

Free audio book sources for libraries

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Abstract

With the emergence of information technology the use of audio books is increasing day by day. One can download Audio Books free of cost and listen to it in the most inconvenient situations –waiting for someone at the coffee shop, travelling in the crowded bus or train, while cooking etc. This paper highlights the free Audi books available over the internet for libraries.

Keywords: Open Culture, Libropile.com, Lit2go, Loyal Books, Librivox

1. Introduction

“Audio books are voice recordings that you can listen to rather than reading the text of a book or other type of publication. Audio books can be an exact word-for word version of a book or a shortened (abridged) recording.”

Previously audio books were available in physical formats such as vinyl records, compact cassette tapes and CDs. With the invention of internet audio books are available online from different sources. Audio books are generally available in MP3, WMA (Window Media Audio) and AAC (Advanced Audio Coding) common digital formats. One can download

audio books in any one of the desired formats over the internet. All though the availability of audio books in digital forms is new, the use of the audio books came into use in 1970’s when audiocassettes began to replace the records. They were found in schools and libraries as an educational medium. Audio books are very useful for blind. Unlike traditional books or video programs one can learn from audio books while he/she is busy in other tasks.

2. Open Culture

<http://www.openculture.com/>



Fig 1

Open culture is one of the best source for cultural and educational media. This site has a very good collection of audio books which are classified in alphabetical order by the name of the author. Most of the audio books are on the

literature covering most of the famous authors like Shakespeare, Austen and others.

3. Libropile.Com

<http://www.librophile.com/>

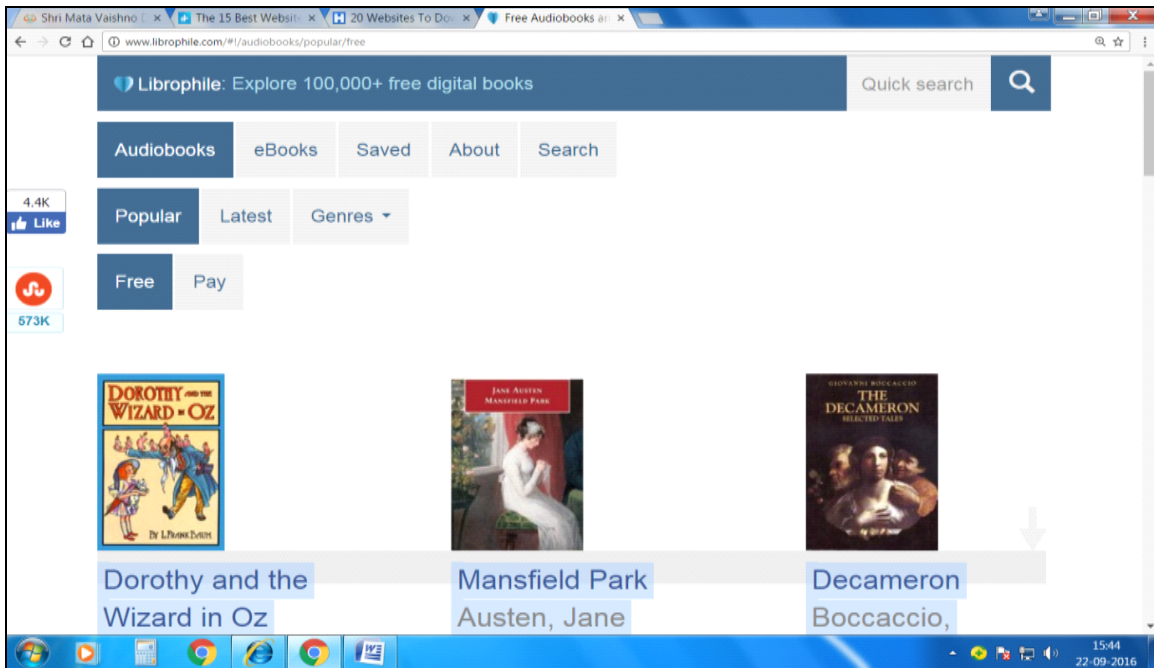


Fig 2

Librophile.com is one of the simple interface for finding free audio books. Searching of Audio Books is very easy you can either use the key words or by genre or language. You have an option of downloading the whole book or few chapters can

be listened online. Librophile.com is available on both mobile and desktop.

