Kotobee Services

Making Books Interactive and Engaging

About Kotobee

Kotobee Backstory

When Kotobee first began creating digital publishing solutions in 2011, the digital publishing industry severely lagged behind other solutions. While online content and mobile apps had become increasingly interactive and personalized for users, digital publications remained static and dull. Only organizations and authors with budgets for expensive software agencies could create beautiful and engaging books for their readers.

Kotobee Success

Now writers, experts, companies, and educators across the globe are creating engaging interactive ebooks with no coding and many times at no cost. With more than 60,000 users in over 200 countries and 1,200 new users every month, Kotobee is accomplishing what it set out to do—enable anyone to create beautiful ebooks that engage readers.

Kotobee Purpose

Kotobee's purpose from day-one is to serve writers. Along the path, Kotobee products and support expanded to make the ebook creation process, publication, and sales easier for writers. At the request of Kotobee customers, the WooCommerce plugin was developed to facilitate sales and integrate ebooks with online WordPress shops. Likewise, many features were developed in the Kotobee Platform for Kotobee customers.

Awards & Recognition

Story
To Do
In Progress
Done

Kotobee Services

Ebook Services

Over the years, writers called on Kotobee's ebook experts for advice and assistance in the various steps of the ebook creation process. Thus the Kotobee suite of services came to be. Writers now can select from a list of services or submit the text of a book and receive an interactive ebook in any format. Kotobee's ebook creation services help writers, who have limited resources and time, to achieve their goals.

Ebook Consultation

All aspects of ebook design, analysed and suggested from interactive content options to layout, font, and color scheme.

Ebook Design

Plain ebooks are transformed into beautiful layouts with organization branding reflected throughout.

Ebook Conversion

Any source format is converted with proprietary tools, ensuring high-fidelity and precision in the final ebook format.

Ebook Scripting

Custom widgets, forms, interactive content, and 3rd party integrations are created for a fully interactive and engaging ebook.

Ebook Publishing

The technical aspects of publication are taken care of for writers—everything from exporting apps to DRM settings to uploading ebooks to self-publishing platforms or app stores.

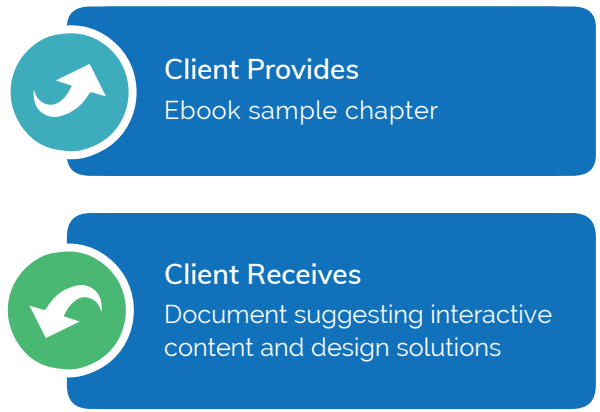
Hi-liter

Ebook Consultation

Our content analysts and usability engineers provide advice on all relevant aspects of ebook design: ideation, context flow, layout options, interactive content selection.

Writers with a static book often have difficulty envisioning how their ebook can become interactive. Unfamiliar with the different types of interactive content, they're searching for someone to give them guidance, suggest ways their ebooks can engage their readers.

Kotobee ebook designers suggest interactive content as well as design style and layouts to make ebooks attractive and engaging for readers.



Ebook Design

Graphic design and visual design come together to create beautiful ebook interiors. With a service for every writer, designers provide branded themes, custom templates, and complete ebook design consisting of the following:

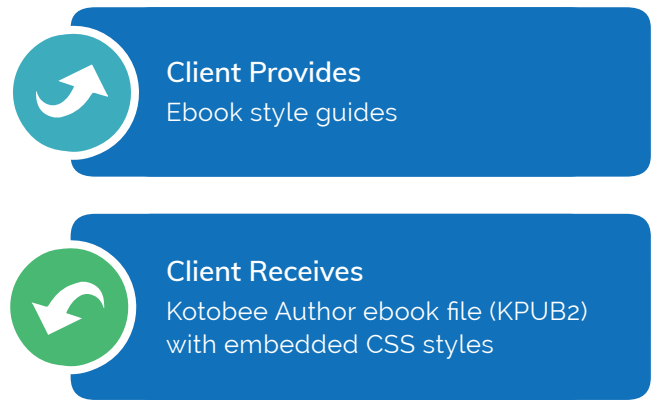
1. Ebook Themes
2. Ebook Templates
3. Content Design

1. Ebook Themes

Custom themes are for writers who want the ebook stylized as they write, from the beginning.

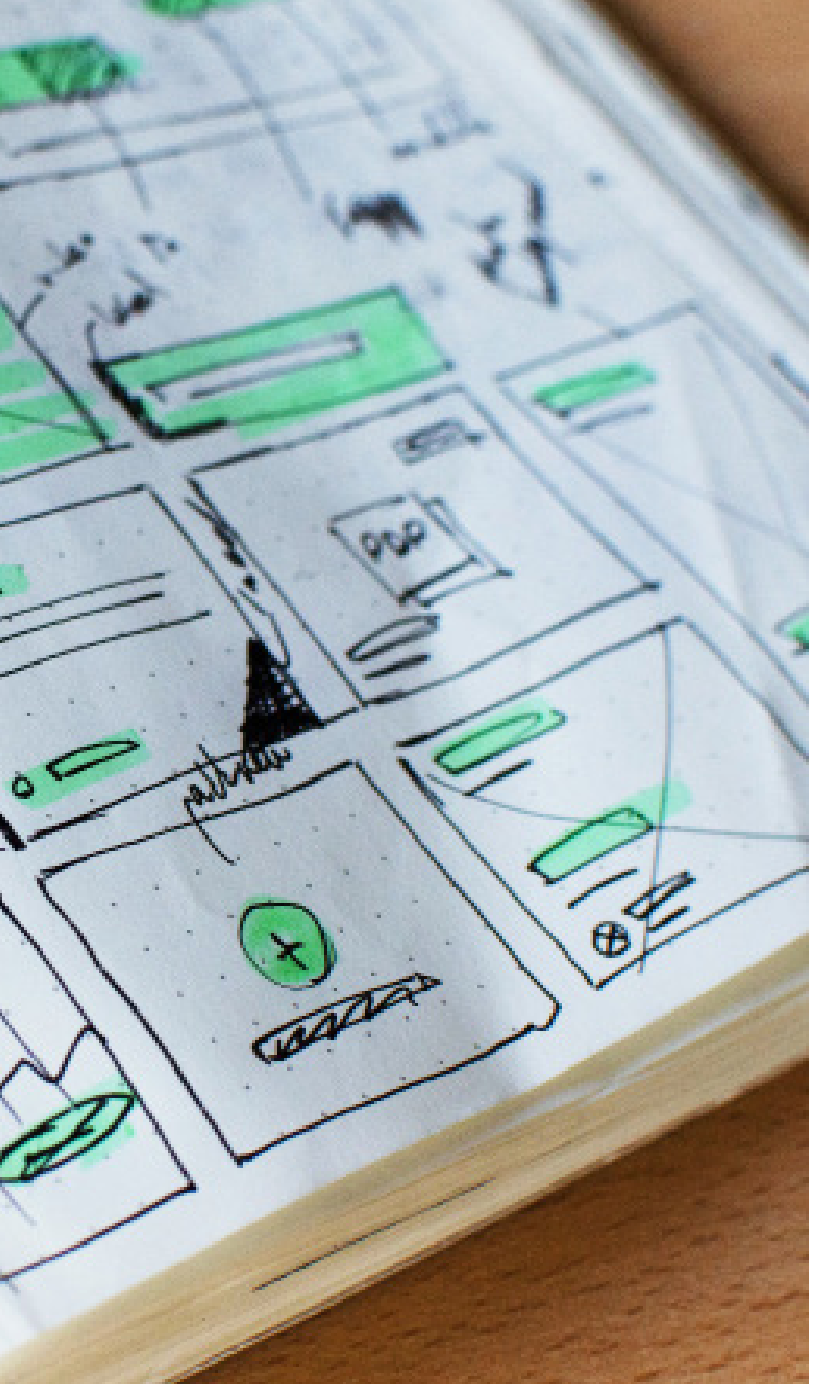
Styled themes enable writers to focus on the writing while the styling is taken care of behind the scenes with CSS codes in Kotobee Author. The writer simply enters the text and Kotobee Author takes care of the rest. Each word appears with the correct font, color, size, spacing, etc. The writer rests assured that the ebook will appear perfectly formatted.

