

Shelfari

What is needed for this class?

Basic Internet and mouse skills. Also requires an active email account.

What is Shelfari?

- Shelfari is a website that allows you to keep track of your book lists. This can include the books that you are reading, as well as books that you would like to read. Tag the books to find and share them easier.
- Running out of ideas for books or authors to read? Check out other book shelves that are similar to yours. Chances are you'll get a few new ideas.
- Shelfari is useful for lots of different purposes. Book clubs can use it to keep track of what they have read, or use it to post options for future reading. It can be used to keep track of all the books by an author that you have read, as well as inform your friends of what you are currently reading.
- Best of all, Shelfari is free (although it is affiliated with Amazon) and very easy to use.

How do I get started?

- Open up your favorite web browser and go to www.shelfari.com.
- The page you see has a sign in box next to the Shelfari logo. Here is where you will sign in once you create your account. Under the logo, there are two boxes. The top blue box is labeled "Join Now!" This is where you will click to start creating your account. You may use the green box labeled "Explore Shelfari" below it if you would like to explore additional Shelfari features.
- Click the blue box. The next page contains a form that you will fill out to start your Shelfari account.
- Type your first and last name, your email, and a password of your choosing. You will be asked to type the password a second time for verification. Click the box under the password blanks to agree to the Shelfari terms of service and privacy policy.
- Depending on the email that you provided, the next page will ask you if you would like to sign into your email so that you might find friends on Shelfari who are already in your address book. Underneath this box is a small option that says "Skip making friends for now." Click on it.
- Your account has been created. Take a moment to open a new browser window and check your email. There will be a confirmation link. Click on it to verify your email, and you're all set. A new window will open with your Shelfari account. Close this window as well as your email, and return to the original Shelfari page. Click the refresh button on the browser.

How do I add books to my shelf?

- Now that your account is set up, the next step will be to add some books to the new shelf.

- Start by clicking the arrow next to “My Shelf.” This is the third tab to the right of the Shelfari logo. Select “Build My Shelf.”
- Click inside the appropriate search box provided and type the book that you would like to add. Usually you can start out with just the title, for example, *You’ve Been Warned*. If the book is a bit more obscure you can add the last name of the author in the author box. Punctuation and capitalization do not matter. You can also just search by the author name or series title, if you would like to add more than one title by the person. If the information is handy, you can search by ISBN. The page that appears will show some options of books that might fit the criteria you provided. Click on the blue “Add to Shelf” button next to the book you would like to add to the shelf. After a moment, the blue box will turn green, and will now say “On Your Shelf.”
- Maybe you’d like to add the next book on the list too. Just click on that blue button as well. It will change to green, indicating that the item is now on your shelf. In this way, you can add a large number of books to your shelf quickly.
- Add two or three books to your shelf. Don’t worry, you can come back and add as many more as you would like.

What can I do with my books now that they’re on my shelf?

- There are lots of different things you can do with books that are on your shelf. To see your shelf, just click on “My Shelf” which is the third tab to the right of the Shelfari logo.
- You can work with books while on the main page. Move your mouse over the first book on your shelf. A white box will appear. This will allow you to add a review, tag, rank, find out more, buy from Amazon, see reviews, and change the shelf that the title appears on.
- To add a review, click on the blue link that says “Write a review.” This will direct you to a page where you can type in notes about the book, or a typical review. Click “Save Your Review.” Your review will appear below your comment box, with the comments of others listed below. If you’ve added notes, you can elect to hide them from others. This way they will only be visible to you.
- Click on the “My Shelf” tab again. Mouse over the book again until the white box appears. Click on the blue link that says “Add a Tag.” The page that appears will allow you to add words that will help you to catalog and remember your books later. Shelfari provides some examples to get you started. Click “Save Your Tags.”
- Return to your shelf by clicking the “My Shelf” tab. Rank the book by using your mouse to select the appropriate number of stars.
- The “Learn More” option in the white popup box (located under your tags) brings up a page with bibliographic information and user reviews. The “Buy From Amazon” box next to this takes you to the Amazon marketplace page. Sometimes this page can be helpful for finding additional reviews.
- Under these two boxes, you can find a link to the Shelfari users that have the title on their shelves. There is also a link to read reviews.
- Many people have two shelves. One is dedicated to books they’ve already read, and the other is a wish list. To create your wish list, just use the carrot inside the

“On Your Shelf” box to select “Wish List.” Unselect the main list and the book will be moved.

What else can I do?

- You can be a part of a group or add a friend on Shelfari. These friends can be people you already know or other users who have interesting book shelves. Looking at these shelves can be a great way to find new titles and authors.
- To look for people, click on the carrot next to the “Friends” tab. From the drop down menu, select “People Search.” Here you can explore friends or invite some of your real world friends. If you are looking to find new titles or authors, this is a great place to do it. All you need to do is click on the user icon to reach the user homepage. A link to their shelf will be located next to the name of the person you selected. You will also be able to see some of their friends. On the far right side, click the blue link to send a friendship request. A red updating box will appear, then the blue link will turn green, indicating that your request is pending.
- Want to find people with books in common with you? Open the white box on your main page for a book that you especially liked. Click on the members link, located under the “Buy From Amazon” link. This list of people will appear along with their reviews. Just click the username to get to their homepage.
- If you have questions about how Shelfari works, you can either ask your new friends or use some of the links listed on the bottom of each page. The most helpful tends to be “FAQ” or “Frequently Asked Questions.”
- The staff at the Barrington Area Library is always happy to help. Call us at (847) 382-1300 or email us at adultref@barringtonarealibrary.org and we can help answer any further questions you may have.