

Free eBooks

Presentation by Sue Kaler, Supervisor of Interlibrary Loan Services
Wellesley Free Library, Wellesley, MA
ILL Roundtable March 31, 2011

The Internet Archive <http://www.archive.org/index.php>

- A not for profit organization building digital images of web pages (the Wayback machine) films, live concerts, audio recordings and texts(books).
- Books are “free to read, download and print.
- Some books have restrictions on bulk distribution or commercial use.
- Good source for genealogy

Google Book Search <http://books.google.com/bkshp?hl=en&tab=wp>

- Google is a for profit company
- Not all books are freely viewable
- There are advertisements on the site
- Google has the most digital books at this point

Hathi Trust <http://www.hathitrust.org>

- Collections of several large universities
- Books and items from their archives
- Emphasis on preservation and quality cataloging
- Involvement with OCLC will lead to WorldCat records for Hathi Trust items
- Hathi is Hindi for elephant

Project Gutenberg http://www.gutenberg.org/wiki/Main_Page

- The first project to put free downloadable books on the web
- Contains both electronic books and audio books
- There is a link to project Gutenberg materials from Minuteman’s Overdrive collection.

The Online Books Page

<http://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu/index.html>

- Founded and edited by John Mark Ockerbloom from U. Penn
- Another source for free digital books
- Click on his Archives and Indexes Page to be led to many online book resources, some general, some specialized

The Digital Book Index_ <http://www.digitalbookindex.org/about.htm>

- Set up as a union catalog of electronic books texts and documents
- Includes many commercial electronic books as well as free ones
- You have to create a (free) account
- Browsing or following links works well
- Searching seems a little problematic

Other Resources

National Digital Library Federation

<http://www.diglib.org/about.htm>

Library of Congress digital collection

<http://www.loc.gov/library/libarch-digital.html>

Making of America_(primary sources)

<http://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/moagrp/>

The British Library digital content

<http://www.bl.uk/onlinegallery/index.html>

Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations - UNESCO funded

<http://www.ndltd.org>

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