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Thank you for downloading BookScanning.com's Free Public Domain Search Guide! This e-book will show you where to find public domain content that you can revise, repackage and resell – and keep 100% of the profits you make!

This e-book is free and you are welcome to distribute it or give it away “as is”. You are **not** permitted to edit, sell or change any part of this guide.

## ***What's All This Hype about Public Domain and Niche Marketing, Anyway?***

If you have yet to learn all the benefits of repackaging and republishing public domain works as your own e-books or info products, there's no better way to learn than through **Yanik Silver's Public Domain Riches Course**. If you've read it, and want even **more** public domain tips, or you'd rather someone walk you through the whole process, there's an **8 Week Public Domain Home Study Course** offered as well. This is **exactly the same material we used when we got started!** So it has our 100% absolute recommendation as the **best possible starting point** for anyone looking to “cash in” on profitable niche markets that are already bustling online!

## ***Where to Find Public Domain Information***

There are three main places to find public domain works:

**Alibris** – ([www.alibris.com](http://www.alibris.com)) - One of the best places to find rare, vintage, and out-of-print books, including those in the public domain. **One thing to watch for**, however: books that appear to be in the public domain may actually **not** be! We'll show you an easy way to find them though, so you can be certain that your book is indeed a public domain work that you can profit from.

**Project Gutenberg** – ([www.gutenberg.net](http://www.gutenberg.net)) - Project Gutenberg is a large repository of e-books of all kinds, including public domain content. At first glance, Project Gutenberg can appear overwhelming, however, this guide will show you exactly how to dig through the clutter and **find the real gems** in the public domain goldmine. And we're not talking about things like “Mother Goose” or “Hamlet” – but real, profitable public domain information.

**eBay** – ([www.ebay.com](http://www.ebay.com)) – You can often find public domain books on eBay if you know what to look for. We'll show you how to **snap up some good buys** and what to keep in mind as you're browsing the virtual bookshelves.

