A READER'S AND AUTHOR'S GUIDE

Using Free PDF Library

Free PDF Library is a public shelf of PDFs. Reading costs nothing and needs no account. An account lets you shelve documents of your own and rate what you read. Membership adds shelf space, a badge, and a pen name readers can follow.

THE HEADER, EVERYWHERE YOU GO

Signed out: BROWSE · MEMBERSHIP · SIGN IN. **Signed in:** BROWSE · MEMBERSHIP · DASHBOARD · UPLOAD · ACCOUNT. Uploading and the dashboard stay hidden until you have a session. Every page footer carries DMCA & Copyright and a contact address.

Reading

Find something

The home page is the catalog: the forty most recently added public documents, newest first. The search box matches titles and descriptions — it is a plain form, so it works with JavaScript off. Below it, genre chips narrow the shelf: *All, Fiction, Nonfiction, Education, Business, Technology, Art & Design, Comics & Zines, Games & TTRPG, Health & Wellness, DIY & Crafts.* Search text and genre combine, so you can search within a genre. Each catalog entry shows the title, the first 160 characters of the description, the pen name (or "anonymous"), the genre, the license, and the date added.

Read a document

Opening a document renders the first three pages in the browser. **Show more pages** adds three at a time, and the button reports where you are — "show more pages (3 of 40)" — until the end of the document. If the in-page preview fails, use **Open / Download** below it, which opens the PDF file itself in a new tab. **Report** opens an email to the site owner with the document's id in the subject line.

Rate it

Below every document are up and down arrows with running totals. Rating is open to any signed-in account, Reader tier included. One vote per person per document; clicking the same arrow again clears your vote. Signed out, the arrows are disabled and a sign-in link sits

beside them.

Follow an author

A pen name is a link to that author's page, which lists their public documents newest first, with the date they joined, their bio, their tier badge, and — on paid tiers — a support button pointing at their donation link. Archived documents do not appear there.

Getting an account

Create an account with first name, last name, email, and a password of at least eight characters, typed twice. A captcha sits at the bottom of the form when one is configured. Confirm the address from the email that follows and you land on the membership page. To sign in later, use the same email and password; if it fails, the message says only that the pair doesn't match an account.

Forgotten password: type your email into the sign-in form first, then press **Forgot password**. A reset link arrives by email and opens a page where you set a new one. Accounts created before passwords existed have none — use this once to set one.

Once signed in, **Account** in the header shows your email address and holds the sign-out button.

Shelving a document

Upload takes five things. Only PDF files are accepted, and the document goes live on the catalog as soon as it saves — you are taken straight to its page.

FIELD	WHAT TO PUT IN IT
Title	Required. Up to 200 characters.
Description	A sentence or two, up to 2,000 characters. Search reads it, so it is worth writing.
Genre	Required. One of the ten genres — it is how readers filter the catalog.
License	My own work · Creative Commons BY · CC0 · Public domain. Choosing one is a declaration that you have the right to share the file.
PDF file	Required, and it must be a PDF. Anything else is refused.

If your shelf is full the upload is rolled back and a notice offers the plans. Nothing is stored in that case.

Membership

Reading and rating are free on every tier. Membership buys shelf space and a name. The membership page shows Reader on its own, then the three paid plans with a monthly/annual toggle; annual is 20% off and opens first. Choosing a plan sends you to Stripe checkout and back; if the upgrade hasn't registered the moment you return, the page waits and confirms on its own.

	READER	HOBBYIST	PROFESSIONAL	PUBLISHER
Monthly	Free	$1.99	$4.99	$14.99
Annual	—	$19.10	$47.90	$143.90
Effective monthly	—	$1.59	$3.99	$11.99
Shelf slots	2	5	10	20
Badge	—	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
Donation button	—	Yes	Yes	Yes
Dashboard statistics	—	—	Yes	Yes
Book sales	—	—	—	Coming soon

Claiming a pen name

Pen names are a member feature; the field appears on the membership page once you are on a paid plan. Three to thirty characters, letters, numbers, hyphens and underscores. Names are unique — if yours is taken, pick another. Once claimed, your author page lives at /a/your-pen-name and your name replaces "anonymous" on everything you have shelved.

Changing or cancelling

Plans renew automatically and can be cancelled at any time. Downgrading keeps your newest documents on the shelf; anything over the new limit is archived for thirty days and comes back if you upgrade again. After thirty days the oldest archived document is deleted.

The dashboard

Your dashboard opens with your name, your tier badge, and the count of shelf slots used. Every account sees **shelf slots used** and **archived**, with the date the oldest archived document is deleted. Professional and Publisher also see **views all time**, **views over thirty days**, and **rating totals**.

Below that, every document you own is listed with its status — public, private, or archived — and, on the statistics tiers, its own views, thirty-day views and rating. Views are counted once per page load of a document. A full shelf raises a notice pointing at the plans.

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Questions the site can't answer: owner@freepdflibrary.com. Free PDF Library is a Scarlet's Workshop project.