

List of e-Book Sites:

But first, a (slightly edited) note from the Otago University copyright lawyer:

“Anything in the public domain (i.e. out of copyright) is free not only to access online but you could make print copies if you wished or distribute electronic copies to others. In fact New Zealand’s copyright period is shorter than many countries, **being life+50 years**. This means for example we could copy a text you had in your library where the author died more than 50 years ago. This could be scanned or printed out.

Things like new editions of old works, like a 2010 edition of Austen would still have copyright protection). But as a further example, James K Baxter died in 1972 so his work will fall into the public domain on 1 January 2023 in New Zealand. After that time his work will be copyright free (noting later editions could have copyright) in New Zealand; it wouldn’t be out of copyright in Australia, the UK or the US. So you could copy it here and provide to students but not to someone overseas.”

ManyBooks

<https://manybooks.net>

Wide range of genres, not only classics, nicely laid out.

Freecomputerbooks

<https://freecomputerbooks.com>

Includes links to courses - in fact, everything on it seems to be a link to somewhere else, but handy resource for computer related material. One interesting thing about this site is a link to other free book sites, not by any means all computer related, which is much longer than the list given here!

Librivox

<https://librivox.org>

Concentrates on audiobooks read by volunteers, including various languages.

Authorama

<http://www.authorama.com>

Free books from a variety of authors, both current and classic, all in the public domain.

Project Gutenberg

<http://www.gutenberg.org>

One of the oldest - and largest (over 60,000) - sources of online free books, mostly in English.

English Literature and Poetry

- is very well catered for, offering ‘the complete works of’ such authors as Jane Austen, William Shakespeare, Burns - and many other poets.

Philosophy

Plato, Aristotle, Kant, Russell, Nietzsche and many more are free to download

Readprint

<http://www.readprint.com>

Mainly classics, the good news is that you can take part in discussion groups. Bad news is that you cannot download the books, only read them 'on-site' - unless you have a Kindle reader registered with Amazon.

Archive.org

<https://archive.org/details/texts>

This site gives access to a very large number of books and texts. My own excursion into it suggested one would need to be very patient in order to find the occasional buried gem (which I am still trying to find!)

Wikisource

https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Main_Page

This site does not have books as such, and all the content appears to be submitted by volunteers. Everything I looked at had originally been published at least 70 years ago - not that it was uninteresting to read journal articles such as one on the immune system as seen around 100 years ago.

Wikibooks

https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Main_Page

Primarily textbooks, Computing, Engineering, Humanities, Languages, Maths, Science, and Social Sciences. I had a look at 'Human Physiology' and was favourably impressed. One fascinating book in the Humanities section is 'Muggles Guide to Harry Potter', and the extensive 'Wikimedia Cookbook' has recipes from around the world.

OpenLibrary

<https://openlibrary.org>

While basically little more than a link to archive.org, I did find this site somewhat easier to negotiate. They make modern books available by using a 'borrowing' option for them. For example, I 'borrowed' a copy of 'Chemistry - the Central Science' by Brown and LeMay for an hour, though one can also opt to borrow it for 14 days.

Sacred-Texts

<https://www.sacred-texts.com/nos/index.htm>

This site contains quite a bit I would not categorise as 'sacred texts' - though it has a pretty comprehensive collection of those. You can also access the writings of Nostradamus ('The Man Who Saw through Time'), Alchemy, Astrology, Freemasonry, Mythology, Shakespeare, Tolkien, etc.

One drawback is that - as far as I could ascertain - books have to be read online. There is, of course, the option of copying a book page by page if you have sufficient patience, or buying the set of DVDs they offer if you have sufficient money.

Slideshare

<https://www.slideshare.net>

This one I found very interesting - it consists largely of postings of slide presentations similar to Powerpoint on all sorts of topics. Most of the ones I looked at are dated within the last few years. I searched for 'Climate change' and found almost 10,000 presentations on the topic. Could be a very handy resource for essay writing! (I also did a search for something a little less obvious, atrial fibrillation, and came up with a similar number of hits). Quite a bit of the content is not free, but others can be downloaded as pdf files, though there is a requirement to register (no cost) before you can do this.

Free-eBooks

<https://www.free-ebooks.net>

This site includes text-books*, audiobooks, a wide variety of fiction, and the offer of 5 free books to download each month. You can also take out a lifetime membership at a reasonable fee (depending on how old you are), which allows unlimited downloads for the rest of your life - or the life of Free-eBooks, at any rate. They sometimes (possibly always!) have a 'special offer' of a life-time membership of at about US\$25 that entitles you to as many ebooks from their stock as you want without any further payment. If this special offer is not on, the normal charge for this service is about US\$50.

*However, in response to a search for 'Anatomy' the book offered turned out to be the Openstax one mentioned earlier. Despite that, this is definitely a worthwhile site to have a look at.

Online Books Page

<http://digital.library.upenn.edu/books/>

Well worth a visit for study purposes.

This is a basic but useful site operated by the University of Pennsylvania, which has links to over 3 million publications. I keyed in 'Film Studies' this time, and a bit of browsing took me to a book published in 2009 on music for cinematic adaptations of Shakespeare. I also located pretty easily the December 2020 issue of the Journal of Biological Chemistry.

Scribd

www.scribd.com

Books, including recently published ones, audiobooks, magazines, podcasts, sheet music and documents are available on this popular site. You can read free on Scribd for 30 days, then it's US\$8.99 per month* 'cancel any time' - though some have reported that they found cancellation not a simple process. Membership does give you access to the entire Scribd database, however. Scribd is unusual in offering sheet music in many genres from classical through pop and rock to religious music. Magazines include many US

newspapers and a wealth of magazines. One that caught my eye was the most recent MacWorld, but there were many more magazines available than I knew existed

*A year's subscription to MacWorld here is NZ30.35, making Scribd a good buy even if that was the only publication of interest.

musopen

<https://musopen.org>

Having mentioned sheet music in the section on Scribd, I should also mention musopen, a site where you can download classical pieces as mp3 files and also the sheet music for them.

Loyalbooks

This site used to be called booksshouldbepfree. It offers ebooks as well as audiobooks read by volunteers, and is limited to books in the public domain. For example, their SciFi short story collection has nothing published after 1963

This list is not comprehensive. Note that even more sites are listed in places such as <https://freecomputerbooks.com>