Writers may provide detailed guidelines or ask for our assistance in creating personalized styles for their ebook interior. The various elements of the ebook will appear according to the custom style theme guidelines. Examples of elements include headings, image captions, tables, and block quotes.



Ebook Themes

Display your content using beautiful layouts and your own brand identity

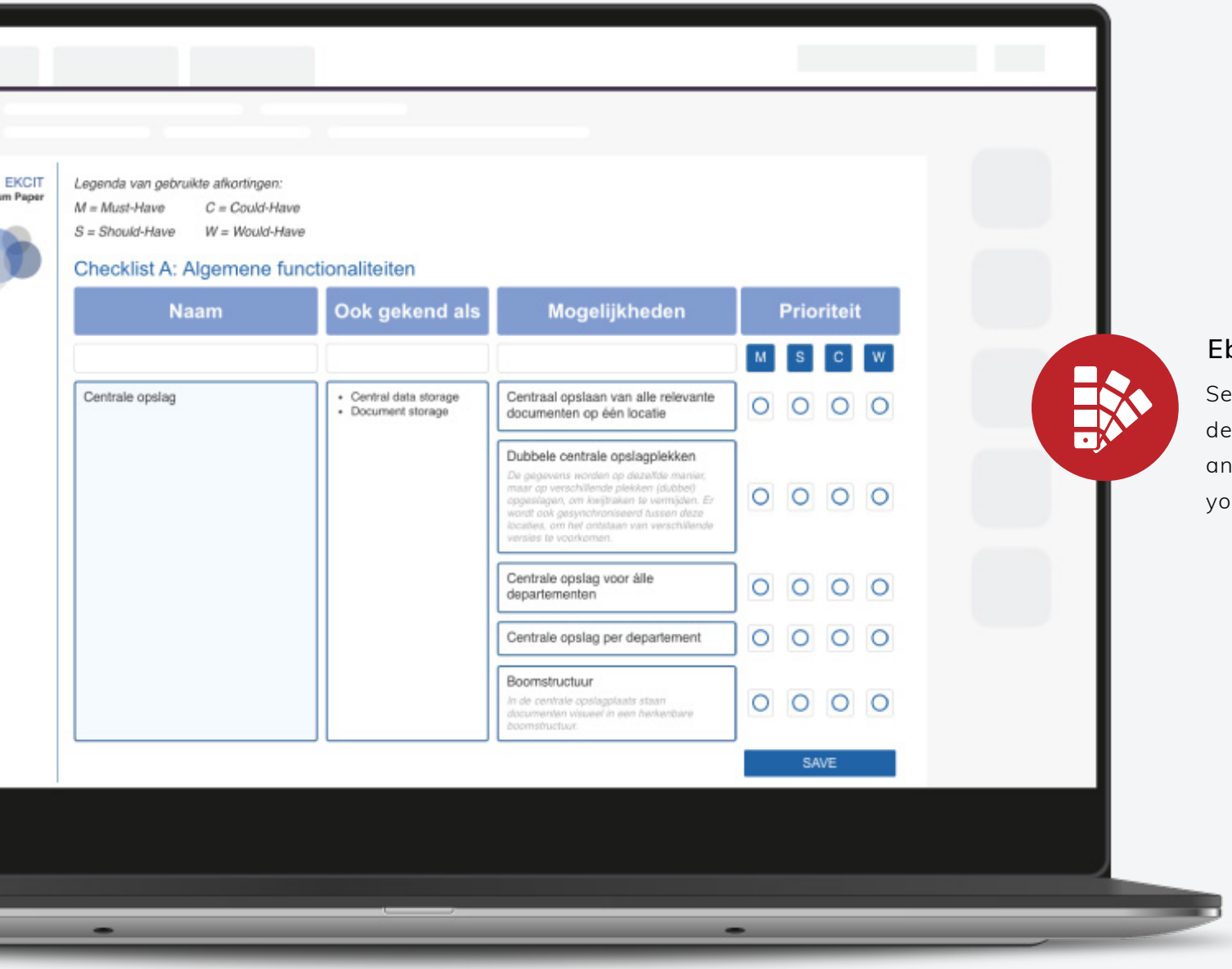


2. Ebook Templates

Templates make creating ebooks with a variety of layouts easy for writers. Kotobee designs a set of page templates for the ebook, that the author uses anywhere in the ebook. The author saves time while creating an ebook with an attractive design-rich layout.

Client Provides
Template description

Client Receives
Custom layout templates



Ebook Templates

Select from customly designed templates, and use anywhere in your ebook

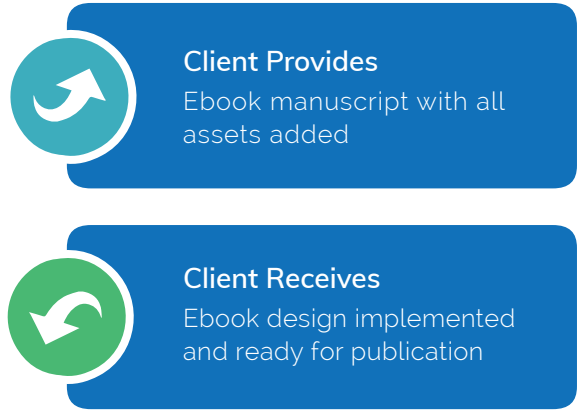
3. Content Design

Our visual designers transform plain ebooks into beautiful layouts with visual representations of the content and organizational branding. Upon request, the ebook can be designed for accessibility.

