



Big Book API

The only Book API you'll ever need.

Semantically search, filter, sort, and recommend across millions of books — through one clean, well-documented REST API.

Semantic search

Recommendations

Rich metadata

21 SDKs

REST · JSON

4M+

ENGLISH BOOKS

70+

GENRES

21

SDK LANGUAGES

99.9%

UPTIME

Big Book API gives product and engineering teams instant access to a rich, semantically-indexed catalog of millions of books. Where ordinary search returns only literal matches, Big Book API understands **meaning** — so a search for *"books about dogs"* also surfaces border collies, and *"paranormal"* knows it covers werewolves, ghosts, and shapeshifters. Combine that with similar-title and interest-based recommendations, complete metadata (covers, ISBNs, ratings, authors, descriptions), and open-source SDKs in 21 languages, and a team can ship book search, discovery, and recommendations in **days — not quarters**.



Understands meaning

A proprietary ontology expands every query — synonyms, hypernyms, and homonyms resolved automatically. No keyword gymnastics.



Complete, usable data

Covers, ISBN-10/13, authors, ratings, page counts, and descriptions returned ready to render — no stitching sources together.



Integrates fast

21 open-source SDKs, an OpenAPI 3 spec, a Postman collection, and a free tier to start building in minutes.

Everything you need to work with books, in one API



Search millions of books

- Query by title, author, ISBN, or free text
- Filter & sort by rating and publish date
- Narrow results across 70+ genres
- Resolve authors precisely by name



Semantic understanding

- Natural-language queries, parsed by intent
- Automatic synonym, hypernym & homonym handling
- Backed by a large, hand-built ontology
- Matches concepts — not just spelling



Smart recommendations

- Find books similar to any title
- Recommend by reader interests
- Power "find your next read" discovery
- Drive engagement and cross-sell

Core endpoints

ENDPOINT	WHAT IT DOES
<code>GET /search-books</code>	Semantic search + filter by query, genre, rating, author, ISBN
<code>GET /{id}</code>	Full record — IDs, authors, description, rating, page count
<code>GET /{id}/similar</code>	Books similar to a given title
<code>GET /search-authors</code>	Resolve authors by name for filtering

Metadata returned

Title & subtitle

Cover image

ISBN-10 / ISBN-13

Open Library ID

Authors

Publish date

Page count

Description

Average rating

A real request, in seconds

```
search-books

# semantic search, filtered & sorted
GET /search-books?query=space+opera
    &genres=science-fiction&sort=rating

{
  "books": [
    {
      "id": 12609,
      "title": "Dune",
      "image": "https://.../dune.jpg",
      "authors": [
        { "id": 441,
          "name": "Frank Herbert" }
      ],
      "rating": 4.25
    }
  ]
}
```

Illustrative response. Need ISBNs, the full description, or page count? Follow up with `GET /{id}` for the complete record.

WHAT MAKES IT DIFFERENT

Search that understands meaning — and drops into any stack

• The semantic ontology — our core advantage

Most book APIs match strings. Big Book API matches **concepts**. Every query is parsed against a large, hand-built ontology that automatically resolves synonyms, hypernyms, and homonyms — so you get the books a reader actually meant, with no query engineering on your side.

