Bookmark update 10.9.9

November 2025

Book Reviews Manager

Students, teachers, and others can write reviews about books.

Approved reviews are public – everyone can read them. Search and Webopac have Review buttons attached to every query.

Only approved reviews are visible. Approval is made in the Book Reviews Manager in Controls > Reviews. All reviews are listed, can be checked, and approved or not approved, edited or deleted. Writing reviews can be restricted to specific classes and/or individuals.

A new "Borrower" button has been added. It allows listing reviews written by a specific person.

Information about the Reviews system can be found in the Controls and Search manuals.

Sounds

Sounds can be triggered by different events in Loans and Returns. Controls > Circulation Settings > Sounds button. A list of wav files is available. You can also add your own.

Windows 11 handles sounds slightly different to Windows 10 and 7. When Bookmark runs on Windows 11, sounds could be chopped off. A small behind-the-scenes change has been made to prevent this happening.

Setting sounds is presented in the Circulation manual.

Opac

Bookmark has three different catalogue search modules: Search (formerly PAW), Webopac, and CPAC. Each allows searching the catalogue, but each is done in a different way.

Search is a Windows program. It is opened by an icon or the Search button on Bookmark's Main Menu.

Webopac (or just Opac, meaning Online Public Access Catalogue) provides the same functions as Search but through a browser. It has a URL. As it is installed on the school's network, access is limited to within the school due to the firewall.

CPAC is fully Internet. It allows searching the catalogue using any online device with a browser anywhere, even outside the school. It is similar to Webopac as it uses a URL but does not contain any borrower information. CPAC catalogue data is hosted on a Department for Education South Australian cloud server. Unlike Search and Opac (Webopac), CPAC can be accessed by any device with a browser anywhere.

For Webopac, in Controls > Opac Settings > Switches tab, there is a new checkbox "Highlight location and call number in item details". Ticking this yellow highlights the location and call numbers shown on the item details page.

Information about Webopac can be found in the Webopac and Webopac setup manuals.

Add/Edit Items Colours

Add/Edit Items in Cataloguing changes its background colour depending on the cataloguing source.

If Editing an existing item, the background is the normal screen colour set for Cataloguing. (See below about setting module colours.)

If adding a new item, the background is a different colour to the one used when editing.

When importing from a MARC (SCIS) file, the background is different again.

Two new buttons in Controls > Settings > Cataloguing can be used to set these colours. By default, manually adding a new item or using Z-Cataloguing or the SCIS API are white. Importing records is light blue.

Emailing a List of Items on Loan

In Circulation > Loans > Options, a list of the items on loan to a borrower can be emailed.

An alert user reported the formatting of the list was not displayed properly in the latest version of Outlook. A slight change has been made that rectifies this problem.

There is another way to send out an email with a list of items on loan (not just overdue items). The Overdue Notices system can be tricked to email everything on loan. Go to Overdues > Overdue Notices. Select a class. Tick the checkbox "Ignore date". This causes the overdues system to list everything on loan, even if it is not overdue. Proceed. A list of borrowers with overdues is shown. Selected borrowers can be highlighted in the list, and their lists then printed or emailed.

All items on loan to a class can be easily listed in Circulation. Click on Edit at the top left or press the F9 key. Overdue Lists can be used to email a list of a class's overdues to the teacher.
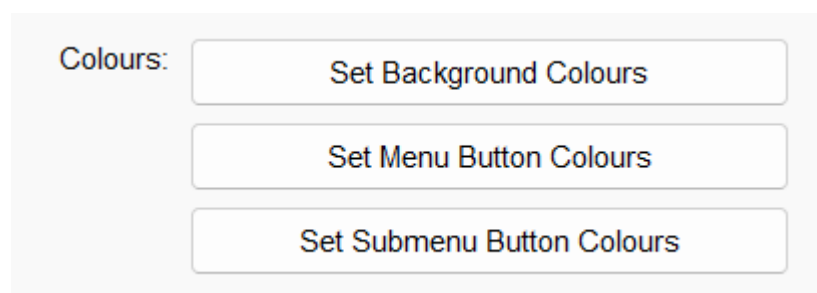
Windows 11 Colours

Windows 11 has slightly different colours than Windows 10 (which was a bit different to Windows 7 and XP).

For example, buttons are almost white instead of a light grey. The Windows themselves are a different hue.

Bookmark allows setting colours in many places. Every module can have its own colour, or all can be the same, or only some different. The menu buttons can have different colours. Items on loan in Circulation have separate colour settings as well.

Open Controls. Click on Settings then on the Display tab at the top.

Colours:
- Set Background Colours
- Set Menu Button Colours
- Set Submenu Button Colours

Use Set Background Colours to set the colour of each module. Clicking on Default resets to the default colours for the version of Windows being used. If you have changed from a Windows 10 system to 11, and use Bookmark's default colours, this will make Bookmark look more "Windows 11 like".

Use Set Menu Button Colours to reset the main menu buttons to default.

Cloud Backups

A data backup to a location off the computer and network should be made regularly – if possible, at the end of every day Bookmark is used. This has proven the best insurance against disaster.

Backups to USB flashdrives continue to be the best. They are fast, easy to do. Flashdrives are low cost and can last several years.

Backups to the "Cloud" are the next best. The backup file is uploaded to the Bookmark website server on the Internet. The webserver is operated by the South Australian Department for Education and managed by the Bookmark team. Weekly cloud backups are a good idea.

The once a month "Monthly" large backup to a flashdrive includes all book cover images and photos. It takes much longer to make. Monthly backups cannot be made to the Cloud.

Bookmark users are encouraged to backup to the Cloud location at least once a month or more often.

Open Utilities. Click on Backup then Start. Click on the Cloud option in the list then OK then Start.

Cloud backups can be restored as easily as flashdrive backups.

Are you using Bookmark on a network? Is it slow when two or three or more workstations use Bookmark at the same time? Is it slow to borrow or return books?

Slowness has several causes. The most common is a clogged database. The other is the network system itself.

With a lot of use, Bookmark's database can accumulate zillions of no-longer-used data blocks. Deleting records do not actually remove the data. The blocks are marked unused instead. The database gradually becomes "clogged" with unused data blocks. Indexes linking the blocks can more easily break causing Bookmark to work more slowly or even pop up the dreaded Malformed Database Error. Cleaning the database may help. Open Cataloguing. Click on Reindex then on Database Indexes. Time to run is usually a few minutes. During the reindex time, Bookmark cannot be used. This operation only needs to be done a few times a year at most. If it does not make things faster, contact the Bookmark help desk for a more thorough cleanup.

If Bookmark is being used across a network in the school, changing to the MariaDB database system can make a big difference. MariaDB is a free industrial-strength database management system designed to handle many concurrent users. It can replace the SQLite database that is built into Bookmark. SQLite is good for single computer use but can be slower when 3 or more computers are used. Bookmark users who have made the change to MariaDB have reported vastly improved speed and stability. There is no difference on-screen and no loss of functionality.

See the Bookmark Fact Sheet "Changing the Database System to MariaDB" for technical information on how to convert. Or contact the Bookmark help desk.