Comparative information may be turned into tables, facts, and figures into animated charts, and appropriate icons added to links.

Visual designers step in and create appealing ebooks that organizations and writers are proud to distribute or sell.

The content design service takes place after the ebook is written and all assets, like images, videos, and interactive content, have been added to the ebook. This stage is the final step before customizing the ebook app or exporting an ebook.



Content Design

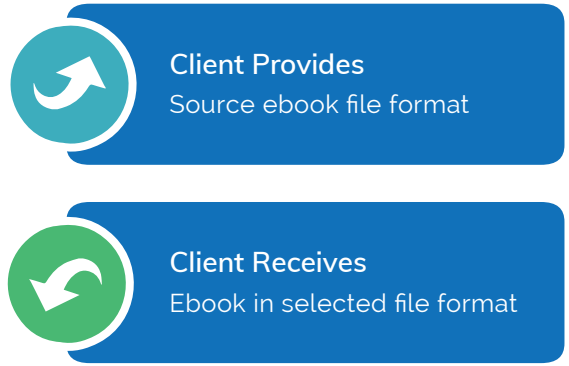
Transform plain ebooks into beautiful layouts including animations

Ebook Conversion

Our team converts ebook file formats with our proprietary tools. We take an ebook in nearly any format, including TXT, DOC, PDF, and EPUB, then convert it to the ebook format of choice.

While many options are available online for ebook conversion, not all ensure that the final format will be true to the original. Often times compatibility problems emerge and the new file suffers text and formatting losses in the process.

We ensure high-fidelity, precision, readability, and usability in the final ebook format.



Most Popular Conversions

- Word to EPUB
- PDF to EPUB
- EPUB to MOBI (for Kindle readers)
- Fixed layout EPUB to reflowable layout EPUB

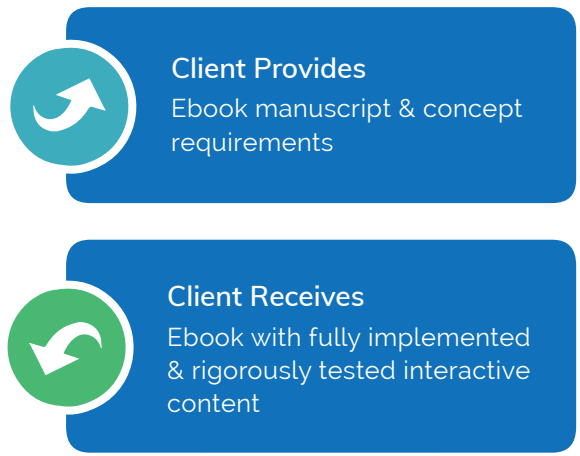
Ebook Conversion

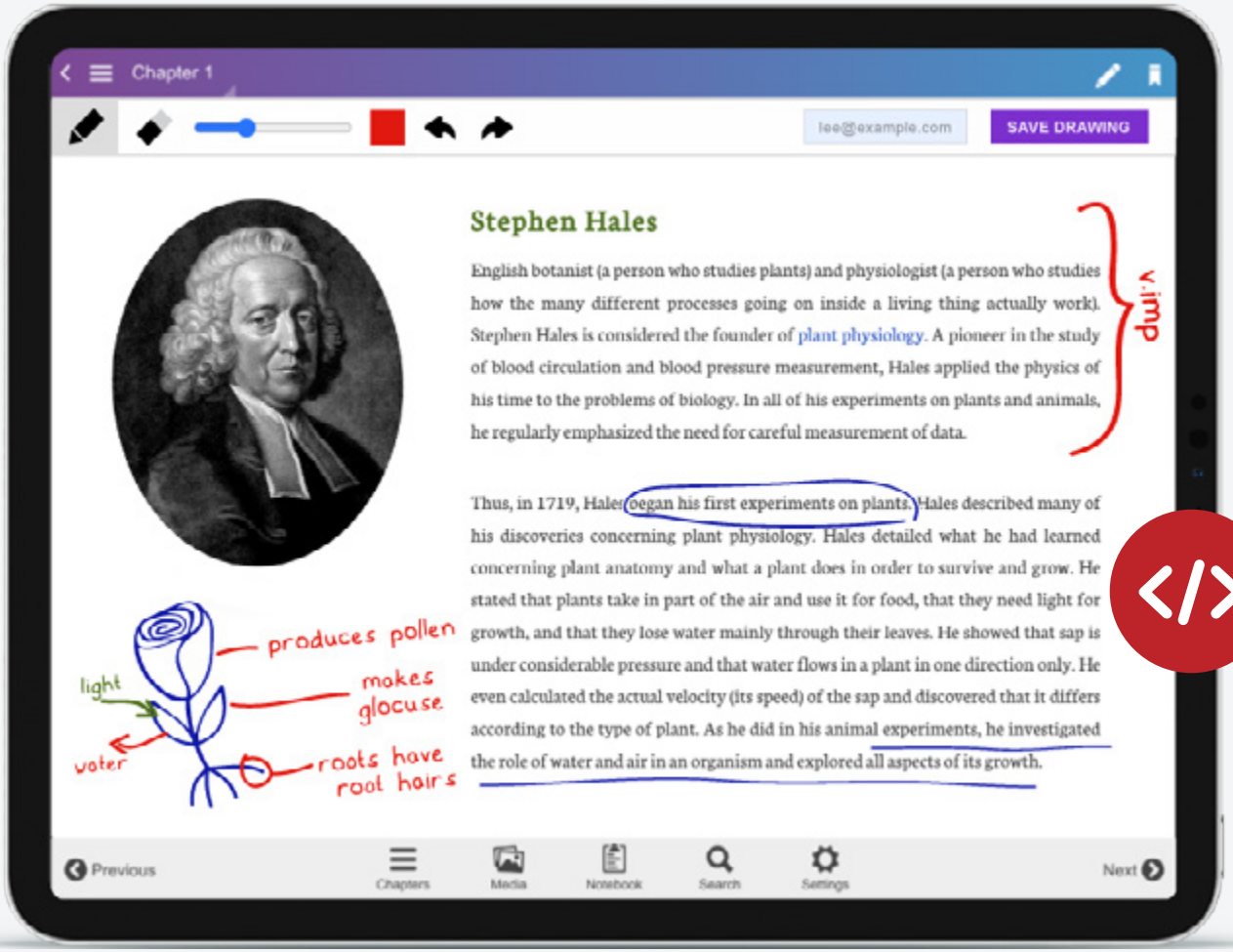
Convert from different file formats to reflowable or fixed layout ebooks

Ebook Scripting

Front-end developers write custom scripts using HTML, CSS, and JS that transform a static book into a fully interactive and engaging ebook.

