

How to find a book when you don't remember the name and author

Sometimes you can remember the content or character in a book that has been read but cannot remember the title and the author. This makes you feel very frustrating. Here are some tips to help you find a book without knowing the name or author.

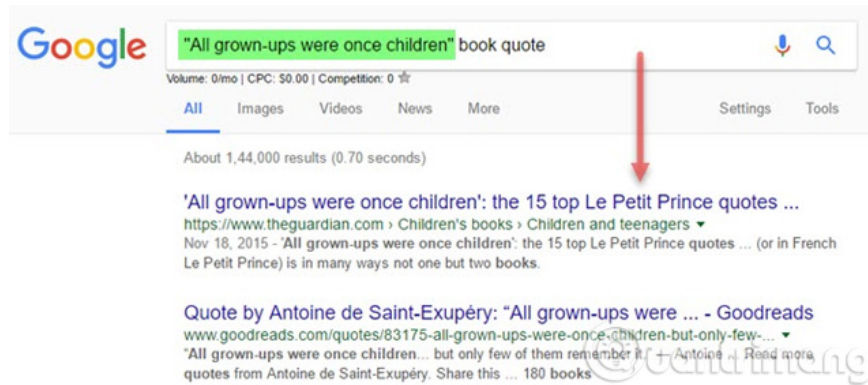
Sometimes you can remember the content or character in a book that you have read, but cannot remember the name and the author. This makes you feel very frustrating. Previously, you could ask librarians to know the book's name but today, in the digital age, the Internet is an information store that can beat the paper library. Here are some tips to help you find a book without knowing the name or author.

How to find a book when you don't remember the title

1. Use search engines like Google
2. Use Google Book search tool
3. Some other search engines
 1. BookFinder.com
 2. WorldCat.org
 3. Library of Congress (Catalog.loc.gov)
4. Use the Amazon search engine
 1. Look in the book
5. Ask for help from an online community
 1. Goodreads.com
 2. Barnes and Noble Lost Books
 3. Abe Books (forums.abebooks.com)
 4. LibraryThing.com
6. Social Network
 1. Facebook.com
 2. Twitter.com
 3. Quora.com
 4. StackExchange.com
 5. Reddit

Use search engines like Google

When you can't remember the name of the book, the author or the characters in it, the search engine will be the first method you think of. To use this method, one thing to note is the keyword.



In case of forgetting a book title or author, you must remember at least one detail in the book. It could be the character's name, a conversation line, or even the basic plot. If you can remember the specific search terms, the results will be more accurate. You can manipulate all the usual search rules, for example, can use quotation marks for more accurate search results.

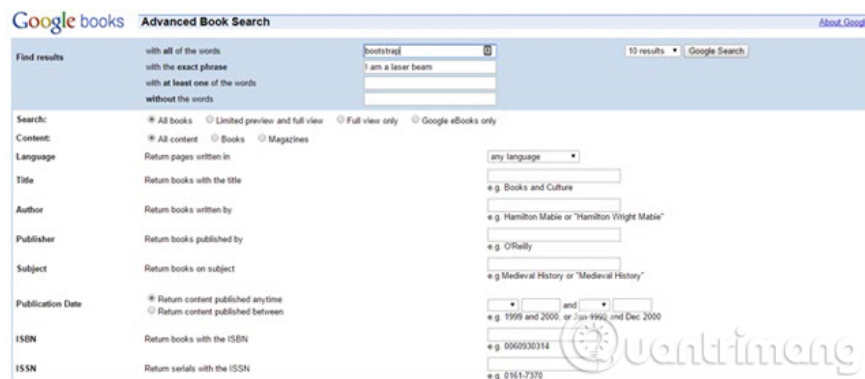
1. 13 quick Google search tips that you should know

Use Google Book search tool

As a reading enthusiast, you probably know the Google Books Library Project. This is the largest book classification project and its search engine is like Google Search.

The difference is that the search results page displays in addition to the usual information it also contains other additional information such as book covers, table of contents, common phrases or paragraphs in the book. You can view the sample pages and check if this is the book you are looking for. In addition, you can search for phrases in a book.

Use Google's advanced search page with filters like themes, publishers, languages, publication dates, ISBNs and ISSN numbers.



