

How to Put Library Books from Overdrive on Your Nook — a Visual Tutorial

December 30, 2010 by Ruth <http://beingruth.com/>


(Also, how to return an ebook to Overdrive before the lending period is done.)

One of the biggest reasons I got my Nook was because of its compatibility with Overdrive, the ebook database my library subscribed to. It's very easy to borrow a book and put it on your Nook, but it's not intuitive and there aren't many good non-video tutorials out there, so I'm making this one. I'll demonstrate by checking out Club Dead from my library's Overdrive system, transferring it to my Nook, and returning it. Click on almost any image to see a full-size version pop up (a few were small enough to fit in the post space).

To begin, you'll need to download and install [Adobe Digital Editions](#) (ADE) on your computer. Overdrive uses Adobe Digital Editions to handle its digital rights management. You should also create a free account, as prompted, so you can authorize your Nook (or other computers) to read the books as well.

Step 1. Check out your book on Overdrive

Use whatever process is necessary to sign in on your library's Overdrive website. Mine simply asks for my library barcode. You can search for ebooks without being signed in, but being signed in makes the process faster after you've decided which book you want. Once you've found the book you want to check out, click "add to Bookbag."



The screenshot shows the Overdrive interface for the book 'Club Dead'. On the left is the book cover featuring a character on a flying creature. To the right of the cover, the title 'Club Dead' is displayed, followed by 'Sookie Stackhouse Series, Book 3' and 'Series: [Sookie Stackhouse](#) by [Charlaiane Harris](#)'. Below this, the publisher 'Penguin USA, Inc.' and imprint 'Ace' are listed. The subject is categorized as 'Fantasy Fiction' and the language is 'English'. To the right of the text are two star rating systems: 'Average rating' with five green stars and 'My rating' with five grey stars. A 'Share' section contains links for 'Email a friend', 'Facebook', and 'Twitter'. Below the book details is a 'Format Information' section with a yellow background, showing 'Adobe EPUB eBook' and 'Available copies: 1'. On the right side of this section are links for 'add to BookBag' and 'add to wish list'.

Proceed from your Bookbag to Checkout before your book expires. In most cases this is 30 minutes.

Please note: Titles added to your BookBag will remain there for 30 minutes before they are returned to the library's collection. Please be sure to complete your checkout within this timeframe to avoid losing access to these title(s).

Club Dead

Sookie Stackhouse Series, Book 3

Lending period: 7 days

Adobe EPUB eBook	Plays on:	eBook-compatible computers & devices	remove
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[Continue Browsing](#) [Proceed to Checkout](#)

Confirm checkout. A drop-down menu will let you specify the period you want to check the book out for.

Club Dead

Sookie Stackhouse Series, Book 3

Lending period:

Adobe EPUB eBook	Plays on:	eBook-compatible computers & devices	remove
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Important notes:

- You may check out a maximum of 6 titles at one time
- You currently have 2 title(s) checked out
- You will have 3 title(s) remaining after checking out the selected title(s)

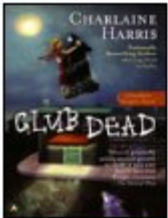
Confirm check out

Step 2. Download and Open in Adobe Digital Editions

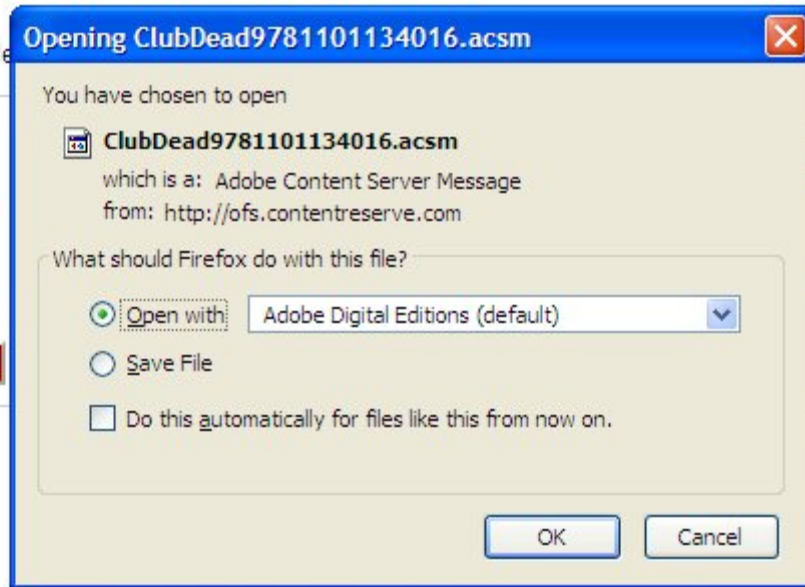
On your Bookshelf, click the download link to download a file which Adobe Digital Editions will use to download the actual ebook. You can save the file to your computer, but since this isn't the actual ebook and you won't need it later, you can also just choose to open with Adobe Digital Editions.

