

The StoryCode Bookseller (XML) Service

Welcome to the StoryCode XML service, a programme which gives you access to the power of StoryCode's manuscript comparison engine and our huge database of encoded stories.

This document aims to provide a step-by-step guide to accessing the service to give you all the information you need to embed StoryCode data within your own site or application and harness the power of StoryCode.

Signing Up

Make sure you have a valid StoryCode BookSeller account. If you haven't already signed up go [here](#) and sign up now, it only takes a couple of minutes. Once you've signed up, you'll receive an email containing your unique usertoken – make a note of it as you'll need it in the steps to come.

Testing your usertoken

Use the test URL below, inserting your usertoken at the point indicated to test to make sure everything is working correctly.

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="iso-8859-1" ?>
- <root>
- <itemInfo>
  <asin>0552151769</asin>
  <id>19448649</id>
  <codeid>204</codeid>
  <comparisoncodeid>205</comparisoncodeid>
  <pcentmatch>83.4885</pcentmatch>
  <avgRec>4</avgRec>
  <avgRead>1</avgRead>
  <agenum>13</agenum>
  <author>Dan Brown</author>
  <name>Deception Point</name>
</itemInfo>
- <itemInfo>
  <asin>0552149519</asin>
  <id>19448650</id>
  <codeid>204</codeid>
  <comparisoncodeid>201</comparisoncodeid>
  <pcentmatch>80.5354</pcentmatch>
  <avgRec>4</avgRec>
  <avgRead>2</avgRead>
  <agenum>15</agenum>
  <author>Dan Brown</author>
  <name>Da Vinci Code, The</name>
</itemInfo>
- <itemInfo>
  <asin>0552150738</asin>
  <id>19448651</id>
```

URL:

<http://www.storycode.com/scxmlservice.php?usertoken=<insert your usertoken here>&isbn=0552151696&locale=us>

If everything is OK, you'll see a list of information appear onscreen similar to that in the illustration on the left.

Users of Microsoft's Internet Explorer will see the data arranged in a logical pattern, some other browsers will just display the data in a seemingly jumbled form, this is normal and don't worry if you don't understand it at this stage!

A brief explanation of the data

Each result returned from the database is wrapped in <iteminfo></iteminfo> tags, a brief description of each item of returned data is given below:

Asin: the 10-digit ISBN number of the book

Id: A unique identification number applied to each book by the StoryCode system

CodeId: A catalogue number, used exclusively by the StoryCode system to identify the story which is the basis of the search (in the above example codeid 204 is Digital Fortress by Dan Brown).

Comparisoncodeid: The CodeId of the story which has been matched by the StoryCode BookSeller XML Service

Pcentmatch: The percentage match of the story identified by comparisoncodeid to the story identified by codeid

AvgRec: An average of the Reader Ratings for this story expressed on a scale of one to five where one is the lowest and five is the highest. This rating is produced solely from user-submitted data and is in no way influenced by StoryCode.

AvgRead: An average of the readability rating for this story expressed on a scale of one to five where one is the lowest and five is the highest. This rating is produced solely from user-submitted data and is in no way influenced by StoryCode.

Ageum: This value gives a minimum suitability age rating for the title it is attached to, based on the opinions of site users. Values will be one of; 5, 7, 10, 13, 15, 18

Author: The name of the book's author

Name: The name of the book, note, it is StoryCode style that if a book starts with the word The, it is appended to the end of the title i.e. ABCs of Love, The

How to call the data from the StoryCode server

The BookSeller XML Service currently uses REST over HTTP to allow user access to the data. This means you must send a fully formed URL to StoryCode which will be interpreted by our software and will return your data.

The format for a typical call is:

<http://www.storycode.com/scxmlservice.php?usertoken=9999999999&isbn=0552151696&numresults=10&locale=us>



A breakdown of the URL string

`http://www.storycode.com/scxmlservice.php` - the core URL, you must have this in order to access our server.

`?usertoken=9999999999` - your usertoken MUST go here, it replaces the string of 9's and is 10 digits in length - this is a **required field**

`&isbn=<ISBN HERE>` - takes a standard 10-digit ISBN number without any formatting (this will be updated to accept 13 digit ISBNs before the official switch over in early 2007) - this is a **required field**

`&numresults-<number here>` - takes a number between 1 and 20. This parameter determines how many results will be sent back. If it is omitted the system defaults to 10 results.

`&locale=UK` - this is a **required field** and can currently take the values UK or US (if you wish to search our American catalogue). Please remember US ISBNs can be different from their UK counterparts, if you are UK-based we strongly suggest you stick to using our UK database.

A quick example of use

Using PHP5, it is possible to access the feed and display the results in just a few lines of code here's a quick example which prints out a simple list of the titles matching "A Canticle for Leibowitz by Walter M. Miller. It requests UK-based data and returns 12 results :

```
<?php
    $stuff = simpleXML_load_file("http://www.storycode.co.uk/scxmlservice.php?
        devtoken=1234567890&usertoken=1234567890&locale=uk&isbn=185
        7230140
        &numresults=12");
    foreach($stuff as $story) {
        print $story->name." (".$story->author.") - ".
            sprintf("%01.2f%%", $story->pcentmatch)."<br>";
    }
?>
```

At the time of writing, the StoryCode technical team are working on producing more samples of how the service works and are at work on a SOAP based model which is expected to be in service by summer 2006.

If you have questions

Please feel free to email the Tech Team at techies@storycode.com