You can use keywords and wildcard operators to find information. Even if that book is not found, you may see a reference that may lead to the answer.

Some other search engines

BookFinder.com

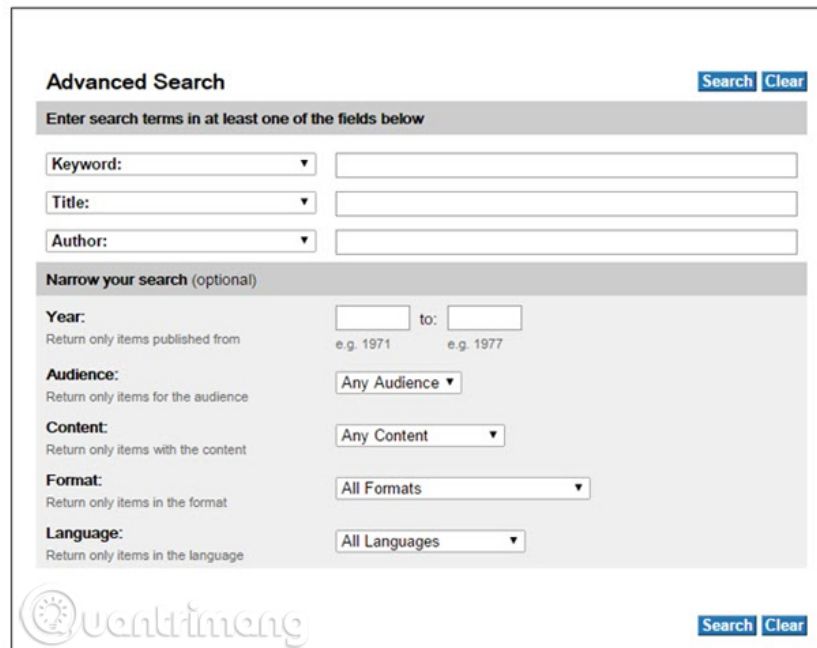
BookFinder is an advanced search engine (Click **Show more options**) that can access more than 100,000 booksellers worldwide. You can try searching for a keyword or year of publication.



The screenshot shows the BookFinder.com website interface. At the top, it says "BookFinder.com" and "Find any book at the best price." Below this, it states "Find used books, rare books, textbooks, new and out-of-print books" and "Compare book prices, including shipping, from over 100,000 booksellers worldwide". The main search area is titled "Book Price Comparison Online" and includes fields for Author, Title, and Language (set to English). There are "Search" and "Reset fields" buttons. Below these are options for Type (Any, New, Used/Out of Print), Features (New, First edition, Signed, No POC, No ISBN), Destination (United States), Currency (US Dollar), Binding (Any, Hardcover, Softcover), ISBN, Keywords, Price range (min and max), and Publication Year (min and max). A "Special" checkbox for "Classic search display, all languages" and a link to "Hide advanced options" are also present. To the right, there are sections for "Textbook Search", "Textbook Buyback", and "BookFinder Report 2016". A "Quantomeng" watermark is visible in the bottom right corner of the screenshot.

WorldCat.org

WorldCat is the largest service, content library online. You can search worldwide database of 72,000 libraries in 170 countries. Search for books and then find it at a nearby library. If you are a member of the library, you can check the item online. Try **Advanced Search** with the only filter like **Audience and Languages**.

