

## Public Domain E-Book & E-Text Resources

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### **Collections**

#### **Google Books Search** (*beta*) <http://books.google.com/>

– even as you read this, Google is busily scanning and digitizing the libraries of Harvard University, New York Public Library, and Oxford University to name a few. While there are still some copyright and access issues to be worked out with publishers and authors, this is a fantastic resource as it currently stands. Public domain works are a major part of this database. All books are displayed as scanned pages from the original books, navigation links within books are located on the right.

#### *To search public domain titles/authors:*

1. Log into Google Books with your Google account.
2. *click* on **Advanced Books Search**
- 2- *click* on **Search: Full view books**
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<http://books.google.com/support/>

The **Advanced Book Search** also allows user to search library holdings via OCLC's *free* version of WorldCat (<http://worldcat.org/>)

**Sarah's Say:** great for browsers, researchers, but not if you are looking for a specific title or subject.

#### **Scholars' Lab** (*Univ. of Virginia*) <http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/collections/>

- texts available in English, French, German, Spanish, Chinese, Japanese, Russian, and even Apache! Texts are often available as images of original publication.

**Sarah's Say:** Perfect for students, readers of foreign languages.

#### **Making of America** (*Univ. of Michigan & Cornell Univ.*) <http://moa.cit.cornell.edu/moa/>

- books, pamphlets, and journals dealing with all aspects of American social history from the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Can see, to be a somewhat esoteric collection, but may be useful, and is quite interesting to browse. Views are available in both plain text and as scanned images of the actual item. Pages can be downloaded as Adobe PDF files.

**Sarah's Say:** of particular interest to U.S. history buffs and an invaluable resource for students who need Primary Sources.

**Perseus Digital Library** (*Tufts Univ.*) <http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/>

- While this collection concentrates on the ancient texts of Greece and Rome (in both English as well as Greek and Latin), there are also collections dealing with the history of California and the upper Midwest. But it is more than just texts as this site integrates images, maps, dictionaries and other reference material to compliment the texts in its database.

**Sarah's Say:** Also featured are commentaries on the work.

**Project Gutenberg** <http://www.gutenberg.org/>

- The mother (or father) of all E-book sites, started way back in 1971! Additions are constantly being added. This is where many other e-book sites get their texts. The project is dedicated to freely providing as many Public Domain texts as possible in an electronic format. To quote from the Project Gutenberg web page, the texts are provided in:

"Plain Vanilla ASCII," meaning the low set of the American Standard Code for Information Interchange: ie the same kind of character you read on a normal printed page-- italics, underlines, and bolds have been capitalized.

**Sarah's Say:** P.G. also allows the user to download over 33,000 ebooks to your mobile device (iPad, Kindle, Sony reader, Android, etc) This site may be of more interest to your general population, not just your researchers and scholars. Included in the collection are children's picture books, plays, songs, and journals.

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**Sarah's Say:** One great month, thousands of free books. Only time will tell, but WeF might be the way of the future. Forget eReaders, cell phone apps are the way to go. It's the difference between reaching millions and reaching billions.

## **Directories**

**The On-Line Books Page** (*Univ. of Pennsylvania*) <http://digital.library.upenn.edu/books/>

- links to thousands of freely available texts. Searchable by LC call number. There are also special sections on banned books, women writers, and prize winning books (Newbery, Pulitzer, and Noble). A very comprehensive set of links.

**Internet Public Library** <http://www.ipl.org>

- a trusted name at many reference desks, a fantastic gateway to sites with online books, magazines & newspapers.