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BOOKGLUTTON.COM RELAUNCHES ENHANCED BOOK CLUBS

JANUARY 30, 2009 - BookGlutton.com has re-released its social reading platform for book clubs and writers with an eye toward "private sharing." The crux of BookGlutton's business, the ability to chat inside books and share annotations now has a new, more personalized meaning. Starting this week, work uploaded to the site by the community does not appear publicly, yet people can still share it with friends.

"Users can upload a number of formats, including HTML and Non-DRMed EPUB," says CTO Aaron Miller. "It's also possible to import content from any URL, so that you can read and discuss it together. BookGlutton wants to be as open and standards-based as possible, and integrating with the wider Web is part of that."

Before today, users who uploaded work had it appear in BookGlutton's public, searchable catalog. "Writers and teachers were some of the first to request private sharing," says Travis Alber, one of BookGlutton's founders. "With this new release they can create groups around private information, chat about it, annotate it and ultimately create a community around the work. It's great for writers who want to get feedback on a draft of their work, early-release readers that want to evaluate a text, editors working on a manuscript with their author, or students who want to create web mashups for their class."

BookGlutton currently has a number of public domain and creative commons works in its public catalog, and has plans for contemporary content. "Anything we wind up selling through the site will only be shareable with others who have purchased the work," Alber says.

About BookGlutton

Launched in January 2008, BookGlutton is a cross between a book, a computer and a book group -- a web-based reading platform that lets users discuss books from the inside. It allows people around the world to connect and chat about books inside the books themselves. The Unbound Reader is built entirely on open web standards, is free to use, and allows both shared comments and real-time chatting on a chapter-by-chapter basis. BookGlutton's upload feature allows writers

to share their own work. <http://www.bookglutton.com>

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