



STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

HOW TO CONVERT A KOBO BOOK TO A PDF

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Detailed Instructions

I've created several special AI agents (custom GPTs) that are trained on specific books. In fact, whenever I create a new custom ChatGPT, I like to upload PDFs of relevant books.

For example, I created a “Medical Research Assistant.” I uploaded books from several functional doctors I follow—about seven in all. It dramatically improves results, because it gives ChatGPT access to content it otherwise wouldn't have.

I used to do this by buying the book on Amazon, downloading it to my local computer, and then converting it to a PDF using Calibre. However, Amazon recently removed the ability to download books you've purchased, which made it impossible to create a PDF of the book. I've been searching for a solution ever since.

I'm happy to report I've found one. You can purchase and download digital copies of books from [Kobo.com](https://www.kobo.com), Kindle's biggest competitor. The only downside is that you won't be able to read your Kindle books on Kobo.com. The good news is that they have dedicated apps for reading your books on [desktop](#) (Windows and Mac), [iOS](#) and [Android](#) devices

Here's my process for converting Kobo books to PDFs.¹ I suggest you do this on a desktop computer or a laptop. It will be much easier than mobile. Also, this will take a little longer the first time you do it, but it gets easy once you get the hang of it.

Here's my step-by-step process:

Step 1: Buy the Kobo book.

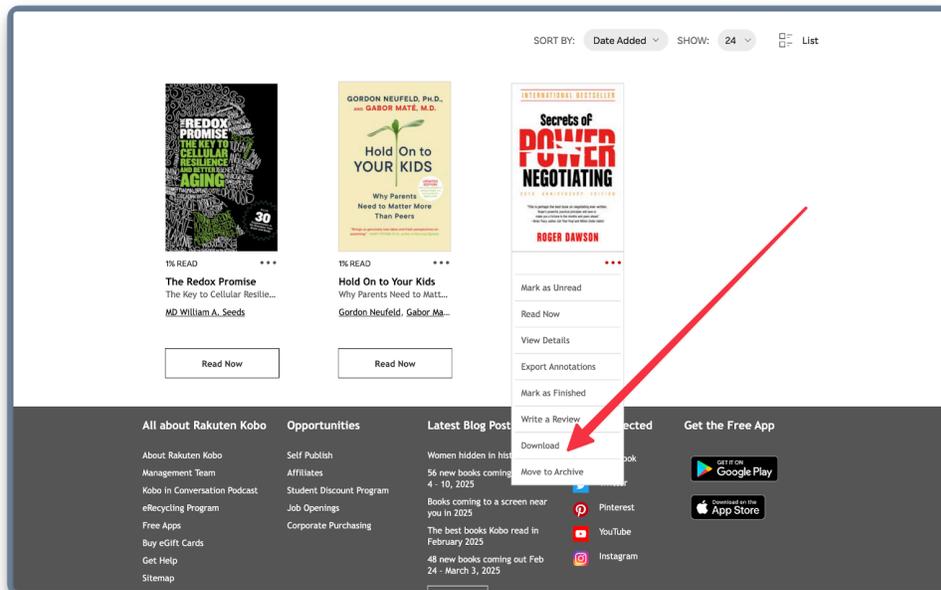
- Go to the [Kobo website](#).
- Create an account if you don't have one.
- Search for the book and buy it.

Step 2: Download the Kobo book link to your hard drive.

- Go to your [Kobo library](#). Make sure you're logged in. Note: it's easier if you do this on the Kobo website rather than within the desktop app.
- Locate the book you want to download. Click on the three dots under the book and select **Download**, then **Download file**.
- Save the `URLLink.acsm` file on your hard drive. If your browser automatically downloads the file, you may need to check your browser's download settings to know where it was saved.

¹ Note: In respect for the author's intellectual property, make sure you have your settings right in ChatGPT. Specially, go to **Settings | Data controls** and turn it off, so ChatGPT doesn't use the author's content to train its model on it. Also, don't share the PDF with anyone else or, if you do, insist they buy the Kobo book so they have the legal right to use it.

Otherwise, select a folder and remember where you saved it.



