**What is LibraryThing?**
LibraryThing is a free social cataloging and networking site for book lovers. LibraryThing allows users to create a library-quality catalog of books in whatever groupings the user chooses – favorite books, books you would like to read, books you’ve lent out, etc. Since everyone is cataloging through the same website, they are cataloging together and sharing the benefits of each other’s work. Users contribute tags, ratings, reviews, and common knowledge. Users may also participate in member forums. LibraryThing connects people based on shared books.

**Prerequisites**
Before creating a LibraryThing account a user should have a basic understanding of social networking websites. Though primarily an online catalog, LibraryThing functions similarly to a social networking website. LibraryThing connects users with other users, websites, and local events. For this reason it is important that all users are aware of their online presence and privacy options.

**Value**
LibraryThing is intended for those who wish to catalog as part of a community. LibraryThing is not restricted to individual users. Some 200 libraries use LibraryThing as a resource for enhancing their catalogs; LibraryThing works with any OPAC and allows patrons to interact through ratings, reviews, and reader advisory. Most recently, several *Occupy* libraries – a derivative of the Occupy Wall Street movement – have been created. In this way LibraryThing is more than just a cataloging website; it goes beyond to connect and network its users.

**Getting Started**
Creating an account at LibraryThing is easy. To create an account, direct yourself to [http://librarything.com](http://librarything.com). Click on the green **Become a Member** button on the right. Select a user name and password. Next select the type of account you want, either personal or organizational. To finish click the green “Join Now” button.
How to use LibraryThing

First let's look at LibraryThing's user interface. This page is the user's homepage. The homepage shows announcements, local events, books recently added to your library, your tags, and your collections. If desired, you can customize your homepage by clicking on the customize this page link, which is located next to your user name.

The profile page is an overview of you and your library. It allows you to keep up with your friends' recently added books, reviews, and ratings. You may choose to add other users to your friends list or your interesting libraries list. When viewing another user's library you will see how many books you share with that person.
Adding Books to Your Catalog

Start building your LibraryThing library by adding books to it. LibraryThing gets book data from Amazon.com, WorldCat, and the Library of Congress. You may choose which information source to search with the Search Where? feature.

First, click on the Add books tab. In the green search box enter the title, author, or ISBN number of the book you wish to add to your library. The results list on the right of the page will show you all found matches. Click on the edition you prefer to add the book to your library.

Occasionally a book you enter will not show up in the results screen. You may try searching a different information source, or you may need to add the book manually. Beneath Other options, click the link Add manually.

Once books have been added to your library they will be visible in Your Books.
Your Library

To view your library, click the **Your books** tab. Here you can view all the books you have added to your catalog. You have two options when viewing your books: show your books as a list, or display just the covers. Decide your preference and choose the corresponding icon.

You may also edit the sort order of your books by clicking on the arrows icon. Your library can be sorted by title, author, publication date, ISBN, rating, etc.
Catalog your Books

LibraryThing is first and foremost a social cataloging website and users may catalog their books in any way they choose. You may choose descriptive cataloging or subject cataloging. Similarly, you may choose to use Library of Congress Subject headings, or to use a system all your own.

Click on the Your Library dropdown box to view the pre-arranged collections. To add or remove collections, click on the Edit Collections link at the bottom of the dropdown menu. The Collection Manager will open on your screen. To add a new collection, click on the +Add new collection button and title the collection.

To remove a collection, select the dropdown arrow to the left of the collection title. Uncheck the Active box. The word ‘inactive’ will appear in parenthesis beside the collection title, indicating that collection will not be in your library. Inactivating a collection will not remove any books from your library; however, books will no longer be in that collection because the collection is inactive.
**Edit Collections and Books**

LibraryThing gives the user control of his or her library. Users may sort collections, sort books, edit book information, write reviews, and apply tags. To catalog a book in a specific collection, or edit book information, you will need to access the Book Detail Page.

If your library is in cover view, click on a specific book to open the About the Book menu. Click on the file card icon.

If your library is in list view, the file card icon will be on the right of the page.
The Book Detail Page provides book information, publication information, tags, reviews, and recommendations. Here a user may rate the book, change the cover image, or add the book to a collection. Users are also connected to other users who have added the book to their library.
Community – Local and Online

LibraryThing gives users the opportunity to get involved in online and local communities. By clicking on the Talk tab you can view and participate in a variety of forums with other LibraryThing members. Or, click on Post a new topic to post on your own query or interest.

Clicking on the Local tab you can find bookstores, book signing, book clubs, and other events in your neighborhood.

Additional Resources


LibraryThing’s tour: http://www.librarything.com/tour