Our software developers help to flesh out the complex segments of the ebook content, by building widgets, refactoring special content models, enabling persistent data fields, integrating third-party services, and many more technical solutions.





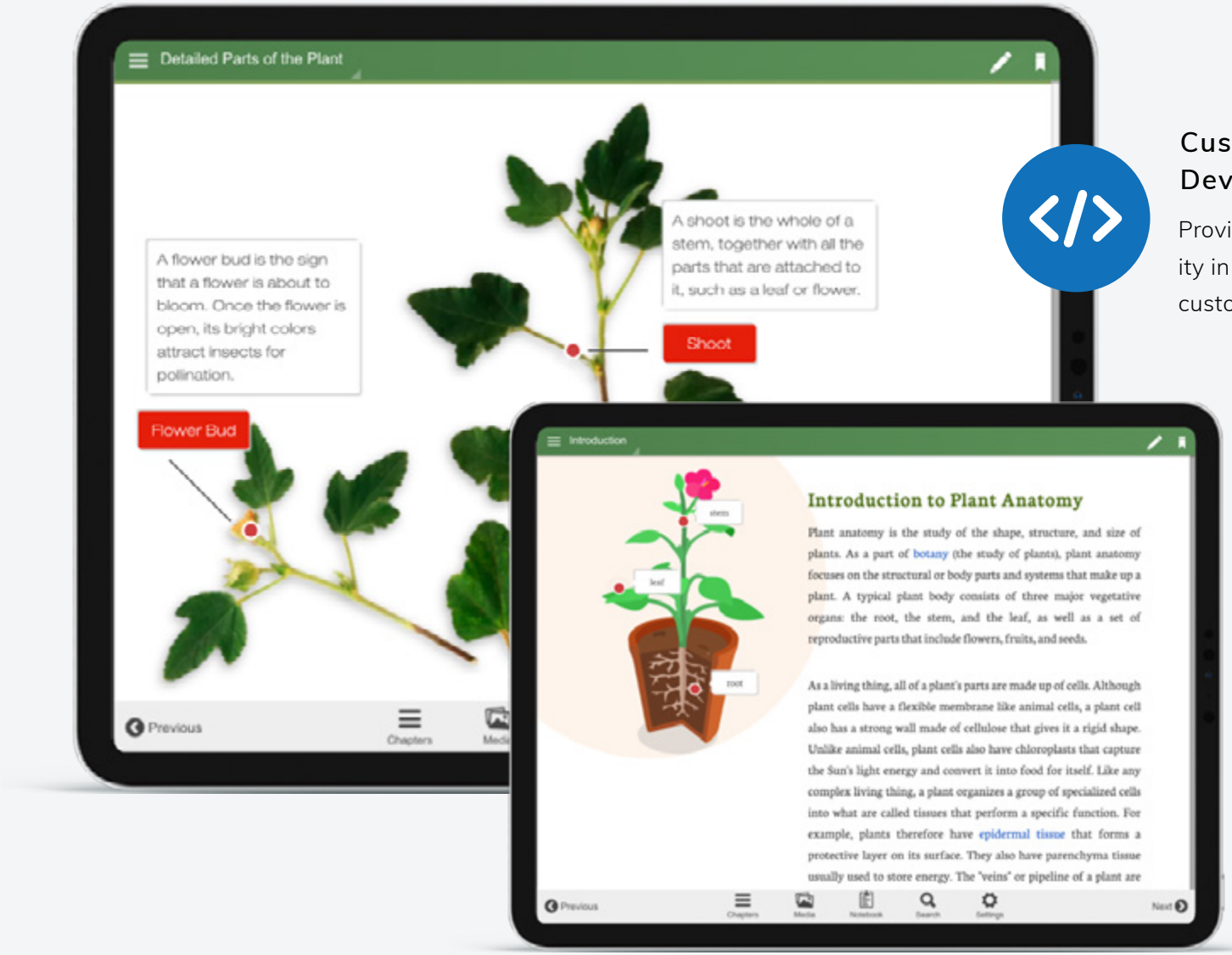
Ebook Scripting

Provide custom widgets and tools, such as drawing tools

1. Custom Development

Using Javascript, developers create custom interactive elements for the client's ebook. While some of these elements may be readily available in Kotobee Author, some writers require customization. These elements can include but aren't limited to

- new question types,
- hover actions (popular with dictionary definitions),
- personalized pop-ups, and
- special fonts.



Custom Development

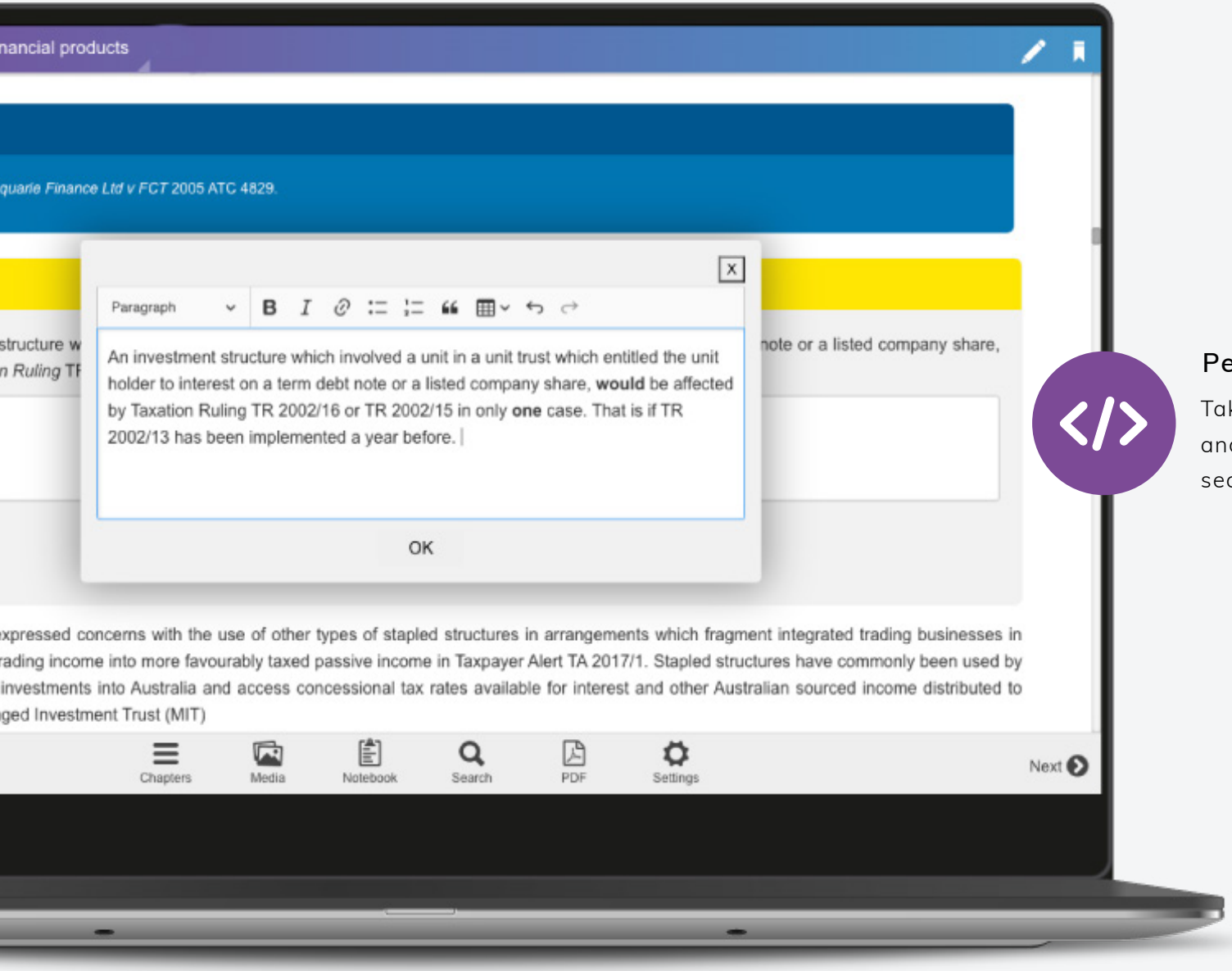
Provide special interactivity in the page such as customized popups