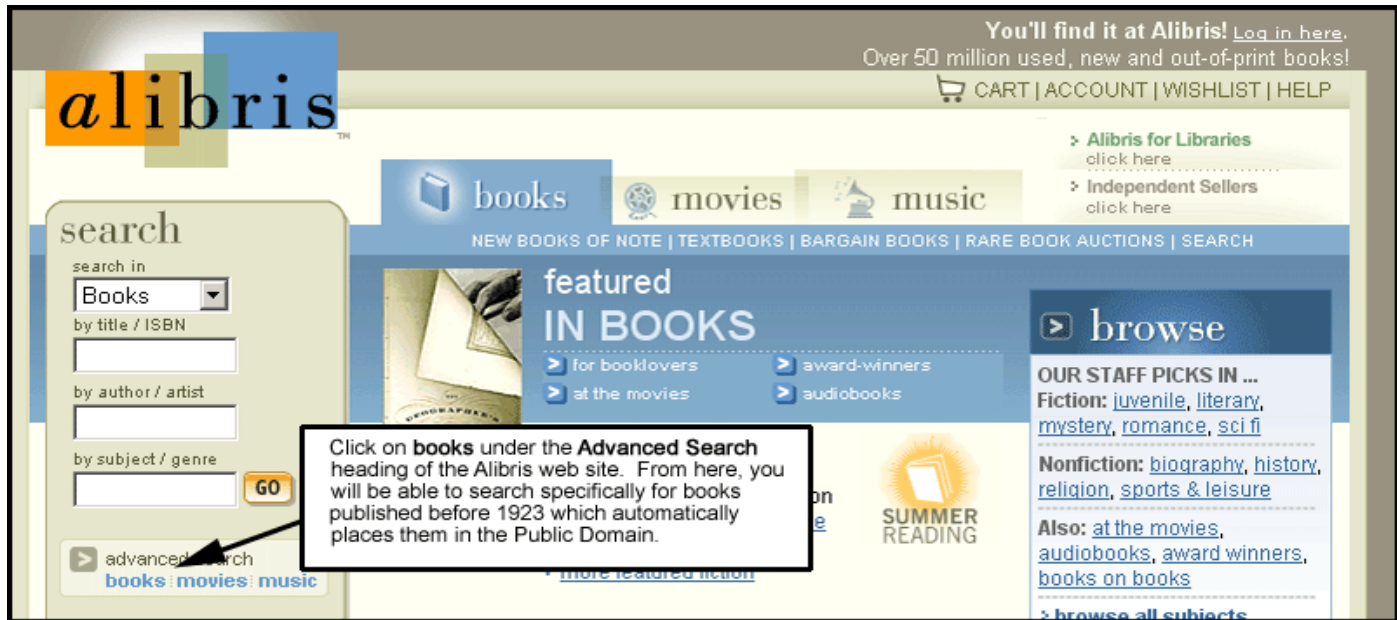
## ***Is it Really Public Domain?***

One surefire way to find out if a work is in the public domain is to check for copyright renewal. Many books published up into the 1960's did not have their copyrights renewed, which makes them fair game in the public domain hunt as well. The Library of Congress' copyright site makes it easier than ever to check for these renewals, giving you **instant notice** when a copyright has expired and letting you know ahead of time if it has been renewed. The good news is, we've included **step-by-step instructions** on how to search for copyright renewals as well!

## ***Let's Get Started!***

The first site we're going to search is **Alibris** ([www.alibris.com](http://www.alibris.com)). When the page first opens, you'll see a large search area on your left.

In order to search for public domain books, you'll need to click the **Advanced Search** option. Doing this allows you to specify important information such as the publication date, the subject you're looking for, and whether or not you want results in fiction, non-fiction, or both. You can also search by price range if you wish. **Many good public domain books can be had for pennies on the dollar!**



After clicking on the Books link, you'll be taken to the following page:

**Please fill in one or more fields below:**

Search in:

Title:

Author:

Subject:  ← Type the subject you're searching for. In this example, we chose "cooking". Other good choices include broad, general terms like gardening, golf, building and so on.

Keyword:

Publisher:

**You may narrow your search by:**

Binding:

Added Within:

Price Range: from US\$  to US\$

Publication Year: after  before  ← Type in the publication date 1923 to find books that are definitely Public Domain works.

**Sort results by:**

First edition

Signed

With dustjacket

Fiction

Nonfiction ← Check the Nonfiction box if you only want those types of works. It may take a few minutes for the server to show results.

Save on shipping  
 Search only for books eligible for free shipping

Type your subject in the subject field, type "1923" for the publication date and click whether you want the results to be fiction or non-fiction. For the purpose of this example, we chose nonfiction, as that is where most marketable public domain materials can be found.

We chose "cooking" as our sample keyword. Broad, general terms will often produce better results than specific words. Also, remember that we're going back in time here, so searching for words like "computer" or "Internet" won't do you any good! 😊

The results page will look something like this:

1. **Coffee Cookery** [more books like this](#)  
by Dyer, Ceil [other copies of this book](#)

**Binding:** Paperback **Publisher:** H.P. Books, **Date Published:** 178 **ISBN:** 0895860090 **Description:** Very Good. [read more](#)

**condition:** **Book:** ●●●●○

**seller information:** **Name:** Alibris [Eligible for free shipping](#) **Reliability:** ●●●●○

**add to cart**  
price: **\$2.45**

**Books which have an ISBN Number are NOT Public Domain - no matter what the publication date!** Notice how this book appeared in the search results even though you specified "before 1923" as the publication date. This is almost always an error on the vendor's part. **Be careful!**

2. **A Book of Salads: the Art of Salad Dressing** [more books like this](#)  
by Suzanne, Alfred, And Senn, Charles Herman, And [other copies of this book](#)

**Edition:** 6th **Binding:** Hardcover **Publisher:** Ward, Lock, London **Date Published:** 1922 **Description:** Good, weak hinge. [read more](#)

**condition:** **Book:** ●●●●○

**seller information:** **Name:** Alibris [Eligible for free shipping](#) **Reliability:** ●●●●○

**add to cart**  
price: **\$14.45**

Notice how this book does **not** have an ISBN number. Publication date shows 1922, so it's a safe bet that this book is in the public domain. Many of these books are vintage antiques in their own right, which is why at BookScanning.com, we take great care in handling and scanning your books. and never tear up the pages or binding.


Notice how the first book has an ISBN (International Standard Book Number) and the second one doesn't. **Books which have an ISBN number are generally NOT public domain, unless their copyright was not renewed (more on that below).** The second book shows the date published as 1922 and there's no ISBN number. That means it's a safe bet that this book is in the public domain.

