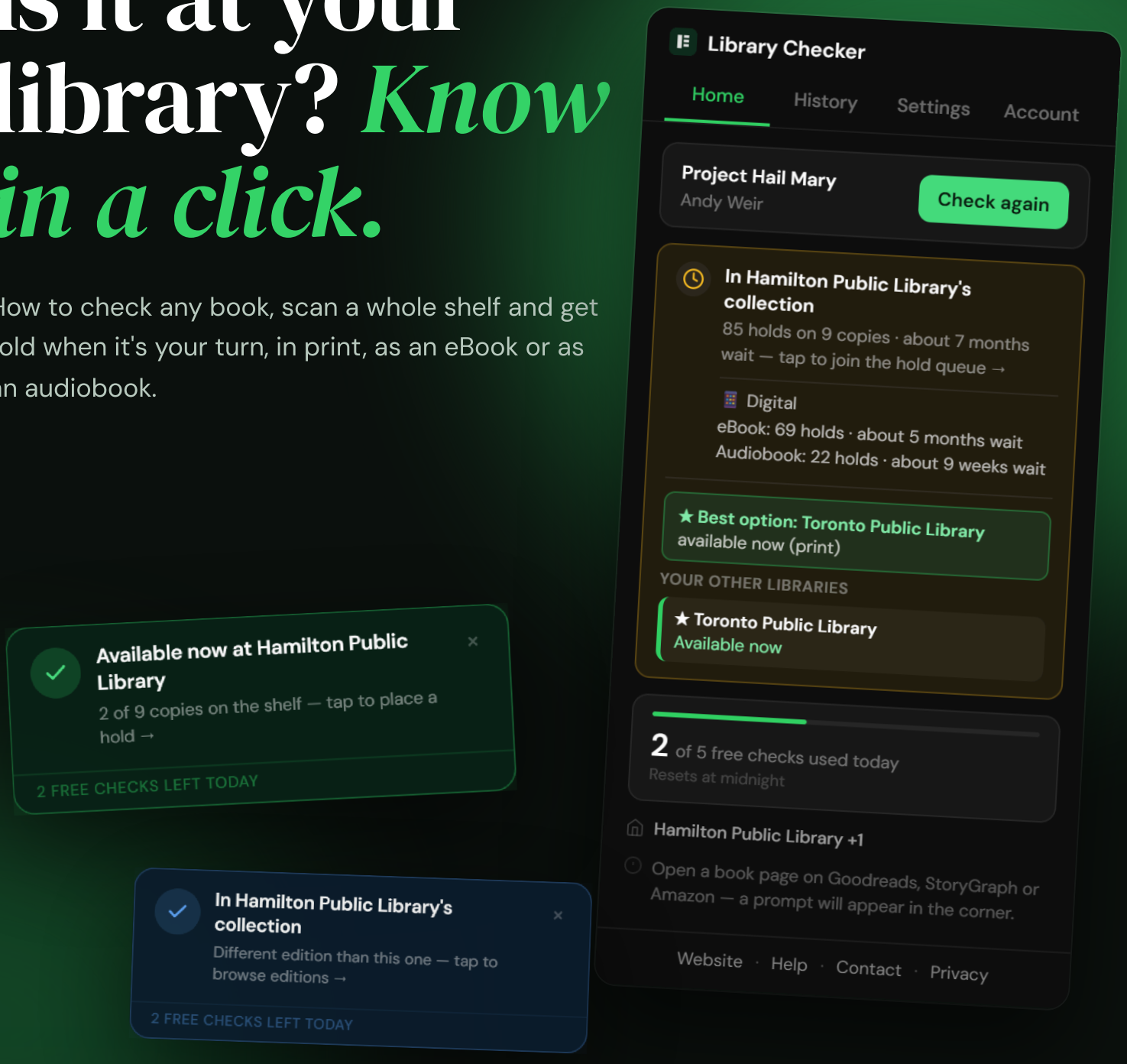
THE ILLUSTRATED GUIDE

Is it at your library? *Know in a click.*

How to check any book, scan a whole shelf and get told when it's your turn, in print, as an eBook or as an audiobook.



OVERVIEW

What Library Checker does

You find a book you want. Library Checker tells you, right there on the page, whether your public library has it, whether a copy is free right now, and how long the wait is.

Check a book

On any book page, one click shows print, eBook and audiobook availability at your library, with hold counts and a rough wait.

