

Open Library Long-Term (5-10yr) Vision

Context: “Imagine If”. This document is intended for [Disney-style](#) community **day-dreaming** and [exploring](#) ways Open Library may evolve over the next decade. It does not represent commitments to implement nor does it assume these ideas have been evaluated by policy teams. *h/t/ to [Ka-Ping Yee](#) on the design presentation.*

A	Accessibility
C	Catalog
E	Community Engagement
W	Writers
X	Reading Experience
P	Personalization
G	Engineering
F	Feature Parity

ACEWXPGF **[Verified](#) Author pages**

Authors may claim their own author pages and receive Verified Badges which adds tools to connect with their readers & fans online.

ACEWXPGF **[Book Series](#)**

Books are logically ordered and grouped as Series, (e.g. Harry Potter)

ACEWXPGF **Self-Publishing**

Authors have traditionally have had few good self-publishing options besides Amazon. What if in the future, a non-profit provided authors with tools and a self-serve process to super easily self-publish their next book online in an accessible format, host it on [Archive.org](#), make it discoverable to their fans in Open Library’s catalog, and to have options to configure their own purchase and access options. See e.g. <https://ketida.community>

ACEWXPGF **Decentralization / Federation**

Open Library’s data is [already publicly](#) available on the web, but to truly be an open book catalog for the Internet, it would be useful for this data to be hosted by a decentralized consortium of public good participants and organizations. Mouse Reeve’s [Bookwyrm](#) and IPFS are great illustrations of what’s possible. We may be able to integrate with an run an instance of ActivityPub to provide social features.

ACEWXPGF **In Every Language**

Open Library offers the same high-quality, native, personalized experience to every patron, no matter where they live or what language they speak. Translators are able to contribute and improve translations directly on the website. This spans the website, search, and the book catalog itself.

ACEWXPGF **Book Tournaments**

Now the community may collaboratively surface the best books on any academic topic by creating contests between books.

ACEWXPGF **Virtual Book Clubs**

Often, reading is a solitary experience. But books can also be powerful tools for educators to teach students, parents to connect with their children, and peers to debate thoughts and ideas. What if Open Library let readers host cozy book clubs which bring communities together to read or discuss books?

ACEWXPGF **Awards & Badges**

It’s exciting discovering a new book. It’s also discovering someone you can trust to give you book recommendations. Imagine if readers on Open Library had public badges representing their interests or accolades. Imagine if you could explore book recommendations from people based on their badges? What book might a [level 10 Cellular Biology](#) reader recommend? Similarly, what if books had awards based on book tournaments, how many times they’ve been on lists or reading logs? See [Open Library - Canonical Tags](#) .

ACEWXPGF **Born-Digital Books**

When Open Library began, its mission was to breathe life back into the physical book; to weave these repositories of our cultural heritage into the web as first-class citizens. As the Internet evolves, Open Library must also expand to accommodate next-gen, born-digital material (both for reading and cataloging). See: [Web Books](#).

ACEWXPGF **Democratized Holdings**

What good is a library whose books don’t reflect the interests and needs of its

		patrons? Over the next ten years, Open Library could achieve a more democratic catalog by empowering readers to donate the books representing their values to the Internet Archive.
ACEWXP ^{GF}	Trusted Book Providers	For many years, the Internet Archive was a primary trusted book provider offering books through the Open Library catalog. Over the next decade, the catalog could grow to include read options from other trusted book providers like standardebooks, librivox, openstax, wikisource, project gutenber, etc. One step closer to being a comprehensive open book catalog for the entire Internet.
ACEWXP ^{GF}	Universal Borrow Buttons (Integrations)	Book websites across the entire web may weave Open Library's read & borrow buttons into their pages. Knowing just an identifier like ISBN, every website on the web could magically summon a Universal Read button with options to numerous Trusted Book Providers. In this brave new world, a patron may find it more useful to share an Open Library link than an amazon link.
ACEWXP ^{GF}	Offline Reading In-browser	Offline protected epub reading (e.g. PWA) through Bookreader
ACEWXP ^{GF}	Open Book Genome	Similar to the Human Genome project, imagine if machine intelligence could help us sequence books and extract new insights for the public.
ACEWXP ^{GF}	Human-level Read-aloud	Human-level synthetic AI voices or human-contributed Librivox recordings
ACEWXP ^{GF}	Book Translations	What if a book written in French could be automatically translated (read aloud or superimposed as text) in real time into Chinese or another language?
ACEWXP ^{GF}	Rich Digital Editions	When a patron interacts with a digitized version of a physical book, its citations and Tables of Contents should be interactive and clickable.
ACEWXP ^{GF}	Book Citations Graph	Book records are connected to each other by their mentions/citations. Each book page on Open Library features web resources (e.g. urls, tweets) which talk about these books.
ACEWXP ^{GF}	Curriculum	There are directed sequences (tracks) of books for learning new things (which patrons can vote on)
ACEWXP ^{GF}	Bleeding edge developer docs	Real-time Design-Pattern-Library: Storybook dynamically generates documentation for our front-end
ACEWXP ^{GF}	Reading Log Check-ins & Yearly Reading Goals	Keep track of your current page, when you've finished a book, and set reading goals similar to Goodreads, LibraryThing
ACEWXP ^{GF}	Community Collections	Librarian Curated Collections of Collections
ACEWXP ^{GF}	Sustainable Front-end	Templating language that works server + client side
ACEWXP ^{GF}	Ask a Librarian	AI (GPT-3 style) book recommendations / Talk to Books
ACEWXP ^{GF}	Unified Search	Unifying search: Across Full-text (after page loads, only on /search) + Authors + Lists + Titles
ACEWXP ^{GF}	Librarianship	Edit experience right from books page (which incorporates work and edition data more coherently), ability to propose merges, tools to locate duplicate records
	ILL: Interlibrary Loans Print Disabled Access	T.B.D