Library

Finding e books online

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# Introduction

When it’s not possible to come to the Library and there isn’t an e copy listed in Library search what are your options? This guide offers some suggestions.

# Is there an e copy in the Library or not?

First check **Library Search** to make sure we don’t have an e copy already. You can search for e books by doing an **Advanced Search** (<https://glasgow.summon.serialssolutions.com/#!/advanced> - or choose **Advanced Search** on the Library home page – or using the Refine options on the left hand side of Library search), choosing **Book/E Book** as the content type and limiting to **Items with full text online**.

# Can the Library buy an e copy?

You can get in touch with the Library and check if it’s possible for us to buy an e copy. This will depend on costs and funds available. Either get in touch via Reach Out (<https://glasgow.ac.uk/help>) or e-mail your College Librarian (<https://www.gla.ac.uk/myglasgow/library/help/collegelibrarians/>).

It is also sometimes possible for the Library to get a digitised copy of a single chapter of a book. Contact your lecturer and advise them to get in touch with the Library Reading Lists Team (<https://www.gla.ac.uk/myglasgow/library/staff/readinglists/#howdoirequestdigitisedcopiesofbookchaptersandarticles>) – they will be able to advise if this is possible.

# Where else can I look?

**Google Books** (<http://books.google.co.uk>) is a good place to look, as you can often get access to quite a lot of the full text of books. It’s unusual for whole books to be made available, but often you can get whole chapters or sections of books. If a book shows it has a preview available this means that there will be at least some free full text available.

**Archive.org** (<http://archive.org>) is a non-profit library of millions of free books, movies, software, music, websites, and more. It’s more likely you will find the full text of a book here. It is more useful for material that is out of copyright, i.e. older books.

**Project Gutenberg** (<https://www.gutenberg.org/>) is a library of over 60,000 free eBooks. Choose among free epub and Kindle eBooks.

**Hathi Trust** (<https://www.hathitrust.org/>) offers a collection of millions of titles digitized from libraries around the world. NB – the University does not have an institutional subscription, so not all content will be available.

# Book chapters

Some databases give access to individual chapters. These are not always listed in Library Search. Examples of some databases that offer this are:

**Social Science/Education**

Business Source Premier (<http://ezproxy.lib.gla.ac.uk/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?authtype=ip,shib&profile=ehost&defaultdb=buh>)

SAGE Research Methods (<http://ezproxy.lib.gla.ac.uk/login?url=http://srmo.sagepub.com>)

SOCIndex with Full text (<http://ezproxy.lib.gla.ac.uk/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?authtype=ip,shib&profile=ehost&defaultdb=sih>)

ERIC (<http://ezproxy.lib.gla.ac.uk/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?authtype=ip,shib&profile=ehost&defaultdb=eric>)

**Psychology**

PsycBooks (<http://ezproxy.lib.gla.ac.uk/login?url=https://psycnet.apa.org>)

# Why is the e copy not available?

Not all books are electronically available. While many publishers now offer both e and print versions it’s still not the case that all new books are automatically made available in an e version. And while there have been major programmes of digitisation of older books there are still many millions of books that have not been digitised.

It’s also useful to know that although publishers will often show that a book is available in e format the prices listed on their websites are usually for copies aimed at single personal users. Prices for academic libraries are usually much higher. It’s also the case that although there may be a personal copy available for purchase there may not be a copy available for libraries to buy.

A quick look at Amazon will tell you if there is a Kindle copy available. Unfortunately, libraries cannot buy Kindle editions of e books, as they are intended for individual purchasers.

# Get more help

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