## Finding Public Domain Material on Project Gutenberg

If you find a book you're interested in, but aren't sure if the copyright is still in effect, you'll learn how to check it near the end of this manual. Next, we'll be looking at [Project Gutenberg](#) and how to find public domain works among this very **LARGE** storehouse of online books.

One of the great things about using Project Gutenberg to do your public domain search is that you can actually preview pages of the book before you decide to download it. You can also narrow down your search to very targeted niches.

Go to Project Gutenberg by opening your browser and typing [www.gutenberg.net](http://www.gutenberg.net) in the address bar. You'll see the page below.




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Type the subject you'd like to find content on. **To find out if you can freely use the material you find, check the usage statement at the beginning of each file.**

### Online Book Catalog - Overview

When the **Online Book Catalog** page opens, you'll be able to search by title. Type in the subject you are interested in finding public domain works on. We'll continue with our "cooking" example:

### Search on Titles > Results

[New Search](#)

You selected:

- Title = cooking

3 headings found. Note: a book may be listed under more than one heading.

This is the results page. To see whether or not a work is copyrighted, click the title.  
Often, broad keyword searches will give you great ideas for possible niche markets to target, such as the work below on different ways to cook eggs. Ideal for a niche recipe site!

Etext-No.	Author	Title	Language
15360	<a href="#">Campbell, Helen Stuart (1839-1918)</a>	<a href="#">The Easiest Way in Housekeeping and Cooking Adapted to Domestic Use or Study in Classes</a>	English
6912	<a href="#">Greer, Carlotta Cherryholmes</a>	<a href="#">School and Home Cooking</a>	English
6429	<a href="#">Rorer, S. T. (Sarah Tyson Heston) (1849-1937)</a>	<a href="#">Many Ways for Cooking Eggs</a>	English

From our search, we found three results. To continue with our example, we decided to take a closer look at “Many Ways for Cooking Eggs”, since this is a very targeted niche area. It would be an ideal addition to a recipe site or a niche cookbook specializing in appetizers.

You can see whether or not a book in Project Gutenberg is copyrighted by clicking on its title.

## Many Ways for Cooking Eggs by S. T. Rorer

[New Search](#) — [Help on this page](#)

**Data**

<b>Creator</b>	<a href="#">Rorer, S. T. (Sarah Tyson Heston) (1849-1937)</a>
<b>Title</b>	Many Ways for Cooking Eggs
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>LoC Class</b>	<a href="#">TX: Technology: Home economics</a>
<b>Subject</b>	<a href="#">Cookery (Eggs)</a>
<b>EText-No.</b>	6429
<b>Release Date</b>	2004-09-01
<b>Copyrighted</b>	No

[Read this eBook online](#)

Clicking the subject provides more ebooks on that topic, and is a great starting point for finding specific niches to market to.

In order to be able to freely add to and edit the book, it must not be copyrighted.

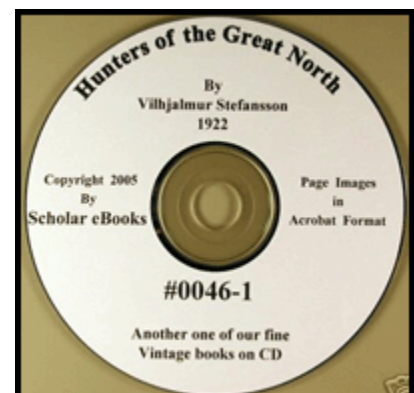
You can read over various pages of the book before you decide to download it.

Clicking the title of the book brings up this page. The **Subject** area opens up a whole new path to finding targeted niches. It’s a great starting point to see how many public domain works are available in a specific area. From this page, you can also see that the book is not copyrighted, so you are free to add to, revise and change the book as you see fit. You can also read over several pages of the book by clicking the “Read this eBook online” link.

### Finding Public Domain Material on eBay

You can make a substantial amount of money on eBay by selling public domain e-books on CD. Especially ones that show diagrams or illustrations. Everything from sewing vintage-era dresses and hats, to public domain guides on building farm houses and outbuildings has been sold on eBay month after month. Because public domain books are free to revise and edit as you see fit, **you keep all of the profits you make** and you can easily find interested ready-to-act buyers.

To the right, you can see one of the examples we found during a quick search on eBay for public domain books. If you’re interested in reselling public domain books through eBay, [getting your book professionally scanned](#) is the first step! Unlike this featured example, which contains only images, **your** book on CD can contain your affiliate links, website information or anything else you’d like to include. And because CDs are so inexpensive to produce, you can literally have a residual income selling these vintage books on CD-ROM month after month!



