

Tech Tips from Mr G

Borrowing OverDrive eBooks Using the “Sideloading” Technique

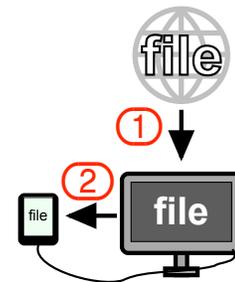


Right now there are three different ways to borrow eBooks through the Liverpool Public Library and the **OverDrive** catalog. The first is to use a **Kindle** device or a **Kindle app** on a tablet device. The second is to use the **OverDrive Media Console app** on a tablet device like a **Nook HD**, an **iPad**, or any other tablet device. The third is to **sideload** books from your own computer to a non-tablet eReader like the **Nook Simple Touch** or any of the compatible devices from companies like **Sony** or **Kobo**. This handout will walk you through getting OverDrive books using the sideloading technique.

What is Sideloading

I'm assuming that you're familiar with what **downloading** is. If you're not, it's the process of moving data from the “big computer up there on the Internet” to your own device, “down here” (step 1 in the example on the right).

Sideloading is moving that data from one device that's “down here” to another one that's also “down here” (step 2). If you've ever transferred data from your computer to your iPod or iPad, that's sideloading.



Getting Started with Adobe Digital Editions and an Adobe ID

The keys to sideloading books from your computer to your Nook (or similar device) are a copy of **ADE** and an **Adobe ID**.

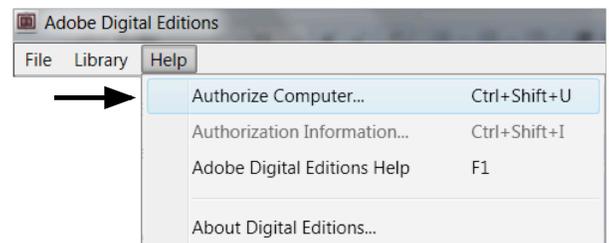
If you go to our OverDrive webpage at **onlib.lib.overdrive.com**, near the top right-hand side you'll see four icons like the ones shown on the right. Click on the **question mark** for **Help**, and that will take you to another screen.



On this new screen, clicking on the icon for **Applications** will take you to another screen, where you get to **Adobe Digital Editions** as the application you want to download. Once you've done that, you'll be taken to the **Adobe Digital Editions Home**. Look on the right-hand side for the **Download Now** button, click on it, and follow the instructions to install it. There are both Mac and Windows versions of it.

Once you've installed ADE on your computer and you're in the program, it's time to register it with an Adobe ID.

This is really easy. Go to the **Help** menu and select **Authorize Computer** (it's the selection with the arrow pointing at it in the example on the right). This will take you to a screen that asks you to either enter your Adobe ID if you already have one, or to create one if you don't. If you don't have one, just click on the link that says **Create Adobe ID**.



When you click on that link, you're temporarily taken out of ADE and to a page at Adobe's website, where you get to create your Adobe ID.

An Important Note About the Password

Even though you're going to use your regular email address as your Adobe ID, **do not** use your regular email password for the password here. Why not? Because systems like this sometimes get hacked, and the people who do the hacking look for email/password combinations so that they can gain access to your other accounts. Using one password for everything is an easy way to make yourself the victim of **identity theft**.

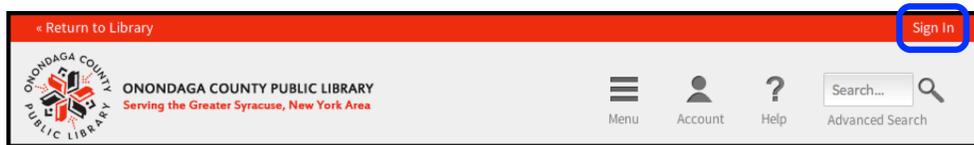
Unless you're using some of Adobe's other high-end products, your Adobe ID doesn't require some super-secret, overly-complicated, password. It can be something as simple and pathetic as **Books4Me**, the name of your favorite author, or anything else that you know you'll remember. In fact, it could even be your license plate number, which is something we usually tell you not to use. The important thing here is that you be able to remember it.

Once you've created your Adobe ID, go back to ADE and enter it and the password into the Authorization Screen and click on **Authorize**.

That's it for setting things up. You should never have to do this part again. Now let's talk about actually getting something to read!

Using the OverDrive Catalog

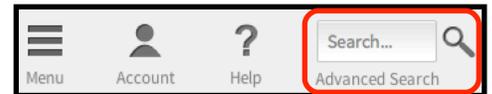
Start off by going to onlib.lib.overdrive.com. This is the website for our eBook collection. Then look at the upper right-hand side for where it says **Sign In** (it's circled in the example below), and click on it. The next screen will give you a place to enter your **library card number** and **PIN**. At this point your browser might ask if you want it to remember that information, or there might even be a little checkbox for that on the screen. It's OK. Tell it to remember. The worst someone can do to you is check out five copies of **War and Peace**, and you won't get overdue fines for them anyway.



