

## **Using Concourse to Access Free e-Books from Christian Book Distributors**

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In recent years e-Books have become very popular. Various devices have been marketed to allow users to download e-Books for viewing.

For more than two decades Concourse has been capable of allowing users to communicate via hyperlink (web address). Such communication presupposes access to the Internet via the computer and/or network on which Concourse is installed.

Accurate web addresses placed in the URL field on the Media (tab) make possible communication with companies and/or organizations that provide e-Books. Each company has its own protocol for managing and distributing its collection of e-Books. Reading of e-Books and downloading e-Books have their own protocols controlled by the provider. You will have to deal with such constraints, if any, imposed by each provider when downloading or reading e-Books.

This article will present the possibility whereby Concourse can help you utilize available free resources from Christian Book Distributors (CBD).

E-books can be read using the OPAC within Concourse or accessing your library catalog via Web-OPAC, an add-on application for Concourse users. Web-OPAC hosts your library collection to the web, whereby items can be searched wherever a browser is available. The displayed image with hyperlink included lets the person browsing get to the e-Book source.

Before any access to an e-Book can be made, the e-Book must be cataloged into the Concourse database. During the cataloging process an accurate address must be typed or copied into the URL data field located on the Media (tab) cataloging dialog. For each electronic resource (e-Book) that you catalog from CBD the address is:

[https://cbdreader.christianbook.com/cbdreader/desktop\\_reader.html](https://cbdreader.christianbook.com/cbdreader/desktop_reader.html)

After the bibliographic record is saved, the address in the URL field becomes a hyperlink to the source referenced in the address.

Access to the “free e-Books” at CBD requires a membership which currently costs \$5.00 per year or \$20.00 for 5-years. Having purchased the membership, it is possible to secure access to 38 free e-Books by “purchasing each of them for a \$0.00 sum purchase”. The free e-Books that you “purchase for no cost” are placed in a library on CBD’s server exclusively for you to access. You may manipulate your library of free e-Books by sorting them alphabetically by either author or title in either ascending order or descending order. [Note: As of December 3, 2012, CBD offers 29,031 e-Books for sale in addition to the 38 free e-Books.]

When your membership with CBD is active, the CBD hyperlink in a catalog record will access the CBD e-Book Reader dialog screen into which you must put your email address

and password into the appropriate fields to gain access to your library of free e-Books. Each book can be accessed for reading by clicking on Read eBook (button) beside each title.

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