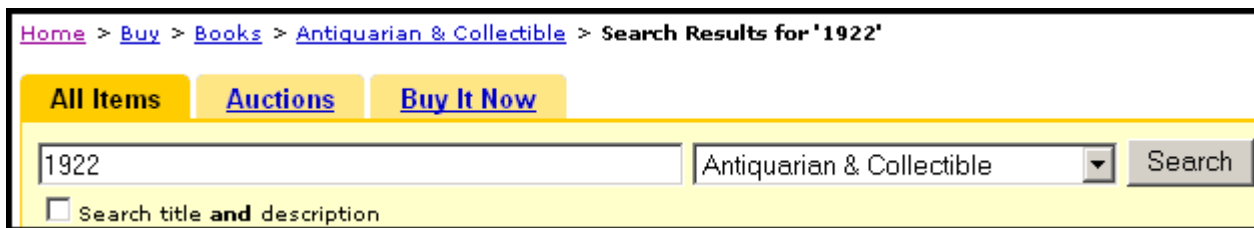
First, you'll want to go to [www.eBay.com](http://www.eBay.com) and click the **Buy** tab at the top of the screen. You'll then see a page that looks something like this:

Click the **Antiquarian & Collectible** link under the **Books** category. The page that you'll see as a result will very likely have some rare, expensive, first-edition and signed antique books, but we're going to refine those results to get to the good stuff.

The best thing about searching for public domain gems online, is that many sellers **have no idea what they're really worth!** So these "diamonds in the rough" can often be had for less than the price of one of today's *modern* books!

So, once you've clicked on the subcategory and are taken to the results page, you can further narrow down your search and specifically find public domain material by typing in a publication year in the search form field. Make sure that the dropdown menu next to it shows **Antiquarian & Collectible** since you'll be searching for books in that category.

In our example below, we searched for 1922. You can use any year before 1923 to find material that is likely in the public domain. It's up to you whether you want to click the "Search title and description" box, but this may yield more results, so it's worth a try!



eBay is a very quick and easy way to get a virtually unlimited supply of public domain material. The thing that you should always keep in mind, however, is **"Will this sell to a particular audience?"** In our results page (below), you'll see that in addition to some interesting, potential niche areas to warrant further research, you'll also see some other assorted books such as fictional stories. While there are many people who enjoy fiction, chances are they aren't going to read them on their computers.

What you'll really want to look for are books that deal with:

- A particular region or its history
- Self-help or How-To Books
- Books on specific diets, recipes or cooking
- Books on specific sports and training or techniques
- Religious or spiritual texts

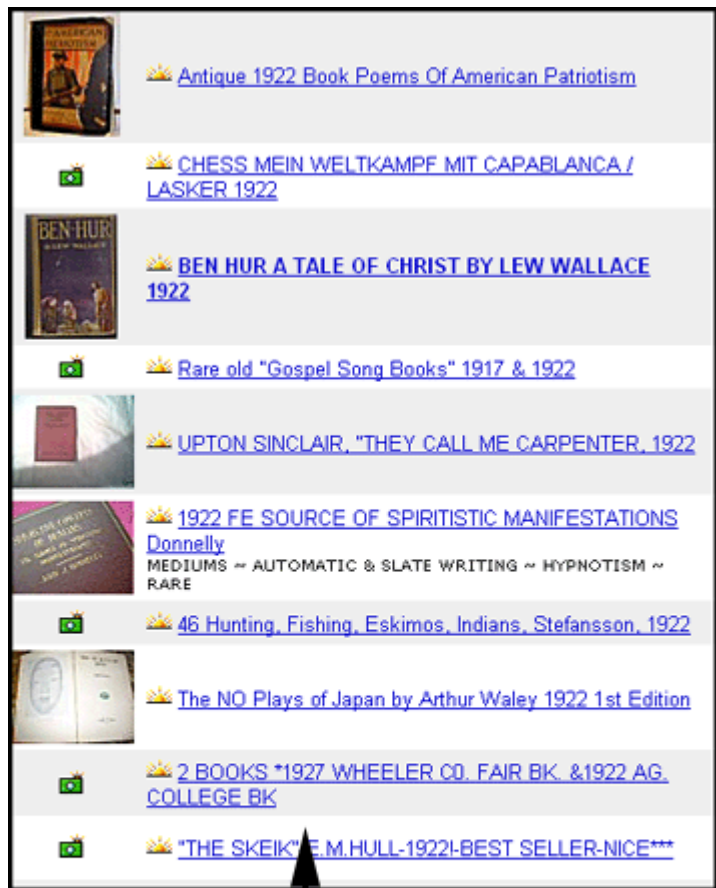
It has been our experience that these types of books far outsell any other subjects. As you can see from the results page below, we've found several potential topics in these areas **just on the first half of the first page!** And remember, these results were found just by searching the year **1922!** Try searching for other publication years and see what you find!

