

iTunes for e-books

iTunes for e-books is an e-book library management application with six fundamental features:

Capability to download e-books from the web or a peripheral device;

Graphical user interface with tools to categorize and manage e-books through a set of actions;

Search capability;

Launch and read an e-book;

Non-preference to any format;

Fetching news from the web and converting into an e-book form.

Supported environments and distributions

Linux: Sugar, Fedora (Red Hat), Ubuntu, Mandriva, Debian

Windows: Windows XP, Windows Vista

MAC OSX

Hardware platforms

Netbooks

Desktops

Laptops

Workflow and Features

- Add a book from web, peripheral device or hard drive;
- Metadata will be read automatically and added to internal database;
- **Graphical User Interface:** The Graphical user interface provides a rich environment to all library management and e-book conversion features. It comprises of the following sections:

Actions

1. **Add books:** The Add books action has three variations, accessed by the indicator next to the widget.

- **Add books from a single directory:** Opens a file chooser dialog and allows you to specify which books in a directory should be added. This action is context sensitive, i.e. it depends on which catalog you have selected. If you have selected the Library, books will be added to the library. If you have selected the e-book reader device, the books will be uploaded to the device, and so on.
- **Add books recursively (One book per directory):** Allows you to choose a directory. The directory and all its sub-directories are scanned recursively and any e-books found are added to the library. The algorithm assumes that each directory contains a single book. All e-book files in a directory are assumed to be the same book in different formats. This action is the inverse of the save to disk action, i.e. you can Save to disk, delete the books and re-add them with no lost information (except date).
- **Add books recursively (Multiple books per directory):** Allows you to choose a directory. The directory and all its sub-directories are scanned recursively and any e-books found are added to the library. The algorithm assumes that each directory contains many books. All e-book files with the same name in a directory are assumed to be the same book in different formats. This action is the inverse of the save to disk action, i.e. you can Save to disk, delete the books and re-add them with no lost information (except date).

The Add books action can read metadata from the following e-book formats: LRF, EPUB, LIT, MOBI, RTF, PDF, PRC, HTML. In addition, it tries to guess metadata from the filename. To add a new format to an existing book, use the “Edit meta information” action.

2. Remove Books

The **Remove books** action deletes books permanently. It is content sensitive, i.e. it depends on which catalog you have selected. If you have selected the **Library**, books will be removed from the library. If you have selected the e-book reader device, the books will be removed from the device. To remove only a particular format for a given book, use the Edit Meta Information action.

3. Edit meta information

The Edit meta information action has two variations, accessed by the arrow next to the button.

Edit metadata individually: This allows you to edit the metadata of books one-by-one, with the option of fetching metadata, including covers from the internet. It also allows you to add/remove particular e-book formats from a book.

Edit metadata in bulk: This allows you to edit common metadata fields for large numbers of books simultaneously. It operates on all the books you have selected in the Library view.

4. Save to disk

The **Save to disk** action has two variations, accessed by the arrow next to the button.

Save to disk: This will save the selected books to disk organized in directories. The directory structure looks like:

```
Author
  Title
    Book Files
```

Save to disk in a single directory: The selected books are saved to disk in a single directory. All available formats as well as metadata are stored to disk for each selected book. Metadata is stored in an OPF file.

Saved books can be re-imported to the library without any loss of information by using the Add books action.

5. Fetch news

The **Fetch news** action downloads news from various websites and converts it into an e-book that can be read on your e-book reader. Normally, the newly created e-book is added to your e-book library, but if an e-book reader is connected at the time the download finishes, the news is uploaded to the reader directly.

6. Convert e-books

The Convert E-books action has three variations, accessed by the arrow next to the button.

Convert individually: This will allow you to specify conversion options to customize the conversion of each selected e-book.

Bulk convert: This allows you to specify options only once to convert a number of e-books in bulk.

Set conversion defaults: Allows you to set the default settings for future conversions.

E-books can be converted from a number of formats into the LRF format (for the SONY Reader). Note that e-books you purchase will typically have Digital Rights Management (*DRM*). The management tool will not convert these e-books. For many DRM formats, it is easy to remove the DRM, but as this is illegal, you have to find tools to liberate your books yourself, and then use the library management tool to convert them.

7. View

The **View** action displays the book in an e-book viewer program. The tool has a built-in viewer for the LRF format. For other formats it uses the default operating system application. If a book has more than one format, you can view a particular format by clicking the arrow next to the **View** button.

Catalogs

A catalog is a collection of books. The tool can manage three different catalogs:

Library: This is a collection of books stored in a database file on your computers' hard disk.

Reader: This is a collection of books stored in the main memory of your e-book reader. It will be available when you connect the reader to your computer.

Card: This is a collection of books stored on the storage card in your reader. Note that `{app}` supports only a single storage card at a time.

Search and Sort

The Search & Sort section allows you to perform several powerful actions on book collections.

- Sort by title, author, date, rating etc. by clicking on the column titles;
- Search for a particular book or set of books using the search bar;
- Edit metadata by double-clicking the entry;
- Perform actions on sets to books. To select multiple books you can either:
 - Keep the Ctrl key pressed and click on the books you want selected.
 - Keep the Shift key pressed and click on the starting and ending book of the set of books placed adjacently that you want to select.
 - Selective display of fields using configuration dialog.

Search interface

Search all the metadata by entering search terms in the search bar. Searches are case insensitive.

Example:

About sugar labs format: lrf

This will match all books in your library that have “sugar labs” and “about” in their metadata and are available in the LRF format.

Advanced search queries

Example:

author: bernie and not series: food

title:"about sugarlabs" or "This book is about sugarlabs"

format: sugar labs publisher:freesource.com

Configuration

Set global defaults used by the tool.

Guessing metadata from filenames

In the Advanced section of the configuration dialog, you can specify a regular expression that e-book manager will use to try and guess metadata from the names of e-book files that you add to the library.

The default regular expression is:

title – author

i.e., it will assume that all character up to the first - are the title of the book and subsequent characters are the author of the book.

For example, the filename:

A Tale of Two Cities - CharlesDickens.txt

will be interpreted to have the title: A Tale of Two Cities and author: Charles Dickens

If the filename does not contain the hyphen, the regular expression will fail.

If you want to only use metadata guessed from filenames and not metadata read from the file itself, you can tell e-book manager to do this, via the configuration dialog.

Book Details

The Book Details display shows you extra information and the cover for the currently selected book. The comments section is truncated if the comments are too long. To see the full comments as well as a larger image of the cover, click anywhere in the Book Details area.

Jobs

The Jobs panel shows you the number of currently running jobs. Jobs are tasks that run in a separate process, they include converting e-books and talking to your reader device. You can click on the jobs panel to access the list of jobs. Once a job has completed, by double-clicking it in the list, you can see a detailed log from that job. This is useful to debug jobs that may not have completed successfully.

Usage

Windows: An icon to launch the GUI will have been added to the start menu and the Desktop.

OS X: You can launch the GUI by clicking on the App.

Linux: Icons to launch the GUI are installed into the menu. It can also be started by the command read.