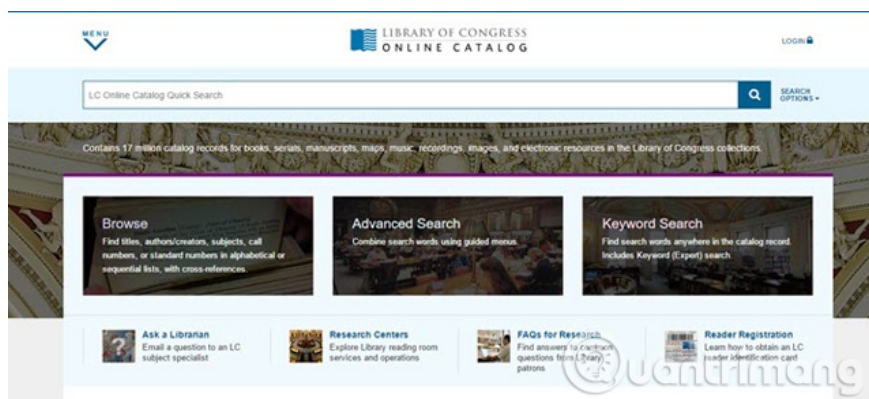


The screenshot shows the "Advanced Search" interface on WorldCat.org. It features a "Search" and "Clear" button at the top right. Below this, it says "Enter search terms in at least one of the fields below". There are three input fields for "Keyword:", "Title:", and "Author:". Below these is a section titled "Narrow your search (optional)" with several filters: "Year" (with "to:" and examples like "e.g. 1971" and "e.g. 1977"), "Audience" (with a dropdown menu set to "Any Audience"), "Content" (with a dropdown menu set to "Any Content"), "Format" (with a dropdown menu set to "All Formats"), and "Language" (with a dropdown menu set to "All Languages"). A "Quantomeng" watermark is visible in the bottom left corner, and "Search" and "Clear" buttons are at the bottom right.

In addition, you can view **WorldCat Genres** (or **Fictional Finder**) to find books by novel genre with hundreds of titles, authors, topics, characters, locations, ranked by popularity in the letters World Institute.

Library of Congress (Catalog.loc.gov)

Library of Congress (LOC) is the world's largest library and it also contains a huge digital collection. Finding a book through the catalog of 17 million records of books, serials, manuscripts, maps, music, recordings, pictures, and electronic resources doesn't take too long. In addition, LOC has an **Ask A Librarian** query form so that users can ask the library manager directly.



Also, check out the **National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped** search engine, which is also a benefit of Library of Congress.

Use the Amazon search engine

Amazon started with online bookstores, and it is still in the top of sales with millions of titles. Someone once said, if Amazon does not sell the book you are looking for, it may not exist anymore. Type keywords on the basic search bar to find books. However, if you want better results, you can search on Amazon's advanced search bar.

The image shows the 'Advanced Search' form on Amazon. The form is titled 'Advanced Search' and has a sub-section 'Books Search'. It contains several input fields: 'Keywords' (with 'Rachel Childs' entered), 'Author', 'Title', 'ISBN(s)', and 'Publisher'. To the right of these fields are several dropdown menus: 'Condition' (set to 'All Conditions'), 'Format' (set to 'Paperback'), 'Reader Age' (set to 'All Ages'), and 'Language' (set to 'All Languages'). Below these are 'Pub. Date' (set to 'During'), 'Month', and 'Year' fields. At the bottom right, there is a 'Sort Results by' dropdown menu. A 'Quentineng' watermark is visible in the bottom right corner.

Amazon does not have an official list of advanced search operators, but it will show some search tips on the above page. The API documentation also lists a few powerful searches you can try, review the results by clicking **Next** .

The secret to finding more accurate results is by using the advanced search engine of Ceyhun Kazel, the developer created Jeviz.com to easily find his book.

If, after doing all of the above tools, you still can't find your book, do a site search with Google.

Example: "Rachel Childs" + newspaper page: amazon.com

Look in the book

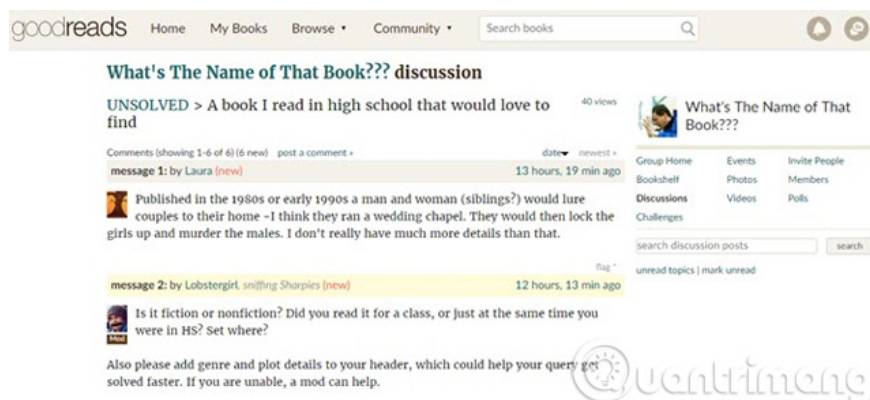
When doing a search on Amazon, your keywords are not only used to search for titles and authors, but also to search within the book. You can explore if this is the exact book you are looking for by clicking on the **Look Inside** link and viewing the preview pages. Use the **Search Inside This Book** field to search for sentences, key phrases, and even citations.

