

Project Gutenberg: A Description

Editor's Note: The following is an early article from TESL-EJ. We were in the early years of the World Wide Web, and the imagination of many scholars was ignited. Dr. Michael Hart was thinking of all the books in the world that could be made available on the Internet for free. Volunteers from around the globe began scanning and typing open-access books to share with the world, and Project Gutenberg was born (<http://gutenberg.org>).

Michael Hart died September 6, 2011. He was a great friend of TESL-EJ, and will be known in history as the inventor of the e-book.

In order to maintain the pagination of the original, we have left the original pagination signals in, which look like this [-1-], [-2-], etc. The footer does not indicate page numbers.

April 1994 — Volume 1, Number 1

Project Gutenberg: A Description

Editor's note. At the request of Dr. Hart, we are leaving this description in its original, unformatted state.]

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Project Gutenberg has been releasing Plain Vanilla ASCII Etexts on the Internet and its previous incarnations since about 1971.

The goal of Project Gutenberg is to encourage the creation, and unlimited distribution, of some 10,000 Etexts by the end of the year 2001. Currently [1993] four books per month are scheduled for release, which doubles to eight books per month in 1994 and sixteen in 1995, etc.[-1-]

The books fall mainly into about half a dozen categories:

Light Literature: books for the whole family, such that parent or child can each bring the other to the computer to "Read More

About It” as the Library of Congress Program puts it. Examples of Light Literature are often scheduled to match the presenting of movies or television programs on the same subject, such that kids are more likely to be currently familiar with the books.

Examples: Peter Pan, Alice in Wonderland, Anne of Green Gables

Heavy Literature: books for the more serious readers requiring a greater commitment to reading and studying the materials:

Examples: Paradise Lost and Regained, Moby Dick, and Descartes

Reference: Roget’s Thesaurus, World Factbooks, Census Figures, the NAFTA treaty, the Consumer Price Index, math constants

Computers: Email 101, Zen and the Art of the Internet, as well as Surfing the Internet, The Online World [Shareware]

Science Fiction: H. G. Wells, Jules Verne, Flatland, etc.

Plus releases scheduled for timely releases at Christmas, [such as Dickens’ Christmas Carol and The Night Before Christmas] and Easter, [such as the Bible and the Apocrypha {upcoming}].

We are also planning a library of Etexts in French, German, and Latin as well as other languages. Project Runeberg in Swedish, etc. is doing the Scandinavian classics.

These Etexts are originally released as Plain Vanilla ASCII and .zip files, and are then often translated into various

mark-ups such as PostScript, Acrobat, TeX, HyperText, and all the rest.

You can find the Project Gutenberg Etexts listed in most Gopher systems, as well as all the major FTP archives.

All Project Gutenberg Etexts are prepared on a purely volunteer basis by hundreds of volunteers around the world, and most were released into the Public Domain [but not all]. The Project was and is entirely funded by the donations of text entry, proofing and copyright research, as well as by donations of hardware and software, and a little money from many of our readers, and from corporations interesting in promoting the world of Etext.

If you want to volunteer, be sure we add your name; the volunteers have an additional listserver list. [-2-]More information available on request.

We have had some problems with people not getting a reply, or getting one quickly enough. If you don't get the information you require within a few days a personal note to me should solve the problem. This address—dircomp@ux1.cso.uiuc.edu—is the official address to try first.

Donations and requests for subscriptions to a paper edition of the Project Gutenberg Newsletter, and/or other requests for information on paper go to:

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get filename.ext [bin first if binary]
Use the "dir" command if you need to know file names
and sizes.

The Newsletters contain the most up to date index:
To get the most current Newsletter and articles –

cd etext/articles
get gutxxx.xxx [example gutjan.94 for Jan. 94
or send email to listserv@vmd.cso.uiuc.edu or @uiucvmd
containing the following line: sub gutnberg your name

and you will be subscribed to the GUTNBERG listserver.[-3-]
[INDEX100.GUT is the long for index of first 100.]
[0INDEX.GUT in cd etext is updated every morning.]
[get etext/articles/* {all files for more details}]

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send gutenber catalog

then follow the instructions from the Almanac server in Oregon.

You can also try FTPMAIL:

FTPmail service which allows me to request FTP via EMail.
The address is:

ftpmail@decwrl.dec.com

If you want to get a file in this way try sending your equivalent
of the following message to the above address. You don't need a
subject.

If you are lucky you will receive your etext by email. I use Compuserve
which has a 50K maximum file size which is why I have to request my
files
broken up into 50K chunks.

connect 128.174.201.12 (this is the address of the ftp
server)

chdir etext/etext93 (this changes to the right
 directory)

chunksize 50000 (this gives the maximum size
 file I can receive)

get filename.txt (this is the file name and file
 type of the etext. I don't know
 if you can get binary files
 this way but it is worth a try)

quit (this is self-explanatory)

An Example of a Recent File:

In commemoration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day,
Project Gutenberg announces:

Jan 1994 Collected Articles of Frederick Douglass,
a Slave [dugl210x.xxx]
[-4-]

=====

You will find this file in /etext94 on
mrcnext.cso.uiuc.edu, anonymous ftp

cd etext
 cd etext94
 get filename.ext [type bin first for .zip files]

Thank you for your time and consideration,

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