



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

What is BC Books Online?

The BC Books Online initiative is a collaborative project of BC library organizations and book publishers. Our goal is to deliver a digital collection of BC published books to the entire province. The BC Books Online initiative has been developed and championed by a province-wide committee of library professionals from school, public, and post-secondary sectors.

What is the BC Books Online beta?

The BC Books Online Steering Committee invited 12 libraries in the K-12, post-secondary, and public library sectors to participate in the beta. These participants have access to the BC Books Online collection free of charge through Spring 2011. The beta will help the Committee to identify technological issues related to the installation of the collection, monitor usage, and introduce the project to the public and possible funders.

How were libraries selected to participate in the beta?

For copyright and managerial reasons, beta participants had to be limited. The Steering Committee looked for geographical areas where public, post-secondary, and K-12 libraries existed with the technological expertise to participate. Participating beta libraries ensured that only authorized users could access the digital collection.

What is the BC Books Online timeline?

The BC Books Online project was begun in 2007. Since that time publishers have been obtaining digital rights for the works in the collection and converting print books to digital. Publishers and libraries meanwhile worked on the nature and terms associated with the collection and sought funding to achieve their goal to have the collection available in all libraries in the province. In the fall of 2009, targeted libraries were invited to participate in the BC Books Online beta. Implementation for participating libraries was completed in January 2010. BC Books Online beta was launched May 12, 2010. Participants will have access to the digital collection through June 2011 during which participation, usage, and publisher data will be collected to use in applying to government and grant funding agencies for sustainable funding beyond 2010 and business plan will be developed.

What does the BC Books Online library collection consist of?

The collection will focus on the genres of history, natural history, Aboriginal, arts and culture, political commentary, biography and autobiography, urban issues, the environment and other contemporary issues that concern the people of this province. There are 649 titles in the beta and over 1000 in the collection to date. Titles will be added to the collection during the year and will be available to all libraries for purchase in the 2011. The list of titles currently available in the beta of *BC Books Online* may be viewed at: www.canadianelectroniclibrary.ca/collateral/BCBooksOnline.xls.

Are the books in the collection suitable for school library use?

At this time approximately 15% of the titles in the collection were selected by teacher-librarians for inclusion in the Association of Book Publishers of BC's catalogue, BC Books for BC Schools. Many of the remaining titles may also be suitable but haven't been identified specifically for the K-12 sector.

How will users get access to ebooks made available through the BC Books Online initiative?

Titles are available via the ebrary platform. For more information on ebrary, see <http://www.ebrary.com>.

If my institution is not in the BC Books Online beta, will my patrons be able to access the titles?

No, not during the beta phase.

Are MARC records available for BC Books Online titles?

Yes. MARC records for BC Books Online titles are available.

Will beta libraries have access to usage statistics?

Yes. Participating institutions will access to usage statistics through the ebrary . For more information on statistics gathering see http://www.ebrary.com/corp/collateral/en/Usage_Stats/ebrary_usage_reports.pdf.