Ask for help from an online community

Any website you buy books has an online community.

Goodreads.com

Goodreads is part of Amazon, this social network for enthusiasts books discussing a variety of topics.



You can go to any specific group by category and ask for help. But the first two items can be tried:

1. Book Hunting
2. What's the Name of That Book

Barnes and Noble Lost Books

Barnes and Noble is a famous book seller. This group was created with the clear purpose of helping readers hunt for their favorite books.

BARNES & NOBLE Log in | Register


Home BN.com People Q

Lost Books Actions - ⓘ

Overview Activity Content People Subspaces

RECENT ACTIVITY

 ryanj in Lost Books
3 months ago [Show more](#)

 Please help! Looking for a book (Complete shot in the dark)

I have been looking for this book that I read when I was in elementary school. I have been

KEY CONTENT AND PLACES

 [How to use Lost Books](#)

POPULAR CONTENT

 [A girl's book, woman gets revenge on lawyer book using luggage sent to him](#)

Abe Books (forums.abebooks.com)

BookSleuth is another suitable place to hunt books if you can't remember the title. Use community forums organized by genre and provide as much detail as possible so that members can help you.

AbeBooks.com "Passion for books" **Community Forums**

Advanced Search Browse Books Rare Books Textbooks

Search AbeBooks: Find Book Advanced Search

Home > Forum Index > AbeBooks.com BookSleuth®

AbeBooks.com BookSleuth®

Sort by: Subscribe | New Topic | Login

General
27 of 2208 discussions shown.

| Latest | Subject | Posts | Started by |
|----------------|---|-------|----------------|
| Jun-26 7:27 AM | USE BOOK TOPICS IN SUBJECT LINES PLEASE! | 815 | bookal |
| 3/7/15 8:21 AM | TIPS FOR BOOKSLEUTH PARTICIPANTS | 900 | libraryladytoo |
| 5:43 AM | Vintage Teen Romance Book | 1 | maulgidenweb |
| Jun-19 4:06 PM | YA Children's Novel - Witches, Imagination, Fantasy world inhabited by children | 7 | dmrtrain |
| Jun-19 3:35 PM | Gay book about puberty and discovery | 3 | Metgar |
| Jun-19 3:34 PM | Please help settle an argument!!! Looking for 3 titles | 15 | Princesses1234 |
| Jun-19 3:29 PM | girl runs away to live at a hotel, ends up tangled up in a big mess?? | 1 | poppe |

NEXT > LAST >>

Resources:
My nickname
A Guide to Using the AbeBooks Forums
Forum Policies
Reporting Forum Policy Violations

AbeBooks.com Community:
Community Forum
BookSleuth® Forum
BookSleuth Forum
BookHints Forum

Booksellers Only:
Bookseller Forum
BookSellers Forum

LibraryThing.com

LibraryThing is also the place to get help when looking for books. You should start with a topic and provide as much information as possible.

LibraryThing Sign in | Join | English | Help

Home Groups Talk Zeitgeist

Group: Name that Book

Groups home

Group
Name that Book
Group Zeitgeist

Highlights
Active
Standing
Largest
Community
Local
Newest

Explore
By tags
By language

Other
Complete list

Name that Book

Have you forgotten the name of a book you once read? This group is here to help you find it again.

Start your book search by clicking on the **Post a new topic** option and...

(1) Enter a helpful **Subject** line that includes a **genre** and a **clue**.

Long subject lines are cut off, so it's wise to keep to keywords. For example:

YA Ghost story
SciFi Boy lost in space
Mystery set in Iceland
Poem about a woman's garden
Children's series about circus children

Many members of this group only open topics we think we can help with, so your subject line is important for getting the right people to read your post — the ones who probably know your book!

Words like "help" or "find this book" or "search" are not helpful in a subject line and should be avoided.

(2) Enter all the book detail you remember in the **Message** block.