Step 3: Download and install Calibre

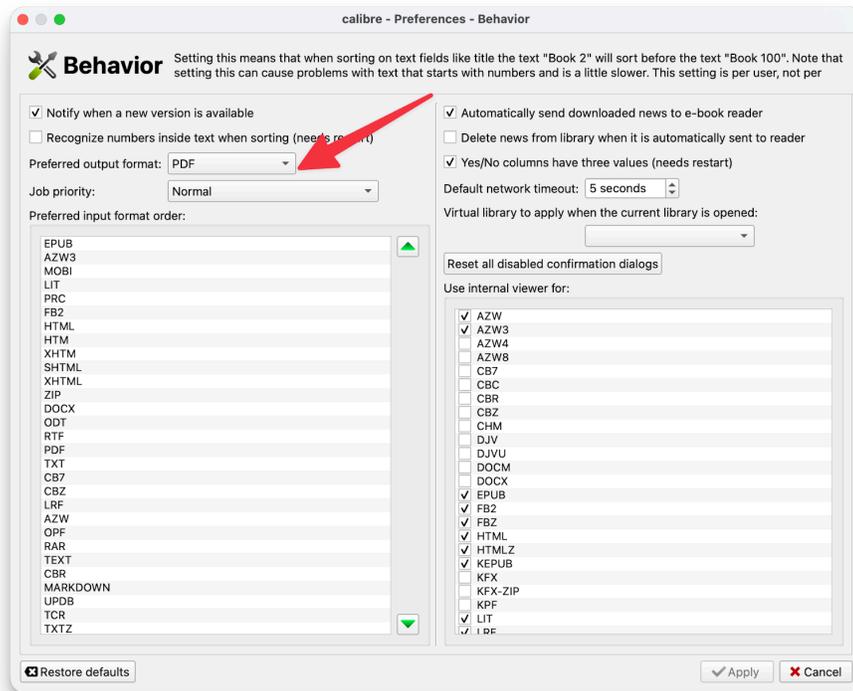
- [Download the Calibre app](#). It's free and is used to manage ebooks.
- Install the app and open it. We'll come back to this in Step 6.

Step 4. Install the Calibre DRM Removal plugin and configure Calibre.

- Install the Calibre DRM Removal Plugin by following the [instructions here](#).

Note: You might get an error message when you first try to install the plugin. Try again. It worked for me on my second attempt. It's worth the effort to get this working because you'll never have to think about DRM again. You just open the Kobo file (.ePub file) in Calibre and the DRM is automatically stripped from the file.

- Set your Calibre Preferences so that "PDF" is your default conversion output.
 - In Calibre select **Preferences > Interface > Behavior**.
 - Now set **Preferred output format** to PDF.



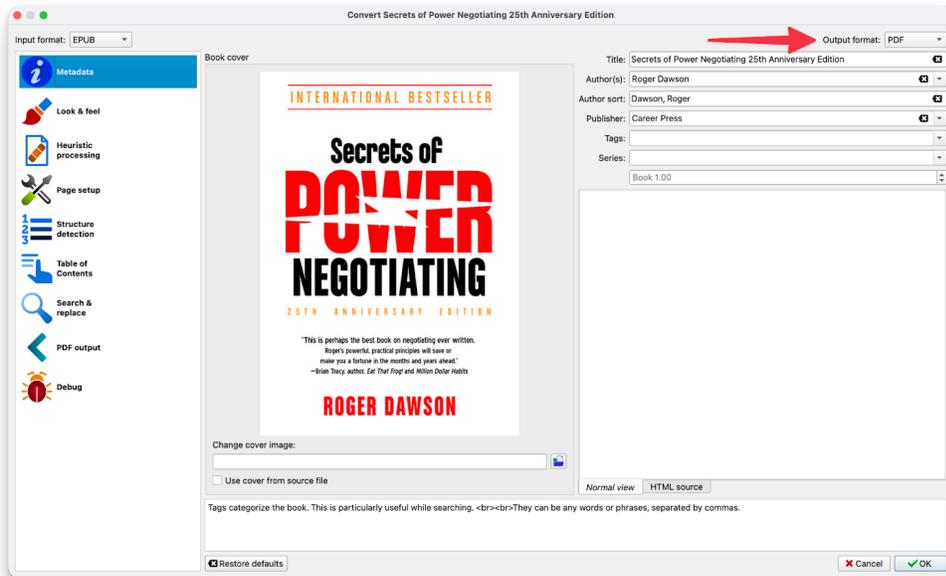
- Click on **Apply**.

