API

The Reading API for this site allows users and apps to access book and chapter objects in JSON format. The url for the Read API is the site's base url plus "api.php" (e.g., https://edtechbooks.org/api.php).

Two types of objects may be requested via the Read API: (a) a book or (b) a chapter. Book calls require the *book* variable, which will look up the book based upon the unique "short name" provided. Chapter calls require both the *book* variable and the *chapter* variable, which will look up the chapter based upon the unique "short name" for each.

Usage

The API may be used to display content in your own site or app provided that you include proper attribution for the content and the hosting site. This can easily be done by displaying the suggested citation for the book or chapter.

Data Structure

The platform uses three main data object types: authors, books, and chapters. Other objects are also sometimes used, such as glossary terms.

Variables

Variable	Туре	Status	Default	Description
action	string	optional	read	Specify the action to be performed. If no action is specified, the API will attempt to return a book or chapter.
book	string	optional	-	The short name of the book, which is the path of the book's base or cover url. For example: http://edtechbooks.org/qualitativeinquiry
chapter	string	optional	-	The short name of the chapter, which is the last part of the chapter's url. For example: http://edtechbooks.org/qualitativeinquiry/storyanalysis
glossary_term	string	optional	-	The anchor name of the glossary term.
glossary_term_id	int	optional	-	The term_id of the glossary term.
term	string	optional	-	Specify a search term for some actions.
limit	integer	optional	10	Specify a limit. Maximum: 200
offset	integer	optional	0	Specify an offset for pagination purposes.
key	string	unused	-	The Reading API currently does not require a key.

Actions

Options for the action variable include the following:

- read (default; requires *book*; also uses *chapter*)
- search_authors (requires *term*)
- search_books (uses term, but returns full list of books if no term is provided)

Examples

To request reference information for all books in the site, the API call would be:

https://edtechbooks.org/api.php?action=search_books&o
ffset=0&limit=200

To request the book object for https://edtechbooks.org/k12handbook, the API call would be:

https://edtechbooks.org/api.php?book=k12handbook

To request the chapter object for https://edtechbooks.org/k12handbook/connectivism, the API call would be: https://edtechbooks.org/api.php?book=k12handbook&chap ter=connectivism

To request the glossary term "constructivism" in https://edtechbooks.org/k12handbook, the API call would be:

https://edtechbooks.org/api.php?book=k12handbook&glos sary_term=constructivism

To search for books with the term "education" in the title, the API call would be:

https://edtechbooks.org/api.php?action=search_books&t
erm=education

To search for an author with the name "Royce," the API call would be:

https://edtechbooks.org/api.php?action=search_authors
&term=royce

App Structure Example

An example of a simple app that accessed books on this site might follow this structure:

- A home page that called https://edtechbooks.org/api.php?action=search_bo oks to return all available books (with short names). You can use the offset and limit variables to iterate through the entire list.
- 2. If a book is selected,
 https://edtechbooks.org/api.php?book=[book_short
 name here] is called with the appropriate short name.
- 3. If a chapter is selected,
 https://edtechbooks.org/api.php?book=[book_short

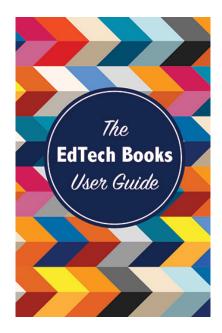
_name_here]&chapter=[chapter_short_name_here] is called with the appropriate short name.

An example of an app that could download the entire available database might follow this structure:

- A home page that called https://edtechbooks.org/api.php?action=search_bo oks to return all available books (with short names). You can use the offset and limit variables to iterate through the entire list.
- Download each book by accessing its short name at https://edtechbooks.org/api.php?book=[book_short _name_here]
- 3. Download each chapter by iterating through the chapter briefs for each book returned in Step 2 via https://edtechbooks.org/api.php?book=[book_short_name_here]&chapter=[chapter_short_name_here]

Authentication

The API currently does not require a key, but that could change as the site and its services develop. For more information on future plans for the API or to request a key, please contact the <u>site administrator</u>.





Kimmons, R. & Irvine, J (2019). *The EdTech Books User Guide*. EdTech Books. Retrieved from https://edtechbooks.org/userguide

CC BY: This work is released under a CC BY license, which means that you are free to do with it as you please as long as you properly attribute it.