This is your place to put detailed information that could help to identify your book. This may be information like:

Fiction or nonfiction
Plot
When you think it was written or when you read it (10 years ago; about 1970...)
Book's intended audience
Anything else you remember about the title, author, illustrations, cover, characters, setting, binding, or year of publication

It's easier for members to read your message if you use standard spelling, capitalization, and punctuation. Avoid breaking longer words into two lines.

Group pictures (1)

Activity level:

Members: 2,018
Language: English
Group id: name-that-book
Created: Aug 21, 2006

RSS Feeds

- Recent messages
- Recent members
- Recent books added
- Recent groups created

Social Network

Facebook.com

Social networking is not only a place where you find long-term friends who have lost contact, but you also call for help from the community to find a book you can't remember. Your social circle may be limited, so expand your search by using book clubs.

Mark Zuckerberg started with the **A Year of Book** , and now it has nearly 800,000 followers. Even smaller public groups like **Books** are worth a try.

1. Instructions for searching with Facebook Graph Search

Twitter.com

Twitter is also a place to search for books effectively, start searching on Twitter with hashtag such as **#DarkFantasy** or **#UrbanFantasy** to narrow the search results and / or when asking for help.

1. Tricks using the Hashtag on Twitter

Quora.com

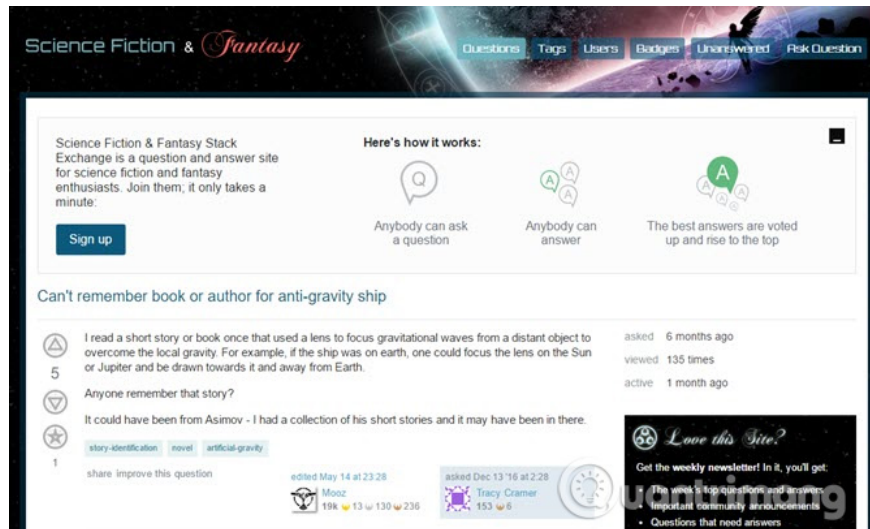
This Answers site may be the place where most "experts" are gathered besides Facebook and Twitter. You can look forward to quality answers from this site.



The screenshot shows a Quora page with a question: "I can't remember the name or author of a book I've read. Do you know which novel this is?" The question text describes a young boy whose father was supposedly killed by his uncle, the family ran a dog breeding facility, and the young boy was a mute, set in modern times on a large plot of American land. Below the question, there is one answer by Val Wright, dated May 19, 2015, titled "The Story of Edgar Sawtelle". The answer includes a book cover for "The Story of Edgar Sawtelle". To the right of the answer, there is a "Related Questions" section with several questions, such as "How can someone find a book he/she had read but can't remember its title or author's name?" and "I read a vampire book a few years ago, but I just can't seem to remember the title or the author's name. I do remember some details. What is it?".

StackExchange.com

A repository of 168 question and answer communities is Stack Exchange. **Stack Overflow** may be the most popular forum for programmers but there are communities suitable for **Ebooks** and **Literature** . After that, you can also join a specific community for each category and ask questions.



Reddit

You can't think of a book that is more knowledgeable than Tip of My Tongue. Just sweep your eyes down on answers that have been answered with a green card to understand the power of collective memory. Also, try other sub-categories like **What's That Book, Books** , and **printSF** when you can only remember the book cover.

Search the Web based on the kindness of strangers. This shows the spirit of cooperation and enthusiasm of book lovers everywhere, so the next time you can't remember the name of a book, try one of the ways above.

See more:

1. The hidden search engines of Google you don't know
2. 4 websites looking for song titles through extreme melodies or do you know?
3. 15 utility search tools

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