In this example, you'll see several possible niche areas that you could possibly turn into an e-book or info product:

- A book on patriotic American poems
- Two rare gospel hymnals from 1917 and 1922 (both public domain publication years)
- A book on the "NO" (Noh) plays of Japan
- A book on psychic mediums, hypnotism and ghosts.
- A 1922 college textbook. Notice that there is also a 1927 book, which may or may not be in the public domain – depending on whether or not the copyright was renewed.

There is also a book on the Hunting/Fishing of the Eskimo people. On closer inspection, however, it is only a "book on CD" which contains images of the pages in the book. This means that even though the book was published during a time that qualifies it as public domain, it won't do you any good to try and edit it since all of the pages are actually images.

While this is a great way to sell **your** finished e-book or info product, it does you no good to buy public domain books on CD, since the whole purpose will be having them as a Microsoft Word file that you can edit to suit your needs and resell as you please! Be careful and know what you're getting *before* you bid!



A quick search through eBay's Antiquarian books section revealed several potential public domain gems. Here you can see a book of American patriotic poems, an old book of Gospel songs, a book on spirits and hypnosis, one on the "No" plays in Japan, some antique college books and more.

### Checking for Copyright Renewals

Books published in the USA until the 1960's may also be public domain if they did not have their copyright renewed. If you find a book published after 1922 but before 1960, you'll want to check its copyright before you purchase it and have it scanned into an editable document. Here's how to do that.

First, go to the U.S. Copyright website at [www.copyright.gov](http://www.copyright.gov). From the main menu that appears at the top of the page, select the **Search Records** link on the far right.



On the **Search Records** page, you'll see three possible areas you can search in. Choose the **Books, Music Etc. Heading**.

The screenshot shows the 'Copyright' website's 'Search Records' page. At the top, there is a search bar and a navigation menu with links for Home, About, News, Publications, Forms, Law, Licensing, Registration, and Search Records. The main heading is 'Search Copyright Records: Registrations and Documents'. Below this, there is a note about the search method and a list of three search categories: 'Books, Music, etc.', 'Serials', and 'Documents'. A callout box with a black border and white background points to the 'Books, Music, etc.' heading. The callout text reads: 'On the Search Records page, click the Books, Music, Etc. heading to start your copyright renewal search online.'

On the resulting page, you'll see a form which allows you to search by author, title, copyright claimant and many other search parameters, as well as a combination of all of the above. Choose the **Title** button and type in the name of the book you're searching for a renewal on.

The screenshot shows the search form on the Copyright website. The form has a heading 'Search By:' and a list of radio buttons for different search criteria: Author, Title, Claimant, Registration Number, Misc., and Combined Search. The 'Title' radio button is selected. A callout box with a black border and white background points to the 'Title' radio button. The callout text reads: 'On the Search page, select the Title radio button or make a Combined Search if the book could be sold under different titles or as part of a set. Going back to our original example, we searched for "Many Ways to Cook Eggs" - one of the book titles found on Project Gutenberg - just to make sure that it's in the public domain.' Below the radio buttons is a text input field with the text 'Many ways to Cook Eggs' and a 'Search' button. At the bottom of the page, there are two links: 'About This Database' and 'Return to Search Page'.

