

LT Copy Book v3.1 - Documentation

Overview

LT Copy Book is a userscript that allows LibraryThing users to copy book metadata from existing book detail pages and automatically populate it into manual entry forms. Version 3.1 has been completely rewritten to work with LibraryThing's LT2.0 interface and includes intelligent handling of authors, roles, and field limitations.

Core Methodology

The script follows a three-phase approach:

Phase 1: Data Extraction (Book Detail Page)

- Scans the book detail page for structured data in `.form-group` containers
- Extracts author information from `.h3_work_author .lt_itemlist` structure
- Parses roles from parenthetical text like "Roy Rockwood (Pseud.)"
- Formats all author names to "Last, First" format
- Identifies personal vs. universal data based on book ownership

Phase 2: Data Storage (Browser Memory)

- Uses Greasemonkey's `GM_setValue()` to store extracted data temporarily
- Each field type has a unique storage key (e.g., 'ltcb_title', 'ltcb_author')
- Author data is stored as JSON with names, roles, and formatting flags
- Data persists only until successfully loaded into the target form

Phase 3: Data Population (Manual Entry Form)

- Detects the manual entry form (`book_editForm`)
- Maps storage keys to form field names/IDs
- Handles different field types: text inputs, dropdowns, complex fields
- Uses timing delays to ensure form elements are ready
- Clears stored data after successful population

Supported Fields

✔ Universal Fields (Always Copied)

These fields contain bibliographic data useful regardless of book ownership:

Basic Information

- **Title:** Book title
- **Primary Author:** Formatted as "Last, First" with role handling
- **Secondary Authors:** All additional authors formatted as "Last, First"
- **Tags:** User-applied tags
- **ISBN:** International Standard Book Number

Publication Information

- **Publication Date:** Year or full date of publication
- **Publication:** Publisher and publication details
- **Media Type:** Hardcover, Paperback, Ebook, etc.

Physical Information

- **Pages:** Page count
- **Dimensions:** Height, width, thickness with units
- **Weight:** Weight value with units (kg/pounds)
- **Volumes:** Number of volumes in set

Classification

- **Dewey Decimal:** Dewey Decimal Classification
- **LC Classification:** Library of Congress Classification
- **Other Call Number:** Additional call numbers for special collections
- **Lexile Measure:** Reading level (if available)

Language Information

- **Primary Language:** Main language of the book
- **Secondary Language:** Secondary language (if applicable)
- **Original Language:** Original language (for translations)

Personal Fields (Only When Viewing Your Own Books)

These fields contain personal data only useful to the book owner:

- **Summary:** Personal book summary

- **Comments:** Public comments about the book
- **Private Comments:** Private notes visible only to you

✗ Excluded Fields (Not Copied)

These fields are intentionally not copied due to technical or practical limitations:

Personal Tracking Data

- **Rating:** Personal star rating
- **Your Review:** Personal book review
- **Reading Dates:** Started/Finished dates
- **Date Acquired:** When you got the book
- **From Where:** Source of acquisition
- **Number of Copies:** Personal inventory count

Technical/Niche Data

- **Barcode:** Custom inventory barcodes
- **BCID:** Book Crossing ID (niche book exchange system)

System Limitations

- **Collections:** Uses your default preferences from </addbooks> page, cannot be overridden programmatically

Author and Role Handling

Author Name Formatting

All authors are automatically converted to "Last, First" format:

- "Roy Rockwood" → "Rockwood, Roy"
- "John W. Duffield" → "Duffield, John W."
- "Johnny Sheffield" → "Sheffield, Johnny"

Intelligent Role Management

✓ **Standard Roles (Automatically Set)** These common roles are set automatically without user intervention:

- Author, Editor, Illustrator, Translator

- Photographer, Narrator, Composer, Contributor
- Cover Artist, Cover Designer, Designer, Director
- Afterword, Foreword, Introduction, Preface

⚠ Custom Roles (Manual Setting Required) These roles would trigger modal dialogs and are skipped for user convenience:

- "Pseud." (Pseudonym)
- "Subject of illustration"
- Any other non-standard role text

Rationale: This approach provides 90% automation for standard cases while avoiding modal chaos for the 10% of custom roles that most users won't need.

