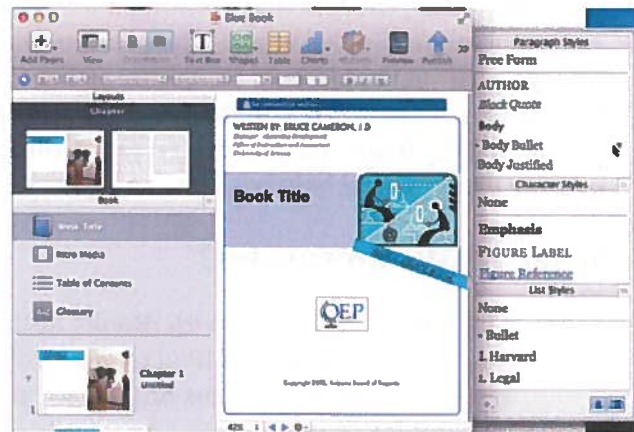# Getting Started With iBooks Author

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1 What is it?

iBooks Author is a free desktop publishing application that allows anyone to create media rich interactive documents that can be viewed on an iPad. The documents cannot be viewed on PCs, desktop Macs, laptops, or other devices.

Easy-to-use widgets allow the instructor to include photo galleries, videos, interactive diagrams, 3D objects, and quizzes that bring content to life in ways the printed page never could.

The term "book" or "eBook" is often used to refer to documents that are presented via a tablet or other electronic device. This term can refer to a single page as well as to an entire textbook.

2 What can it be used for?

Although nearly any type of document or book can be created in iBooks Author, the focus is on educational materials of various lengths. Textbook-length documents may be more than you will want to take on, but you might consider iBooks Author for small documents, especially those for which you have numerous or complex images or multimedia. You probably will not want to use iBooks Author if your document incorporates just one or two images. But iBooks Author should be considered if you are creating a customized, interactive document. Such documents can serve as useful and engaging components of hybrid or distance courses.

3 What are the technical requirements?

- Hardware
  - For producing documents – a Mac running OS 10.7 or higher. The eBooks cannot be produced on a PC.
  - For viewing documents – any version of the iPad (1, 2 or 3)
- Software
  - For producing documents – iBooks Author app (free download)
  - For viewing documents – iBooks app (free download)

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4 How easy is it to learn?

The program will look familiar to anyone who has used Apple's presentation application, Keynote. Instructors who have experience with Keynote or PowerPoint can learn to use this program. Using iBooks Author to assemble your content is relatively easy, involving drag and drop operations. The layout options are designed for books that rely heavily on multimedia rather than on lots and lots of text. This means that most of the work takes place in writing the text and creating multimedia using other software before the document is assembled in iBook Author. The process will be much easier if instructors first create a "storyboard" to decide how things are going to fit on each page. Keynote or PowerPoint can be used to create a "storyboard", or diagram, of each page. Completing this process for a textbook-length document can be a time-consuming process; instructors may wish to employ professional help with such a task.

5 What are the downsides?

- The eBooks produced with iBooks Author can be viewed only on an iPad. Students must have access to an iPad to view your eBook. Software for creating eBooks that can be viewed via devices other than an iPad does exist; however, the software can be complex to use.
- You cannot charge for your eBook unless you first submit it to iTunes for publication. The process can be difficult, so we recommend that you offer the eBook for free and distribute it yourself.
- Students may obtain your book in one of three ways. They can open the eBook on an iPad if you email the eBook to them. They can download it from iTunes if you have placed the eBook in iTunes. Or they can download it from a webpage—but only if they are using an iPad for the downloading process.
- The iBooks Author application incorporates multimedia but is not meant for creating multimedia. In general, multimedia such as images, video, animations, and 3D graphics must be created outside of iBooks Author and imported into iBooks Author when you assemble the document. You can use iBooks Author to add labels to identify parts of a graphic and you may include graphics created elsewhere as part of a quiz that you create within iBooks Author.
- Formative quizzes can be used to engage learners and to help them assess their progress; however, scores do not export to other applications such as D2L.
- The templates that Apple provides are designed to accommodate large documents and must be modified when producing smaller documents that do not include chapters and sections. OIA has such a template that will be supplied to you upon request to bcameron@email.arizona.edu.
- The eBooks are designed to work best in landscape mode. Additional steps are needed to display images in a portrait orientation. The process can be tricky.

Resources for creating an iBook

Free iBook "Publishing with iBooks Author" O'Reilly (also available as a pdf for free)

Open Source materials you can use:

Images: http://search.creativecommons.org/ (Google images is the best source)

Links to a lot of open resources:

http://oia.arizona.edu/ Click on **>Resources** and then on **>Open Educational Resources**

Bookry, interactive widgets

http://www.bookry.com/author/widget/library/

Copyright:

Copyright questions Dan Lee, Main Library leed@email.arizona.edu

ABOR Intellectual Property Policy

http://policy.arizona.edu/sites/default/files/Intellectual-Property-Policy.pdf

Fair Use checklist from the Library

http://www.library.arizona.edu/services/faculty/scholcom/fairuse/

Digital Copyright Slider Timeline

http://librarycopyright.net/resources/digitalslider/

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