

The More Complete Ebook Reader

The Calibre e-book management program comes up with new dimensions in an already diverse assortment of software with which to read e-books, newspapers and magazines. A closer look at five areas will illuminate the versatility it offers.

Preferences:

Once you have visited [Calibre Home Page](#) and downloaded the program, familiarize yourself with the screen, and click on PREFERENCES, on the top right. Run the Welcome Wizard to set up the main folder for your library and your choice of default download format. Then you are set.

Places to get help:

1. The easiest way to start is with the Quick Start Guide, the first book included with the Calibre reader. Just click on it.
2. FAQs - [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
3. There are also two good instruction videos on the Calibre website, done by the author, that instruct how to use the many tools provided in the program.

[Tutorials](#)

[Demonstration video](#)

Reader:

Click on the Calibre Quick Start Guide to highlight it; click on the illustration of the book on top to load it. The text comes up in a separate window. (If the background acts to distract you, go to your desktop, right click, choose preferences, desktop background, solid color. Choose black. To lessen eye strain, I set the monitor brightness level to less than 50%.)

- Rearrange the text any way you like. Drag the edges to make it larger or smaller. Use the buttons to the left to change the font size.
- Define words by right-clicking on any word. (General words are defined well, but the 1913 dictionary might be out of date for some definitions.)

- Start downloading books from <http://manybooks.net/>.
- After downloading your free book, in the blink of an eye, choose EDIT METADATA, at the top of the screen. Choose the button to add a cover to the book and choose to add information on the book. (If there is no ISBN number listed, simply Google the name of the book +ISBN. Copy the ISBN number and drop it into the appropriate box on the Metadata page.)

Convert Book Formats:

One of the unique abilities of Calibre is that it allows you to convert file formats for a variety of different readers.

The following information in italics is quoted from the [Calibre Home Page](#)

calibre supports the conversion of many input formats to many output formats. It can convert every input format in the following list, to every output format.

*Input Formats: CBZ, CBR, CBC, CHM, EPUB, FB2, HTML, LIT, LRF, MOBI, ODT, PDF, PRC**, PDB, PML, RB, RTF, TCR, TXT*

Output Formats: EPUB, FB2, OEB, LIT, LRF, MOBI, PDB, PML, RB, PDF, TCR, TXT

*** PRC is a generic format, calibre supports PRC files with TextRead and MOBIBook headers*

- Click on Convert Books at the top of the page.
- Click on Page Setup.
- At the top of the page there are drop down boxes for input and output files. The input file is the existing file you want saved in a different format. (If you are not sure about the format, choose default.) The outgoing file – on the right – is the new format you have chosen. In the OUTPUT PROFILE box, highlight the reader you will use to view the file. This ensures that the file will be saved to a specific format for that particular reader. Select OK and notice the spinning wheel, showing the job being done. When it finishes, a new sign, in blue, will appear on the book's page. To look at the folder housing the files, choose:
Path: click to open. By right-clicking on any of the files, you can choose to send it to your reader attached to the computer.

Fetch News:

- Click Fetch News at the top center.
- Calibre lets the user download many different newspapers and magazines in a number of different languages.
- Click the + beside *English* to see the offerings.
- Click on the offering you want to save, click the download now bar, and after the work wheel stops spinning, be sure to click save. Some offerings might ask for subscription information, so you need to go to the homepage (NYTIMES.COM, for example) and sign up. Most are free.
- Downloads can be scheduled also. Turn Calibre on when you get up and have the morning paper waiting for you.

Note: Calibre is limited to non-copy protected files. For more information on DRM (Digital Rights Management) protection take a look at the article from teleread.com.