Download

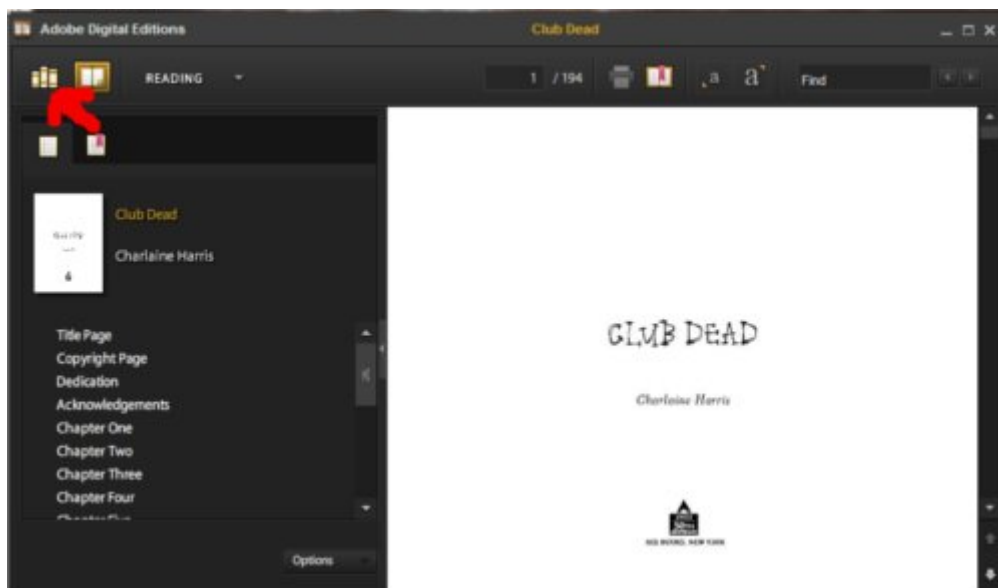
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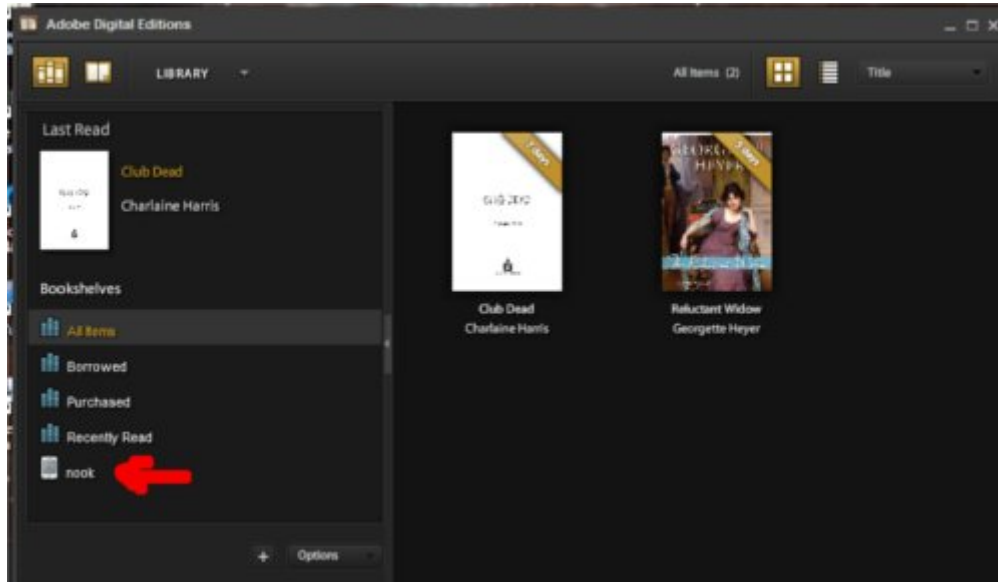
Adobe Digital Editions will download the actual ebook and open it on your computer.



Click on the Library icon (where the red arrow is pointing in the screengrab above) to return to the library view. This is where you'll transfer the book to your nook.