QUERY "books about dogs" → also finds

Border Collies

Labradors

Puppies

Working Dogs

QUERY "paranormal" → expands to

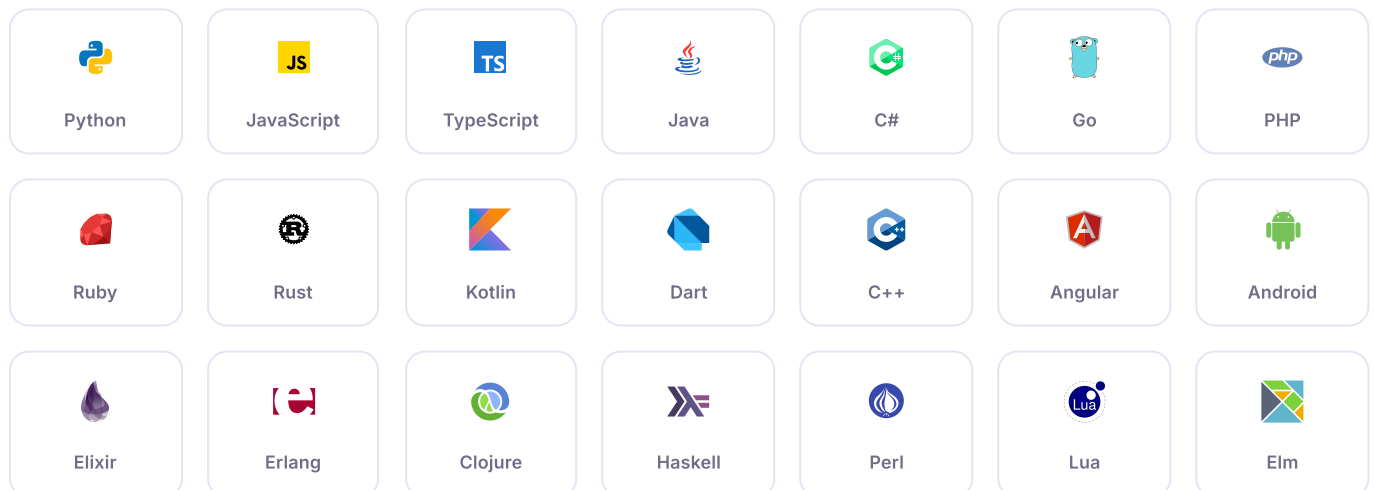
Aliens

Werewolves

Ghosts

Shapeshifters

• Drop it into any stack



Open-source SDKs
Every client is open source on GitHub — fork, audit, and extend freely.

Postman collection
Fork the collection and make your first call without writing any code.

OpenAPI 3 spec
Generate a client for any other language straight from the spec.

Direct, RapidAPI & APILayer
Consume it directly or through the marketplace you already use.

USE CASES

Where teams put Big Book API to work

The scenarios below are illustrative examples of how teams combine the endpoints — a blueprint for what you could build.

EXAMPLE SCENARIO

Reading & discovery apps

"Our reading app needs to help users find their next favorite book and keep them coming back."

Power a natural-language search box, then build "because you liked..." shelves with `/id/similar` and interest-based recommendations — no in-house NLP required.

➤ **Higher engagement** and longer sessions, shipped in days.

EXAMPLE SCENARIO

Bookstores & catalog enrichment

"Our product pages are thin and our cross-sell is weak. Manual data entry can't keep up."

Enrich every listing with covers, descriptions, ISBNs, and ratings from `GET /id`, and add "similar titles" rows with `/id/similar`.

➤ **Richer catalog & more cross-sell** with far less manual work.

EXAMPLE SCENARIO

AI assistants & LLM apps

"We're building a chatbot that recommends books — but it keeps inventing titles that don't exist."

Expose `/search-books` as a tool. The assistant turns vague asks like "something spooky but funny" into semantic queries and returns **real, in-catalog** books with metadata.

➤ **Grounded, hallucination-free** recommendations for RAG & agents.

EXAMPLE SCENARIO

Libraries, education & publishing

"We need subject-based discovery for learners — and comparable-title research for acquisitions."

Use genre + semantic search for curated reading lists and curriculum matching; use `/id/similar` for **comp-title analysis** across millions of records.

➤ **Faster curation & market research**, grounded in real data.

One API for search, discovery & recommendations
—
so your team ships features, not infrastructure.

Start free →

Fair, transparent pricing that scales with you

Free \$0/mo 50 requests/day 1 request/sec - Forum support - Non-commercial use - Attribution backlink	Magazine \$6/mo 500/day · then \$0.04 2 requests/sec - Forum support - Commercial use - No backlink required	Book \$29/mo 5,000/day · then \$0.02 10 requests/sec - Email support - Commercial use - No backlink required	Tome \$99/mo 50,000/day · then \$0.005 20 requests/sec - Phone support - Commercial use - Lowest overage rate
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99.9% Uptime
Monitored on a public status page

4M+ Books indexed
Growing English-language catalog

1% for the climate
A share of revenue funds climate action

Get started in three steps

- 1 Grab a free API key**

Sign up and create a key in your console — no card required to start.
- 2 Install an SDK**

Pick one of 21 languages, or import the Postman collection / OpenAPI spec.
- 3 Make your first call**

Hit `GET /search-books` with a query — you're live and returning books.

Talk to us

- bigbookapi.com/docs
- mail@bigbookapi.com
- [Discord community](#)
- status.bigbookapi.com

Part of the skycraft family of developer APIs — alongside World News API, spoonacular, and more.