Collections Limitation

Why Collections Aren't Automated: The manual entry form displays collections based on your default preferences set on the `/addbooks` page, not from extracted book data. These preferences cannot be overridden programmatically.

Workaround: Set your most commonly used collections as defaults on `/addbooks`. The script will use these defaults, with "Your library" always included.

Configuration Options

Enabling/Disabling Fields

To turn off specific fields, modify the `CONFIG` object in the script:

```
javascript
```

```

const CONFIG = {
  // Basic fields
  copyTitle: true,    // Set to false to skip title
  copyAuthor: true,   // Set to false to skip authors
  copyTags: true,     // Set to false to skip tags
  copyISBN: true,     // Set to false to skip ISBN

  // Publication fields
  copyDate: true,     // Set to false to skip publication date
  copyPublication: true, // Set to false to skip publisher info
  copyMedia: true,    // Set to false to skip media type

  // Physical description
  copyPages: true,    // Set to false to skip page count
  copyDimensions: true, // Set to false to skip dimensions
  copyWeight: true,   // Set to false to skip weight
  copyVolumes: true,  // Set to false to skip volume count

  // Classification
  copyDewey: true,    // Set to false to skip Dewey Decimal
  copyLCC: true,      // Set to false to skip LC Classification
  copyOtherCallNumber: true, // Set to false to skip other call numbers
  copyLexile: true,   // Set to false to skip Lexile measures

  // Language fields
  copyPrimaryLanguage: true, // Set to false to skip primary language
  copySecondaryLanguage: true, // Set to false to skip secondary language
  copyOriginalLanguage: true, // Set to false to skip original language

  // Comments (only copied when viewing your own books)
  copySummary: true,    // Set to false to skip summary
  copyComments: true,   // Set to false to skip public comments
  copyPrivateComments: true, // Set to false to skip private comments

  // Role handling
  handleStandardRoles: true, // Set to false to skip all role automation

  // Debug output
  debug: true          // Set to false to reduce console logging
};

```

Adding New Fields

To add support for additional fields:

1. Add field mapping:

```
javascript

newField: {
  key: 'ltcb_new_field',
  formField: 'form_new_field_name'
}
```

2. Add extraction logic in `extractBookData()`:

```
javascript

case 'New Field Label':
  data.newField = value;
  break;
```

3. Add storage logic in `copyBookData()`:

```
javascript

if (CONFIG.copyNewField && data.newField) {
  GM_setValue(FIELD_MAPPINGS.newField.key, data.newField);
  console.log('Stored new field:', data.newField);
}
```

4. Add loading logic in `loadDataIntoForm()`:

```
javascript

loadField(FIELD_MAPPINGS.newField.key, FIELD_MAPPINGS.newField.formField);
```

Technical Implementation Details

Data Extraction Methods

The script uses multiple fallback methods to find data:

1. **Structured Container Parsing:** Primary method using `.form-group.form_group_tight` containers
2. **Author Structure Analysis:** Specialized parsing of `.lt_itemlist` for author/role data
3. **Label-Value Matching:** Matches field labels to adjacent value containers

4. **Fallback Element Search:** Searches for specific patterns when structured methods fail

Form Field Mapping

Different field types require different handling approaches:

Simple Text Fields: Direct value assignment

```
javascript  
  
field.value = storedValue;
```

Dropdown Fields: Value mapping with fallbacks

```
javascript  
  
// Try exact match first  
select.value = mappedValue;  
// Fall back to text matching if needed
```

Complex Fields: Special parsing (dimensions, weight)

```
javascript  
  
// Parse "19.0 x 13.3 x 3.7 cm" into separate height/width/thickness fields
```

Multi-Row Fields: Dynamic row creation for additional authors

```
javascript  
  
// Click + button to add author rows as needed
```

Timing and Synchronization

The script uses carefully orchestrated delays to handle dynamic form loading:

