you can use to up-load your own novel, short story or poem for others to read in e-format.

What is useful about reading online, is that you do not need to download a file. It is easy to navigate; the font size can be changed; links are available to buy the paper copy of a book, and authors' biographies are mostly available. Even when a book has too many chapters to read in one sitting, you can get into the next chapter and add it as a link in your Favourites list. When you log onto the Internet the next time, you access your book and specific chapter directly through

your Favourites page. Some books might be out of print and finding a free e-book online then makes it available.

<http://onlinebooks.library> takes you to classics, prize winners and various genres that are actually found on other web sites like <http://babel.hathitrust.org>. From there (if you live in America) there is even a link to www.worldcat.org to help you find a library nearest to you with the item in stock.

<http://www.pagebypagebooks.com> will definitely help you if you are only looking for classics for children and adults. Here you can view the books by author or by title. According to the web site owner's recommendation, you can make a cup of tea or coffee and just start reading.

On <http://www.magickeys.com> you will find free children's books. You can even search according to Young Children, Older Children or Young Adult. The picture books will show full-page illustrations.

On <http://www.readanybook.com> you will be able to read books that are still best sellers from the likes of Stephenie Meyer, JK Rowling, Dan Brown, et cetera. Searches can be done for thrillers, non-fiction, fantasy, science fiction, horror, drama, children, poetry, literature, mystery, westerns, historical fiction, love and romance, et cetera.

In <http://chestofbooks.com> you will find books arranged according to a theme such as cookery, gardening, science, sport, travel, computers, et cetera.

Suzy Orman published one of her books for free access on her web site. She did not plan on publishing it in book format, but the enormous interest in the title led to her having it published as a normal book.

A publisher in one of the Scandinavian countries was very pessimistic about the sales of their children's picture books, which were published with special software, translating the text into the dialects of some countries. It soon became clear that they had nothing to fear, because when the children liked the titles, they wanted a printed copy of their own and were not willing to keep reading it on a screen.

I never thought I could read books of about 20 chapters on a computer, sitting up, but when everything that makes up a good book was present and gripped me from the start, I could not stop reading. I still prefer sitting more comfortably with a good book though.

Reading books online will never replace the joy of holding a book in my hand, referring to the books on my book shelf or lending one of my best reads to a friend.

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