Signing in to the OverDrive catalog

Finding Something to Read - Advanced Search is Your Friend

Now that you're in, take a look at the top right-hand side of the screen again click on **Advanced Search**. It may sound like something that you don't want to jump right into at first, because it's "advanced," but don't let the name fool you, Advanced Search gives you more choices, more control, and makes finding things a whole lot easier.



Make Your Choices

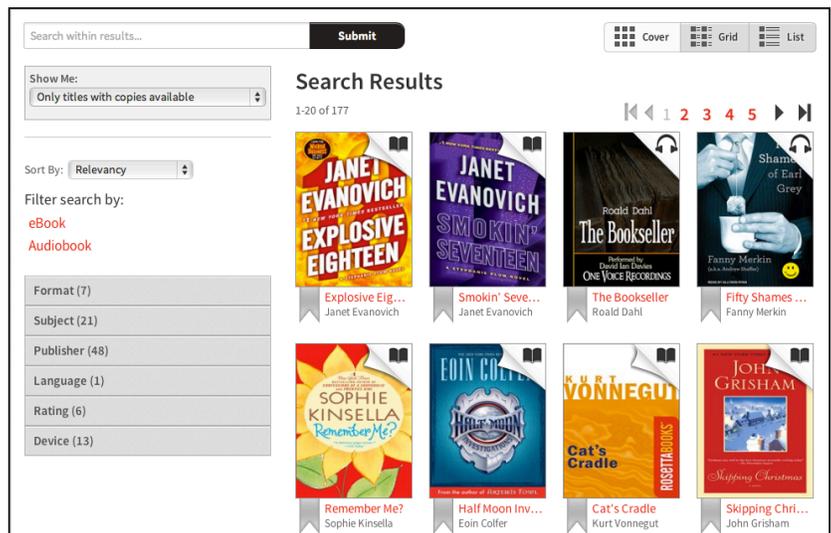
Here, you can fill in the fields for **Title**, **Creator**, **Subject**, etc as you please. Be advised, however, that entering too much information could result in you not getting any matches at all. Also, if you're searching on **Subject**, you'll have better luck with some categories than others. Things like **Mystery**, **Fiction**, and **Romance** are broad enough to give you hundreds of results. On the other hand choosing **Chick Lit Fiction** might only get you two.

Don't Frustrate Yourself

Once again, in order to ensure that you get something the first time around, only fill in either the **Title**, **Creator**, or **Subject** fields. Then make sure you click in the check box for **Only titles with copies available** before you click on the **Search** button. You can deal with getting on a hold list for books later on. Right now we want you to have some immediate gratification.

Pick a Book, Any Book

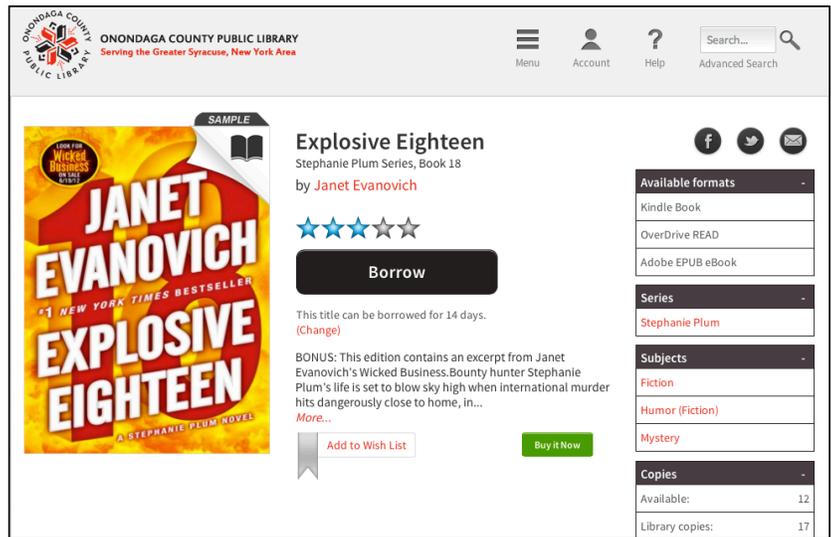
The next screen tells you how many total books we have that meet your criteria, and how many of them are on the current screen. In the example below there are 177 matches, and 20 of them are showing on this screen (every screen shows 20 matches). For the purposes of this handout, we'll take the first match that we get, and select **Explosive Eighteen**. If you wanted to look through the rest of the choices, you could use the **navigation buttons** to go to the other screens. But for now we'll stick with **Explosive Eighteen**, and click on its icon.



Borrowing Options

We're getting closer to putting the book into your digital hands. Even though there's a little green button at the bottom of the page that says **Buy it Now**, this screen is still really about borrowing. That button is there in case the book isn't available from us at the moment, and you really want it right now.

If you look just underneath the **Borrow** button, you'll see that the current loan period is set for 14 days. You can change that to 7 or 21 days by clicking on **Change**, and then coming back to this screen. Once you've taken care of that, and if you're sure that this is really the book you want, then click on the **Borrow** button.