Scan a shelf

Open your Want to Read shelf and badge every book at once, so you can pick your next read from what you can borrow today.

Get told

Premium re-checks your shelves every night and tells you the moment a book you want becomes available.

Where it works

Goodreads
Book pages and shelves. A small prompt appears in the corner of every book page.

StoryGraph
Book pages. Click the toolbar icon, or turn on the on-page button in Settings.

Amazon
Book pages on amazon.com, .ca, .co.uk and .com.au. Same as StoryGraph.

Free and Premium

WHAT YOU GET	FREE	PREMIUM · $5/MONTH
Book checks	5 a day	Unlimited
Libraries per check	Up to 2	Up to 5
Shelf scans	1 a day, first 10 books, main library	Unlimited, whole page, every library
eBooks, audiobooks, wait times, history	Included	Included
Overnight alerts and toolbar count	—	Included
Open all your hold pages in one click	—	Included

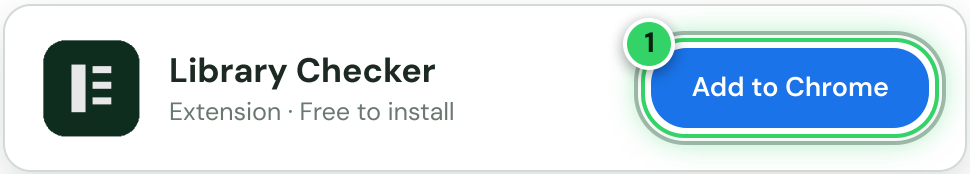
Before you start. You need Google Chrome and a free Library Checker account. You do **not** need your library card just to check availability, only to place a hold or borrow. This guide covers version 2.9.1 and later.

1 Add it to Chrome and pin it

Install Library Checker, then pin it to your toolbar so it is always one click away.

1 Add it to Chrome

Open the Library Checker page in the Chrome Web Store and choose **Add to Chrome**. Confirm when Chrome asks.

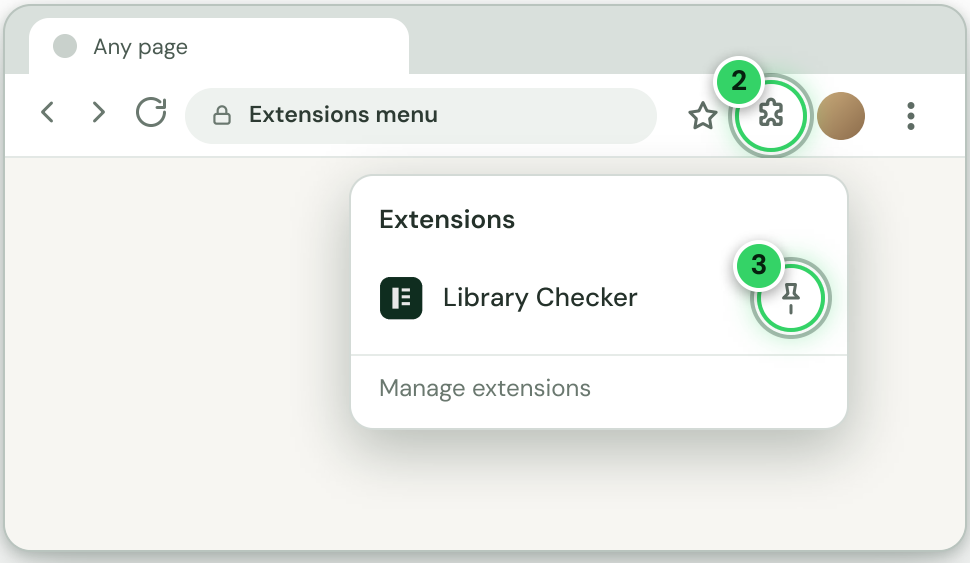


2 Open the Extensions menu

Click the puzzle-piece icon at the top right of Chrome to see your extensions.

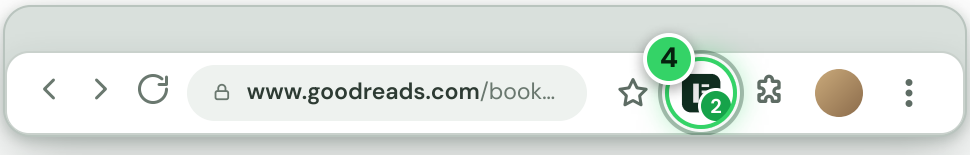
3 Click the pin

Find Library Checker and click the pin next to it.