We chose to do our example “Many Ways to Cook Eggs” from the book originally found on [Project Gutenberg](#) when we searched on the subject of “Cooking”. Here is the results page:

The screenshot shows a search interface titled "Registered Works Database (Title Search)". The search term entered is "MANY WAYS TO COOK EGGS". Below the search bar, there is a section titled "Check one or more terms, select the type of output display, and then click Submit:". This section contains a list of search results, each with a checkbox and a title followed by "(1 item)". The results listed are: "MANY WAYS OF WATER & COLOR", "MANY WAYS TO BE DEAF : INTERNATIONAL VARIAT", "MANY WAYS TO FITNESS", "MANY WAYS TO GO WRONG", "MANY WAYS TO HAPPY LIVING", "MANY WAYS TO HAVE FUN", "MANY WAYS TO HEAL", "MANY WAYS TO LEARN", "MANY WAYS TO MAKE A DOLLAR", "MANY WAYS TO PRAISE", "MANY WAYS TO SAVE \$35.00 TO \$500.00 EVERY Y", and "MANY WAYS TO SAY 'I LOVE YOU.'". Below this list is a section titled "Select type of output display:" with two radio button options: "Brief (Summary) Display" (which is selected) and "Full-Record Display". A "Submit" button is located at the bottom left of the form. A callout box with a black border and an arrow pointing to the search results list contains the text: "As you can see from the results, the title we searched for isn't listed, so it must be public domain. If the book you're interested in is listed here, click the checkbox next to its title, choose the **Full Record** summary and submit it to see when the copyright was renewed, as well as other information."

As you can see, there are several results, but none that come close to matching the title we typed in. Since it isn't found in the copyright records and was published in a year that qualifies it to be in the public domain, you can be pretty sure that this book is safe to edit and add to as you please.

**If you absolutely want to be 100% sure if a book is in the public domain, you are strongly advised to have copyright research done through the Library of Congress to determine if a book's copyright was renewed. The search results from the copyright renewal search above may not always be accurate or complete. BookScanning.com, its affiliates, partners and parent company are not responsible for any legal complications arising out of the misuse or mistake of scanning a book that you have provided to us which may not be in the public domain. We strongly recommend having the title researched at the Copyright Office if the book was published in the USA at any time after 1922 but before the 1960's.**

### ***So I've Got My Public Domain Books...Now What?***

This is where we come in! We carefully scan your book into a digital document that you can open up and edit in Microsoft Word or any other word processor program that supports .doc files. Why would you want to edit a public domain book? Because the information inside of it is **absolutely free**, yours for the taking **without paying any royalties** or worrying about **copyright infringement!**

Many books published back then contain information that has been lost or forgotten through the decades. All it needs is a little modernization for today's audiences. The information contained inside is just as valuable today as it was back then. And these small nuggets are like **pure gold** to enthusiasts who are interested in that particular subject!

Imagine! You can sprinkle targeted affiliate programs throughout your book, offer it as a giveaway or a bonus to encourage visitors to subscribe to your online newsletter, or turn it into a complete info product bundle and resell it at a premium price to hungry audiences! You can even have it turned into an [audio book](#) for people to listen to in the car, on the go, or wherever!

## ***Is There a Way to Find Public Domain Books that Have Already Been Scanned?***

Absolutely! Our latest service, [ContentDealer](#) does just that! We have dozens of ready-to-go files on a wide variety of subjects. They've already been scanned and converted in to a Microsoft Word document, all you need to do is edit them. And because they're all in the public domain, you keep all of the money you make with each one you sell!

In addition to ready-to-go, editable content, we've also partnered with [eCoverArtist](#) – one of the Internet's leading e-book cover design companies. Having a realistic-looking cover for your new e-book or info product gives your buyers a tangible product that they can see, which in turn increases your sales. As a special offer to BookScanning.com customers and web site visitors, you can have a custom e-book cover graphic for as little as \$47!

## ***Ready to Start Making Money with Public Domain Products?***

Here's a list of links and related products and services that can help you get the most out of public domain publishing and marketing!

[ContentDealer](#) – Instant public domain works on a variety of subjects – already scanned and formatted! Just revise to your heart's content, publish and promote them and watch the money start rolling in!

[Public Domain Riches](#) – If you're completely new to the idea of using public domain content for e-books or info products, you should start here. This is the **same course** that got us started with info products and internet marketing! Includes information from a well-known copyright attorney on how to find, evaluate and market from public domain content.

[Yanik Silver's Public Domain Home Study Course](#) – A more in-depth, detailed course on making money by repackaging and reselling public domain information. Ideal if you've already heard the teleseminar and are ready to progress to the next level!

[eCoverArtist](#) – Outstanding, professionally made e-book covers and software box covers to help you present your digital product as a real, "tangible" item – just like the books or software boxes available on retail shelves!

[iElectrify Web Services](#) – Web site and graphic design for small business owners. Give your new niche "mini site" a professional, credible look and feel that will boost your sales and conversions!