2. Persistent Input

Our developers create text fields that save the information entered. When readers open the ebook later the information they entered will still be there for them.

A frequently requested feature is to give users the option to make their notes visible to the public. The notes are public for viewing but only the owner of the note (or those with global permissions) can edit or delete that note. This introduces a more social experience and collaborative tool for your users, making notes look more like conversations.

- Self-help books
- Activity books
- Workbooks



Persistent Input

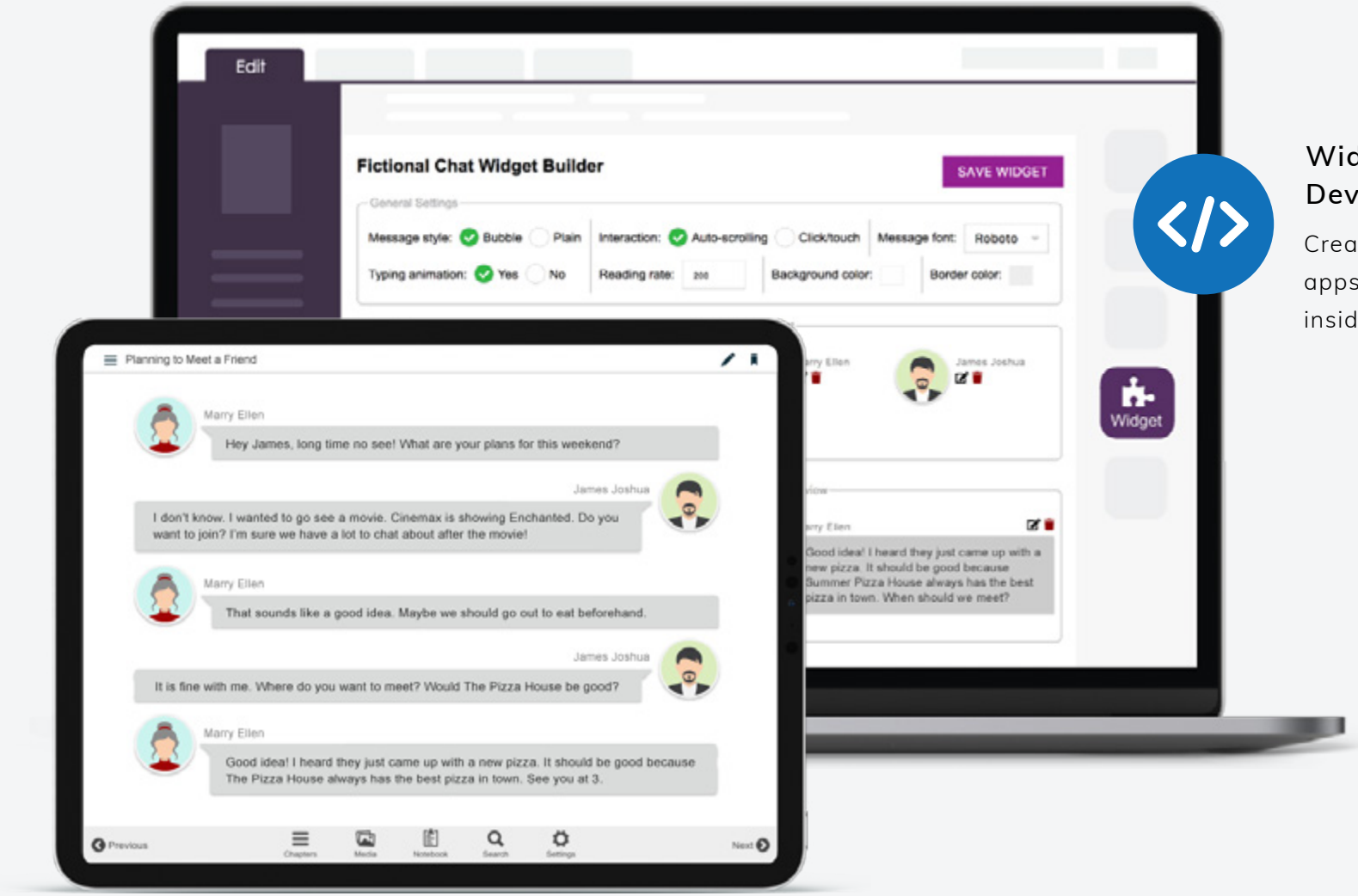
Take user information, and have it saved securely on the cloud

3. Widget & Mini-apps Development

Ebook widgets are essentially miniature apps that run inside an ebook either embedded as part of the page or in a popup. There are countless widgets available online like calculators; however, writers often require custom widgets, like

- calculators for specific calculations (BMI, financials, etc.)
- mini-games,
- interactive timelines, or
- physics simulations.

We introduce the beta launch of Kotobee›s 5th product: Kotobee Mini-apps. This product allows you to extend your ebook›s functionality with apps running inside it. Mini-apps are similar to book widgets, except that they are opened from a dedicated panel independent of the book content.



Widget Development

Create miniature apps that run inside any ebook

4. Adaptive Content

Any content can be dynamic, conditional on the reader's input or certain conditions.