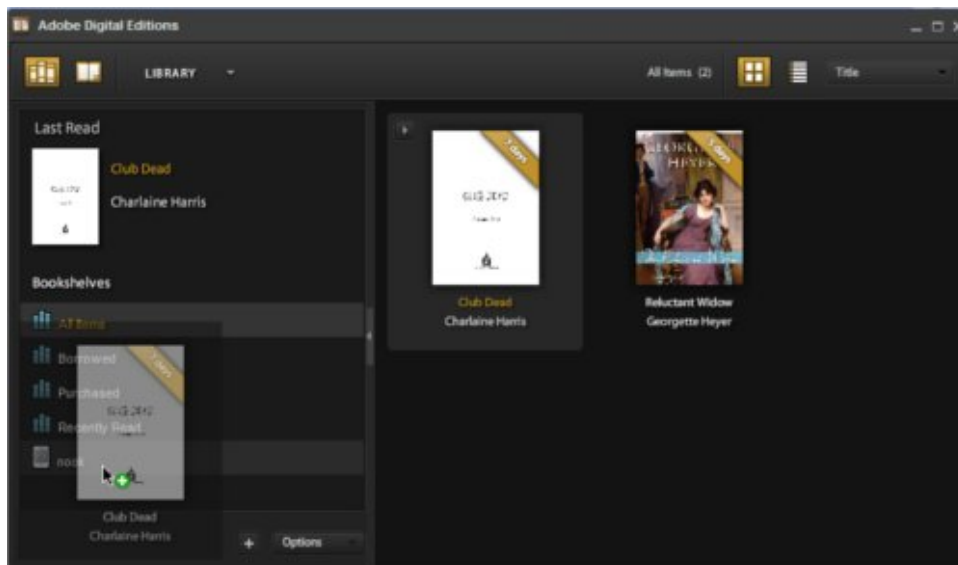
Step 3. Transfer the ebook to your Nook

If your Nook isn't yet connected to your computer, use the USB cable to connect it and turn it on. It should appear in your Adobe Digital Editions library page as shown below:



A commenter notes that if you plug in and turn on your Nook and it doesn't show up in ADE, simply exit and reopen ADE. Before reopening ADE, double check that your Nook is on *and* is displaying the USB connection screen. If you're not seeing it and see regular Nook screens instead, you've ejected your Nook and you'll need to unplug and replug it in. Another commenter notes that the Nook Color may show up as "Media" rather than as "Nook" in ADE.

Now, click on the book you want to transfer to your Nook and *drag* it to your Nook icon as shown below:



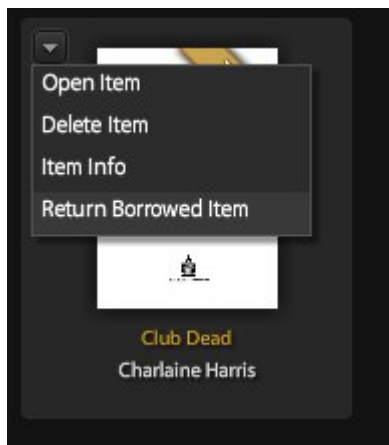
If you click on the Nook icon, it should show up as being in your Nook's library as well. Once you get the hang of it it's quite straightforward. Check out, download, drag and drop, and voila you're reading your library book on your Nook!

Step 4. Return the ebook from your Nook *and* computer

Your library book will expire after the lending period is over and you won't be able to access it on your Nook any more. But if you want to return the ebook before the lending period is over, either so that you can check out more or just because you want other people to have access to the ebook, you can also return it just like you would a regular book.

Returning it easy in Adobe Digital Editions, but it has to be done from both your Nook and your computer.

First, plug in your Nook and turn it on. Click the icon in Adobe Digital Editions to view your Nook's ebook library. Click on the little arrow in the upper-left-hand corner of the title image and select "Return Borrowed Item":



Once the book disappears, click on the "All Items" bookshelf in Adobe Digital Editions, find the book, and repeat the returning process. If you go to your library's website and visit Overdrive, your book should no longer be on your bookshelf either. If it is, go back to Adobe Digital Editions and check any of its bookshelves for copies of your book.

Troubleshooting

Here are some helpful troubleshooting suggestions as provided by commenters. I haven't tried or tested all of them and therefore can't endorse all of them, but I thought I'd pull them out of the comments section and organize them.

1. Is Your Nook Turned On?

Ok, this wasn't a commenter one, but it's something I periodically forget when plugging my Nook into my computer. If you want to manage the books on it, you have to turn it on when you connect the USB. Unlike a thumb drive, it doesn't automatically power up.

2. How to Finish a Book That Needs to be Returned

You can't (and shouldn't) keep a library book forever, but if you're not quite done with a book, then you can do the following to finish it:

Do not close the ebook to look at another book or adjust a setting. Rather than powering off your Nook, only let it sleep. Do not hook the Nook up to the computer or otherwise charge it.

According to one commenter, this will keep the book from expiring. Of course, you'll eventually have to charge it, but if you're lucky you should be able to get it done before you're done reading. A better idea is to always check out your Nook ebooks for 21 days, since you can return it if you finish early.

3. If You Can See the Book in Your Nook's File System But Not When You Turn On the Nook

One commenter noted that she could see that the book had been added to her Nook when she checked the Nook's folder system (should show up in My Computer like a USB does) but it wasn't showing up on her Nook. She said that she had to move it from the Adobe Digital Editions folder into the My Documents folder. A simple cut-paste should work. I haven't tried this method, but I also haven't yet run into this problem.

4. If Adobe Digital Editions Won't Prompt to Authenticate

One commenter said that they weren't getting the prompt to authenticate their Adobe Digital Editions. This apparently turned out to be because there was already an Adobe Digital Editions folder on the Nook from a failed attempt to authenticate. They deleted it, opened ADE, plugged in the Nook again, and it prompted them to authenticate. Everything went smoothly from there.

This tutorial was created and posted by Ruth on a personal blog <http://beingruth.com/>. She has graciously offered this information to libraries to share with patrons. Jessica Brewer UC created this handout for CM Library 3/12/11.