

# 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	Type	Status	Default	Description
<b>action</b>	<b>string</b>	<b>optional</b>	<b>read</b>	<b>Specify the action to be performed. If no action is specified, the API will attempt to return a book or chapter.</b>
book	string	optional	-	The short name of the book, which is the path of the book's base or cover url. For example: <a href="http://edtechbooks.org/qualitativeinquiry">http://edtechbooks.org/qualitativeinquiry</a>
chapter	string	optional	-	The short name of the chapter, which is the last part of the chapter's url. For example: <a href="http://edtechbooks.org/qualitativeinquiry/storyanalysis">http://edtechbooks.org/qualitativeinquiry/storyanalysis</a>
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*)
- analytics (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&offset=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&chapter=connectivism
```

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

```
https://edtechbooks.org/api.php?book=k12handbook&glossary_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&term=education
```

To request the analytics for the chapter <https://edtechbooks.org/k12handbook/connectivism>, the API call would be:

```
https://edtechbooks.org/api.php?book=k12handbook&chapter=connectivism&action=analytics
```

To get more than the default referer limit (10), add a `referer_limit` variable to the url.

```
https://edtechbooks.org/api.php?book=k12handbook&chapter=connectivism&action=analytics&referer_limit=20
```

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:

1. A home page that called [https://edtechbooks.org/api.php?action=search\\_books](https://edtechbooks.org/api.php?action=search_books) 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:

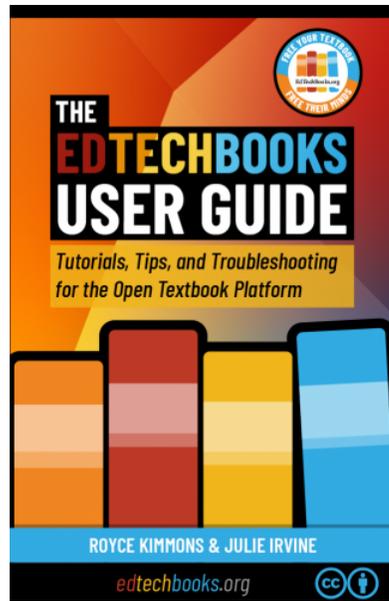
1. A home page that called `https://edtechbooks.org/api.php?action=search_books` to return all available books (with short names). You can use the *offset* and *limit* variables to iterate through the entire list.
2. Download each book by accessing its short name at  
`https://edtechbooks.org/api.php?book=[book_short_name_here]`
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]`

An example of an app that could search for an author and return author information might follow this structure:

1. Search for the author by name  
`https://edtechbooks.org/api.php?action=search_authors&term=kimmons`
2. Retrieve the author object by  
id `https://edtechbooks.org/api.php?action=authors&author_ids=1`

## 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 [site administrator](#).



Kimmons, R. & Irvine, J. (2019). *The EdTech Books User Guide*. BYU Open Textbook Network. <https://open.byu.edu/userguide>