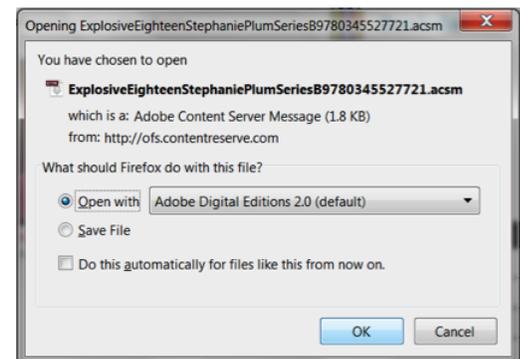
Downloading Your Book

Now you're at the screen where you get to finally download your book. The **Bookshelf** page shows you the book you've just chosen to take out, along with any others you may still have out. On the right hand side of your chosen book you'll see a button for downloading it (it's circled in the example below). When you click on that, the button will expand to give you **format choices (Kindle or ePub)**. Since you've got a Nook or similar device, you'll want the ePub format. Select that, and then click on **Confirm and Download**.



Downloading the Book

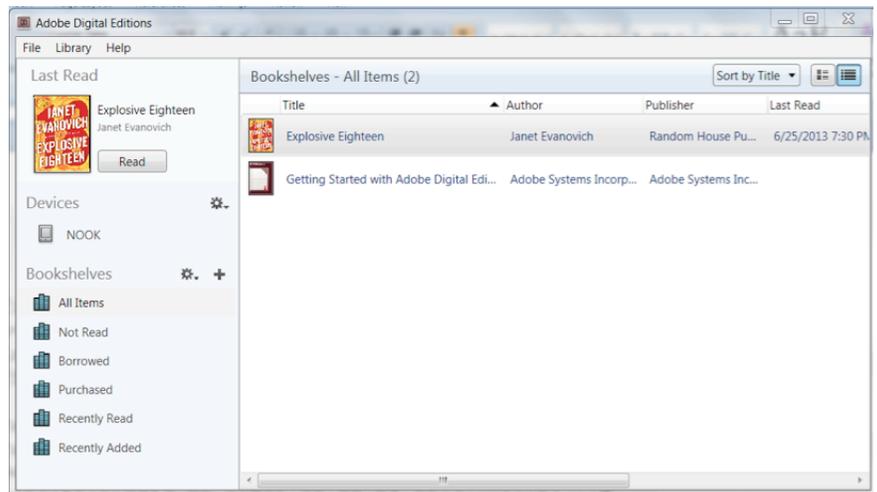
The **Download** screen is where you tell the system that you really want to get this book to read on your eBook reader. Click on the **Download** button, and a dialog box similar to the one on the right will appear. Make sure that **Adobe Digital Editions** is selected, and then click on **OK**. When you do this, your book should automatically open up in ADE.



Working in ADE

We're almost there. We're at the point where it's time to do that **sideloading** thing that I talked about earlier.

Make sure that your Nook (or similar device) is plugged into your computer with the USB cable. When you do, you'll see it listed on the left-hand side under **Devices**. You should also see your book, along with a copy of the user guide to Adobe Digital Editions. If you don't, try clicking on **All Items** under **Bookshelves**. Your screen should look like the one on the right. If you click on the name of your device (in this case it's a **Nook**), you shouldn't see anything, because you don't have any books there yet. Now go back to **Bookshelves/All Items**.



Drag your book from the **Bookshelves** window onto the icon for your device. Nothing changes on the bookshelf, because the book is still there; you've simply **copied** it to your device. But now, if you click on the device icon, you'll see that the book is there.

By the Way...

If you get a pop-up window during this process about needing to reauthorize your device, it means that you're probably using an eBook reader that had been registered with someone else's Adobe ID, and it needs to be reset. If you're not worried about losing books that someone else may have taken out, go on ahead and reset it yourself. Otherwise, call us to make an appointment for one of the **eBook Angels** to help you out.

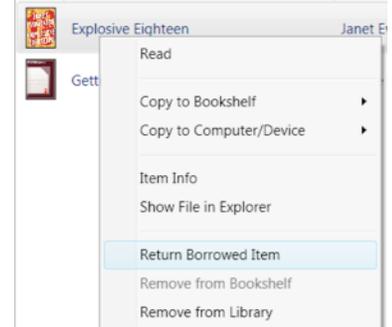
Meanwhile, Back at the Your Device

Now, if you take a look at your device, and go to **My Library**, you should see one more book than you had on it before. To read it, just tap on it.

Returning Your Book

Because of the way that eBooks work, they never become overdue, they simply stop being readable after a certain date. But if you finish your book early and want to return it before it's due, so that someone else can read it, that's fairly easy.

Just go back into ADE and **right-click** on the book (that's **control-click** on a Mac), and the menu you see on the right should appear. Select **Return Borrowed Item**, and you and the next user should be all set.



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You can find more of them at www.LPL.org/computers-and-computing/tech-tips

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