For instance, when a child opens an ebook, it may greet her and ask her name. The protagonist's name will be instantly changed to her name. Her face lights up when she discovers she shares a name with the story's hero.

A fitness ebook may provide different options for different body types. Once the reader's body type is determined at the beginning of the book, the appropriate options for them will be highlighted throughout the ebook, for a highly personalized experience.

- Children's stories
- Mad Libs
- Fitness books

Adaptive Content

Create content that adapts to user input, such as a child's name

5. Scenario-Based Navigation

Scenario-based navigation enables readers to leap around within an ebook based on their input.

Made wildly famous by Choose Your Own Adventure books, custom navigation has kept readers captivated by stories for decades. At the end of the chapter, the reader selects from a list of options (usually two) what the next step should be. Depending on the readers choice, readers are directed to a different chapter.

This sort of navigation is also common in educational books, enabling students to leap around and build core competencies and gain a deeper understanding of the text.

Scenario-Based Navigation

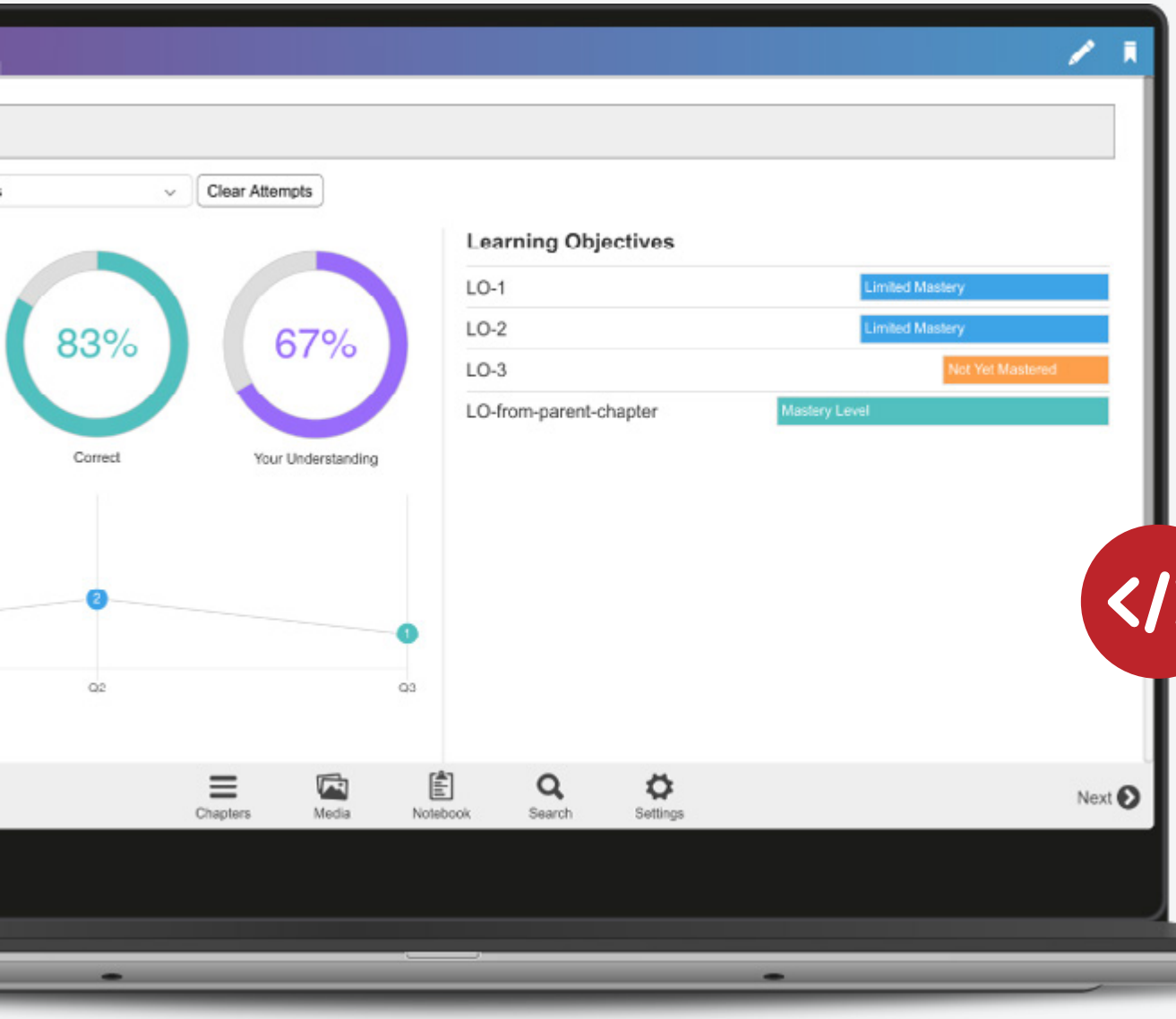
Allow readers to create their own story based on their input

6. Progress Dashboards

Our developers program the ebook to collect, calculate, and display student progress and analytics. The progress dashboard is displayed as a separate app-like chapter in the ebook.

Instructor and administrator accounts view analytics for all students in the dashboard. Useful and in increasing demand for all types of elearning and professional development, progress dashboards are integral to student success in two learning models.