Step 5: Download Adobe Digital Editions

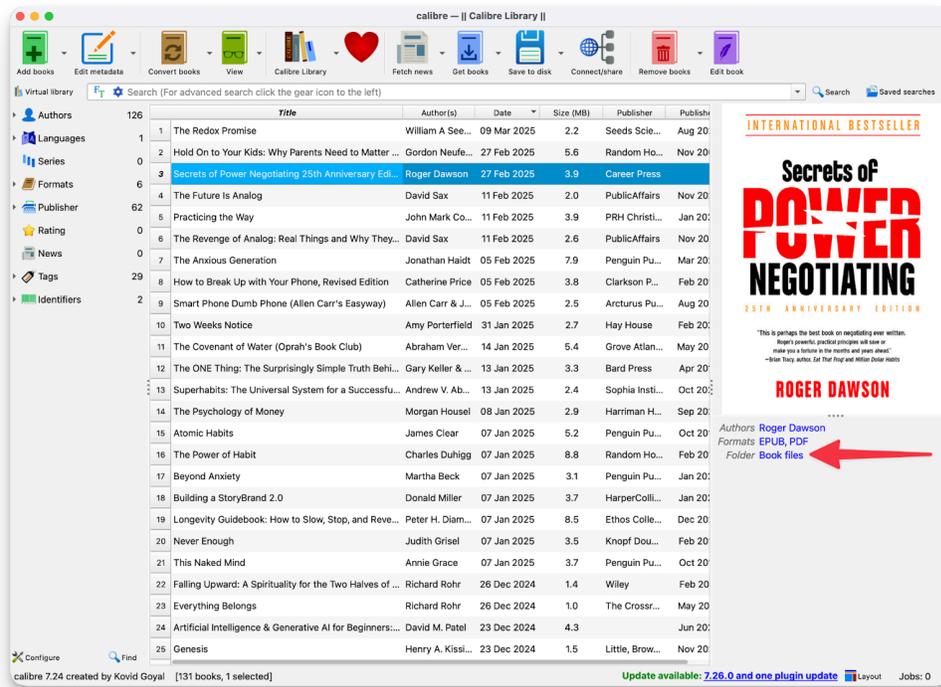
- The `URLLink.acsm` file you downloaded in Step 2, isn't actually the book you purchased; it's a link to the book. You will need to download [Adobe Digital Editions](#) to download the actual book.
- Once you've done that, double-click on the `URLLink.acsm` file. It should open in the Adobe Digital Editions app.
- If it opens to the Reader View, click on the upper left-hand corner of the app to go to your **Library View**.
- Right-click the book and select **Show in Finder** (Mac) or **Show File Location** (Windows). That should take you to the `.epub` file of the book on your hard drive.
- Double click on the `.epub` file. It should immediately open in Calibre. If everything goes according to plan, Calibre has removed digital rights management from the book.

Step 6. Convert the file to a PDF.

- Inside Calibre, make sure you've selected the book you want to convert.
- Click on "Convert books" icon on the toolbar (or simply press "C").
- In the dialog box that opens, make sure the output format is set to **PDF**. Click on **OK**. This will save the PDF to your local drive.



- Go to the file by clicking on the **Book files** link.



- That's it! You're now ready to use your PDF.
- I also suggest you set up a folder and file system, so that you will always be able to go to the same place to upload books to ChatGPT.

Quick Procedure (once you've installed everything)

Follow these steps after you've used the more [Detailed Instructions](#). These steps will not work unless you do that first.

Step 1. Buy the book on [Kobo.com](#).

Step 2. Download the Kobo book link.

- Find the book in your Kobo library.
- Click on the three dots under the book and select **Download**, then **Download file**.

Step 3: Double-click on the `URLLINK.acsm` file. It should open in the Adobe Digital Editions app.

Step 4: Right-click the book and select **Show in Finder** (Mac) or **Show File Location** (Windows). That should take you to the **.ePub** file of the book on your hard drive.

Step 5: Double-click on the **.ePub** file. It should open in Calibre.

Step 6: Press "C" in Calibre to convert the file to a PDF