- **300ms** for primary author role setting
- **600ms** between secondary author additions
- **800ms** before starting secondary author processing
- **1200ms** for collection picker loading (when enabled)

Installation

1. **Install a userscript manager** (recommended: Tampermonkey for Chrome/Edge, Tampermonkey for Firefox)
2. **Copy the script code** from the artifact
3. **Create a new script** in your userscript manager
4. **Paste the code and save**
5. **Navigate to any LibraryThing book detail page** to see the copy buttons

Usage

1. **Navigate to any LibraryThing book detail page** (`(/work/*/details/*)`)
2. **Look for green "Copy to Library" and blue "Copy to Wishlist" buttons** (positioned in the top-right area)
3. **Click the appropriate button** based on your intended collection
4. **A new tab opens automatically** with the manual entry form (`(/addnew.php)`)
5. **Data populates automatically** with a notification confirming completion
6. **Manually set any custom roles** (e.g., select "Other.." → type "Pseud.")
7. **Review and submit** the completed form

Debugging and Troubleshooting

Console Logging

The script provides extensive console logging for troubleshooting:

On Book Detail Page (during copy operation):

- Field extraction: "Found field: 'Title' = 'Book Title'"
- Author processing: "Extracted author 0: 'Roy Rockwood' → 'Rockwood, Roy' (Pseud.)"
- Data storage: "Stored title: Book Title"

On Manual Entry Form (during paste operation):

- Data loading: "Loading all authors: [...]"
- Form population: "✓ Set secondary author 1: Duffield, John W."
- Role setting: "✓ Set secondary author 1 role: Author (num_2)"

Common Issues

Problem: No copy buttons appear **Solution:** Check that you're on a book detail page URL matching `/work/*/details/*`

Problem: Form fields aren't populated

Solution: Check browser console for error messages. Ensure you're on `/addnew.php`

Problem: Authors appear but no roles are set **Solution:** Verify `handleStandardRoles: true` in CONFIG. Custom roles are intentionally skipped.

Problem: Collections not selected as expected **Solution:** Collections use your default preferences from `/addbooks` page, not extracted data.

Debug Mode

To reduce console output for normal use, set:

```
javascript
debug: false
```

To re-enable detailed logging for troubleshooting:

```
javascript
debug: true
```

Browser Compatibility

- **Chrome/Chromium:** Full support with Tampermonkey ✓
- **Firefox:** Full support with Tampermonkey ✓
- **Safari:** Limited support with Tampermonkey ⚠
- **Edge:** Full support with Tampermonkey ✓

Limitations and Design Decisions

Intentional Limitations

- **No Personal Data Automation:** Rating, reviews, reading dates remain manual to prevent data loss
- **No Custom Role Automation:** Prevents modal dialog chaos, affecting <10% of use cases
- **No Collections Override:** Technical limitation due to LibraryThing's preference system
- **No Cross-User Personal Data:** Comments/notes only copied when viewing your own books

Performance Considerations

- **Memory Efficient:** Data cleared immediately after successful population
- **Non-Blocking:** Uses setTimeout to prevent UI freezing
- **Error Tolerant:** Continues processing even if individual fields fail

Security Considerations

- **Read-Only Extraction:** Never modifies source book data
- **Temporary Storage:** Data exists only during copy/paste operation
- **Same-Origin:** Only operates within LibraryThing domain

Version History

- **v3.1:** Added Other Call Number support, refined role handling, disabled problematic collections automation
- **v3.0:** Complete rewrite for LT2.0 compatibility with enhanced field support and intelligent author handling
- **v2.0:** Original version for LT1.0 (by brightcopy)
- **v1.0:** Initial release

Contributing

To modify or extend this script:

1. **Understand the three-phase methodology:** Extract → Store → Load
2. **Test with diverse book types:** Fiction, non-fiction, multi-author, international
3. **Consider field universality:** Will this field be useful regardless of book ownership?
4. **Add appropriate error handling:** Gracefully handle missing or changed form elements
5. **Update configuration options:** Allow users to enable/disable new features
6. **Document timing requirements:** Some operations need delays for form readiness

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