- Self-directed learning materials
- Competency-based education texts



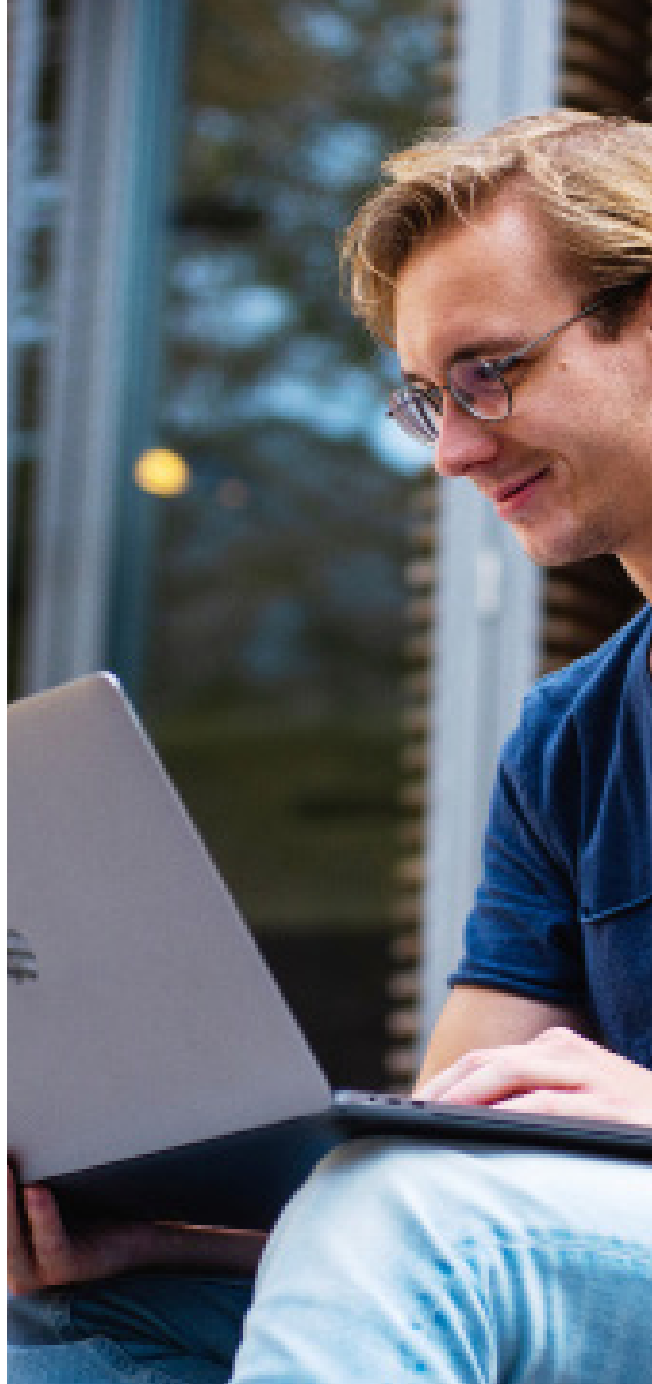
Progress Dashboards

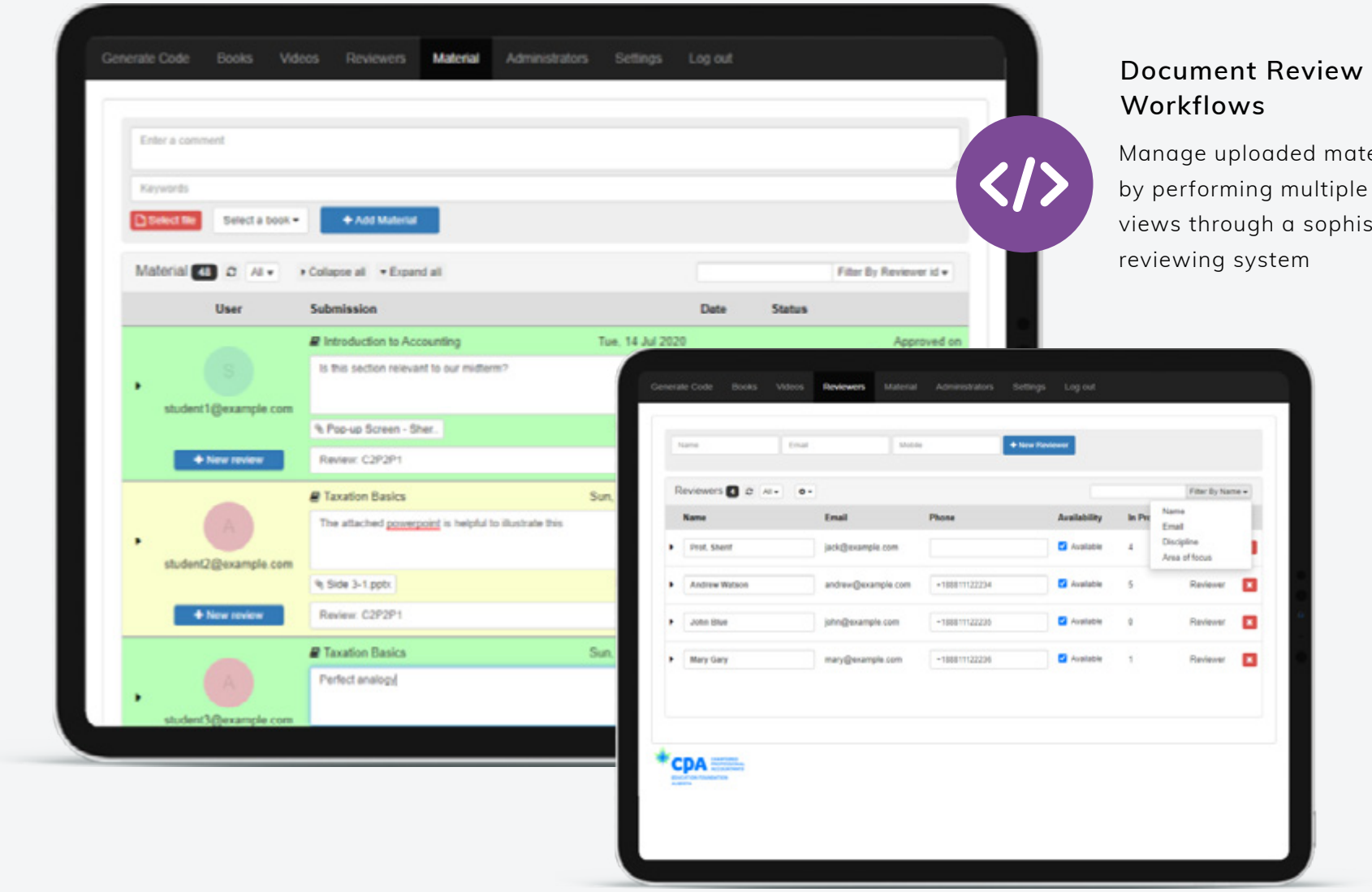
Calculate and display student progress and analytics

7. Document Review Workflows

Document review workflows are complex systems that allow for multiple readers to upload files to the ebook and have that material reviewed by different reviewers. Instructors and administrators manage the entries via a user-friendly backend system.

- Educational texts
- Collaborative stories





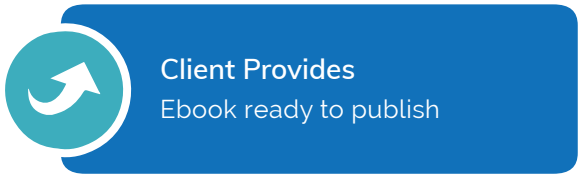
Document Review Workflows

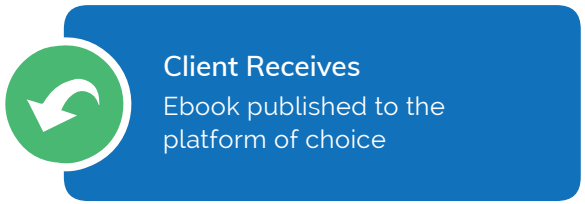
Manage uploaded material, by performing multiple re-views through a sophisticated reviewing system

Ebook Publishing

Our publishing experts assist writers with the technical aspects of publication—from exporting apps to DRM settings to uploading ebooks to self-publishing platforms or app stores.