4. Lit2Go

<http://etc.usf.edu/lit2go/>

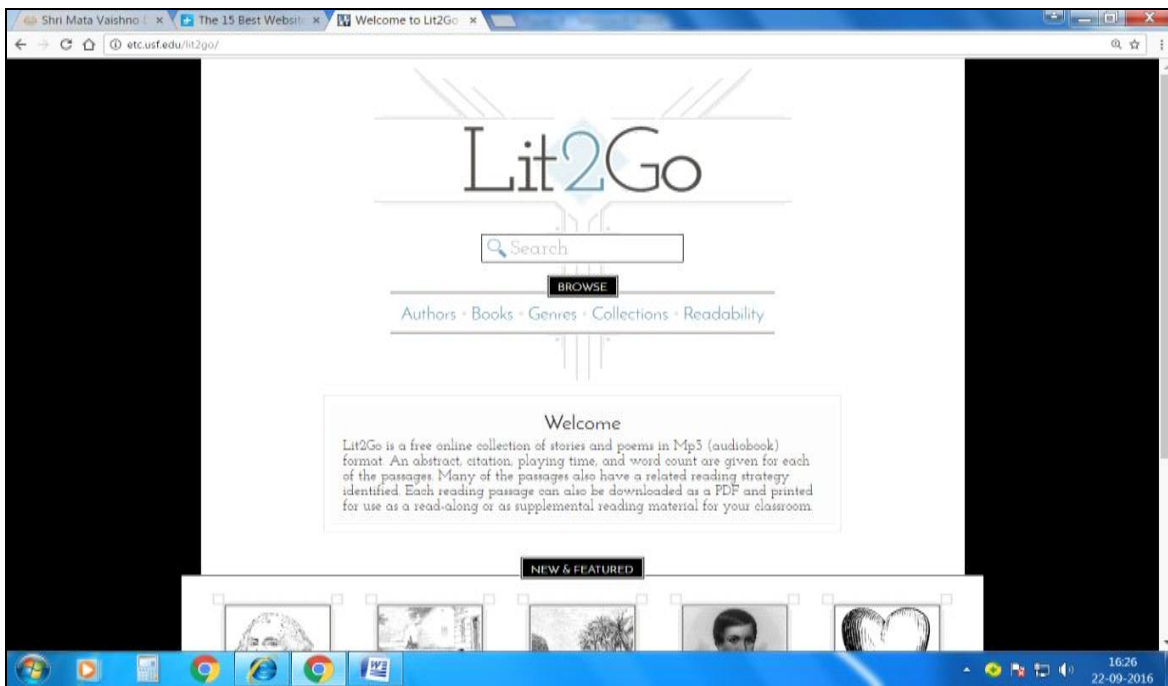


Fig 3

Lit2Go is a free collection of audio books which are available online in MP3 format. The audio book collection includes stories and poems in downloadable form. Various search

options are available you can search by author, title, collection and genre.

5. Learn Out Loud

<http://www.learnoutloud.com/Free-Audio-Video>



Fig 4

This web site consist of over 10000 free audio & video educational books on Various subject areas. The main resources of this website include lectures,

Interviews, documentaries, talks which are free to download by the users. One can browse the audio books by different categories

6. Loyal Books

<http://www.loyalbooks.com/>



Fig 5

Books should be free is now known as Loyal Books. All the audio books available on the loyalbooks.com are free from copy right and are public domain books. One can search the audio books by the name of the author, title or by the key word. The Audio Books are classified by the popular genres

such as top 100, Children’s, fiction etc for the convenience of the user. You may also search the book on the basis of language such as English, German, and French etc.

7. Librivox

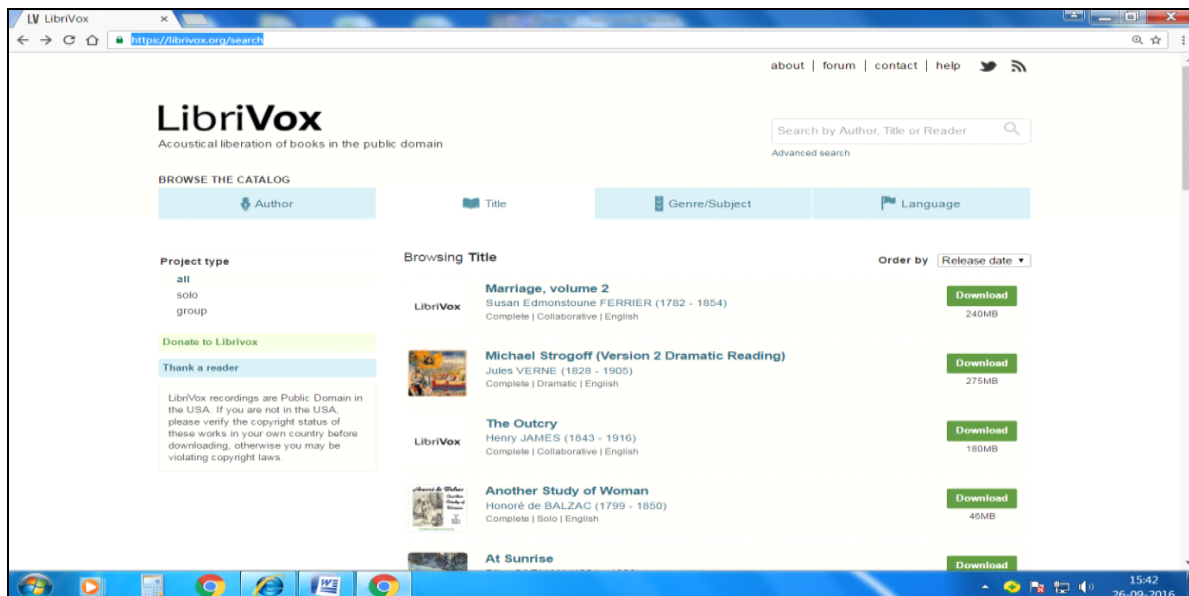


Fig 6

LibriVox Audio Books offers unlimited access to over 15,000 free audio books. Each LibriVox audio book can be streamed over the internet or downloaded for later use without any charge. US users can purchase an additional 50,000 professional audio books. The LibriVox Audio Books app includes listings for new recordings, featuring classic best sellers and out of print treasures.

8. Conclusion

The present age is the age of information technology followed by interdisciplinary research. It is not possible for the research scholars, faculty or the students to get the desired information from one place or the single media especially for those students who are visually impaired or blind, free audio books will play a very vital role to fulfilling the information requirement. No library in this world is self-sufficient in procurement of information sources due to budget constraints so it is recommended that the library users must go for digital media freely available on the web specially the use of the free audio books may be encouraged.

9. References

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