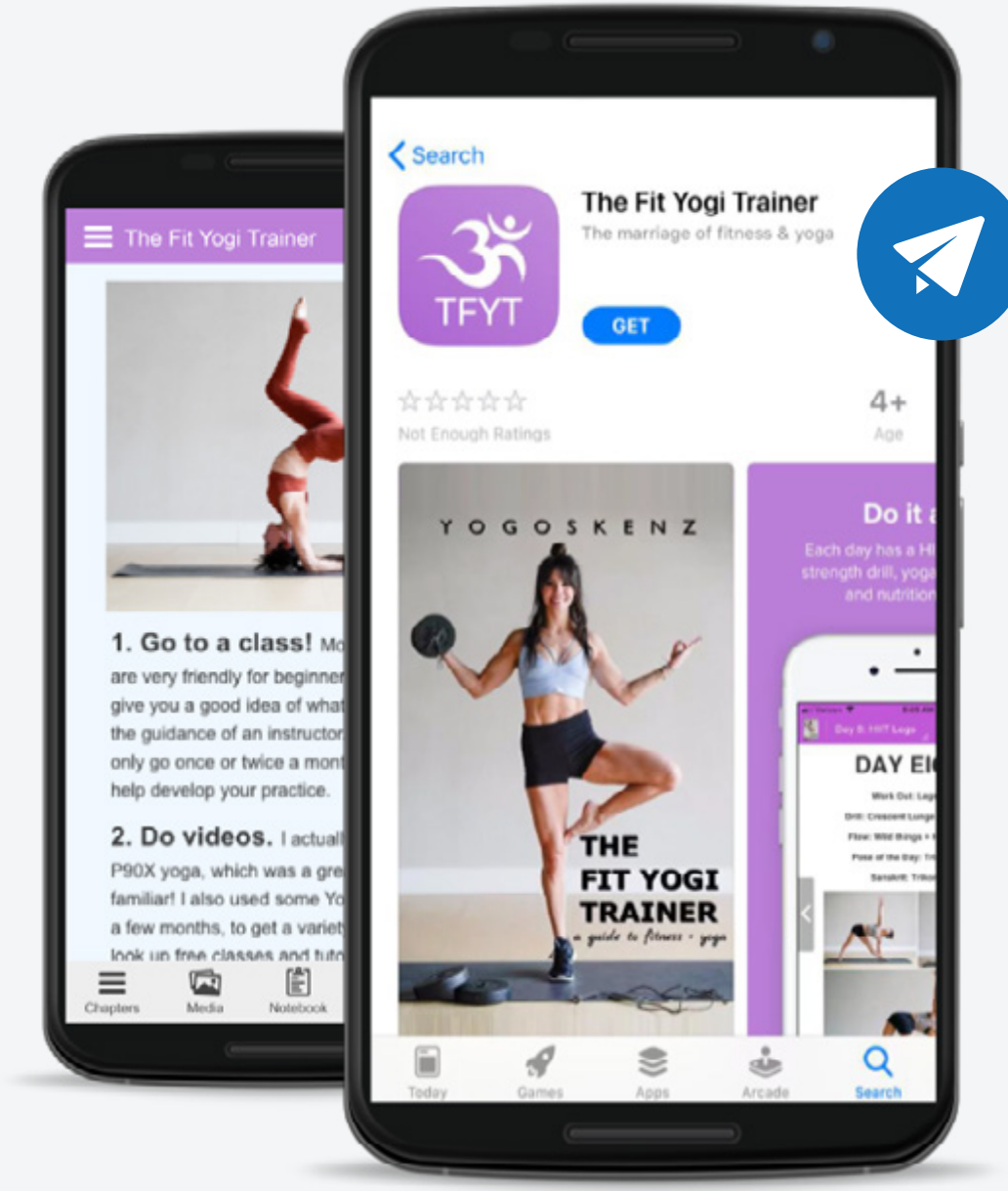
Deploy the ebook with special features, or in a special app format, such as HTML5 app, desktop app, Android app, or iOS app.





Popular Requests

1. Set user access controls
2. Upload ebook to website
3. Upload ebook to Apple iBookstore or Amazon Kindle Store
4. Integrate ebook with WordPress
5. Upload ebook mobile app to app stores
6. Export the ebook in an app format



Ebook Publishing

Receive your ebook in different formats, or upload them to online ebook stores

Use Cases

Company Learning and Development Department

Project

Custom interactive training experience for employees.

Needs

Branded ebooks compliant with corporate style guide. And the flexibility to edit and publish the training materials at any time in any format from Kotobee Author.

Services Provided

Ebook Design

Embed custom themes and templates in Kotobee Author ebook file

Ebook Scripting

Create scenario-based navigation and custom component development

Professional Training Center

Project

Provide better training value to students with modernized course materials and monetize ebooks electronically

Needs

Add animated and interactive graphics, Ebook integrated with current payment system and they will export a web app independently (using Kotobee Author) and host it on their website.

Services Provided

Ebook Consultation

Propose ways to better engage students with current course materials

Ebook Design

Add animated tables and charts throughout the book

Ebook Publishing

Integrate between an existing payment system and ebook access

K12 School

Project

Wants to introduce blended learning in classrooms.

Needs

Transform old handouts into interactive ebooks. Wants all ebooks for each grade level in a library, for easy access and management. Needs ebook integrated with LMS for tracking performance and auto-graded assignments.

Services Provided

Ebook Consultation

Propose interactive content to achieve learning goals

Ebook Conversion

High-fidelity import of old DOCX and PDF files

Ebook Design

Provide animations and design interior layout

Ebook Scripting

Develop custom book widgets and interactive content

Ebook Publishing

Ebook Library and LMS Integration

Book Author

Project

Wrote a book in Microsoft Word and wants to sell it on Amazon and personal website.

Needs

A professional interior layout, the ebook in MOBI format for Kindle and EPUB for personal website.

Services Provided

Ebook Design

Design interior layout

Ebook Conversion

DOCX to EPUB and MOBI

Ebook Publishing

Provide ecommerce solution on personal website to monetize ebook

Publishing Company

Project

Improve readability and accessibility of existing ebooks, and expand reach.

Needs

Transform from fixed formats to reflowable formats, and publish branded library apps.

Services Provided

Ebook Conversion

Convert from fixed formats to reflowable format

Ebook Publishing

Publish secure library apps to the app stores

Children's Book Author

Project

Wrote an illustrated children's storybook, but wants to bring it to life

Needs

Animations and interactivity, while maintaining the same file format (EPUB).

Services Provided

Ebook Design

Animate provided illustrations

Ebook Scripting

Add touch events to play audio, and tailored popups

Higher learning - Digital Learning

Project

Add the ability to track student performance to current interactive ebooks.

Needs

Track student engagement within content. They will handle the importing and exporting themselves inside Kotobee Author.

Services Provided

Ebook Scripting

Implement analytics dashboards for instructors, and progress dashboards for students

End of White Paper