4 Use it any time

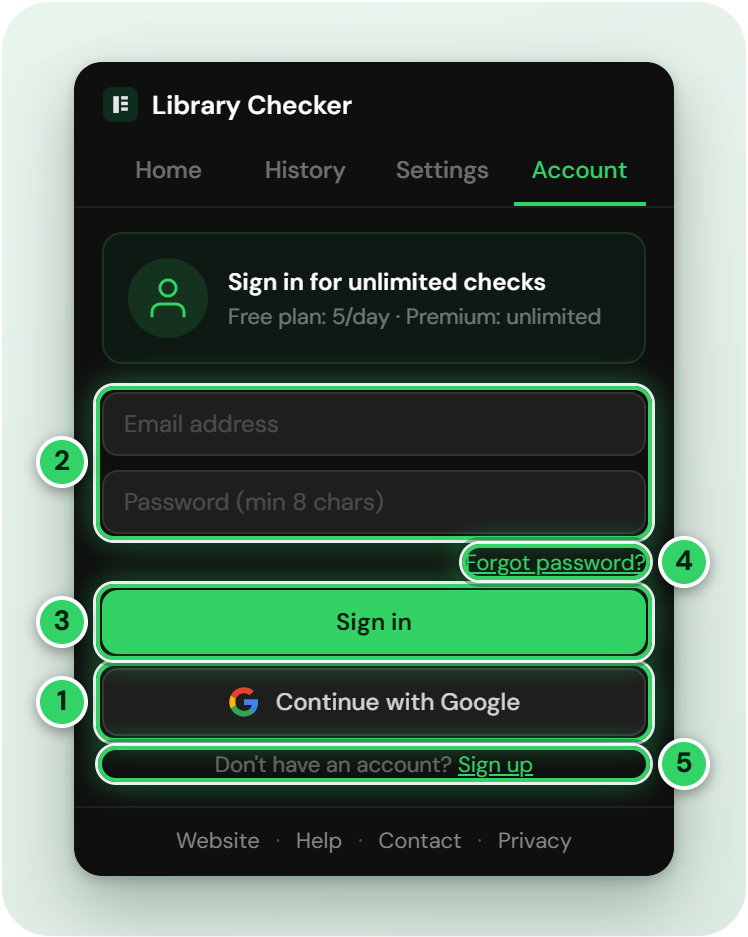
The Library Checker icon now sits in your toolbar. Click it to open the popup. When there is news (Premium alerts) a green count appears on it.

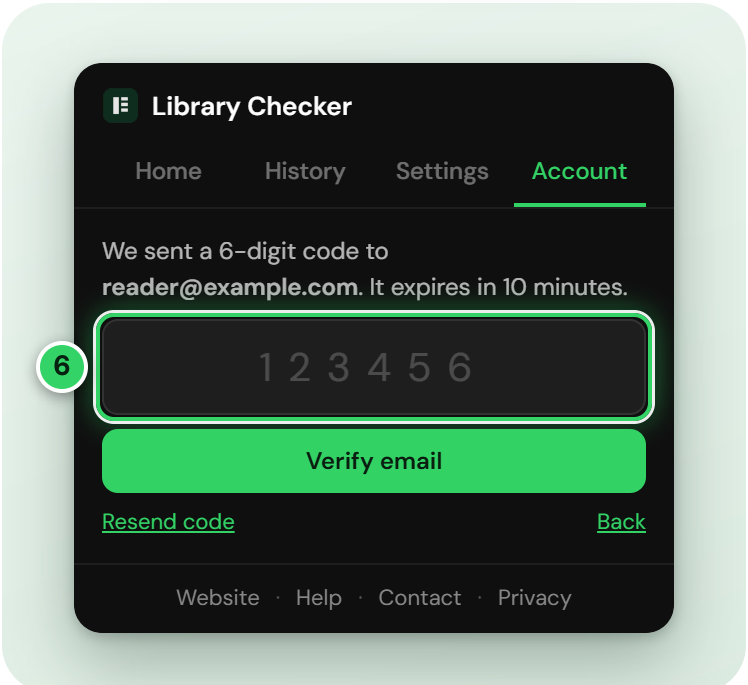


Can't see the icon? Until you pin it, Library Checker lives under the puzzle piece. Pin it once and it stays put.

2 Create your free account

An account keeps your daily checks, history and plan together, on any computer.



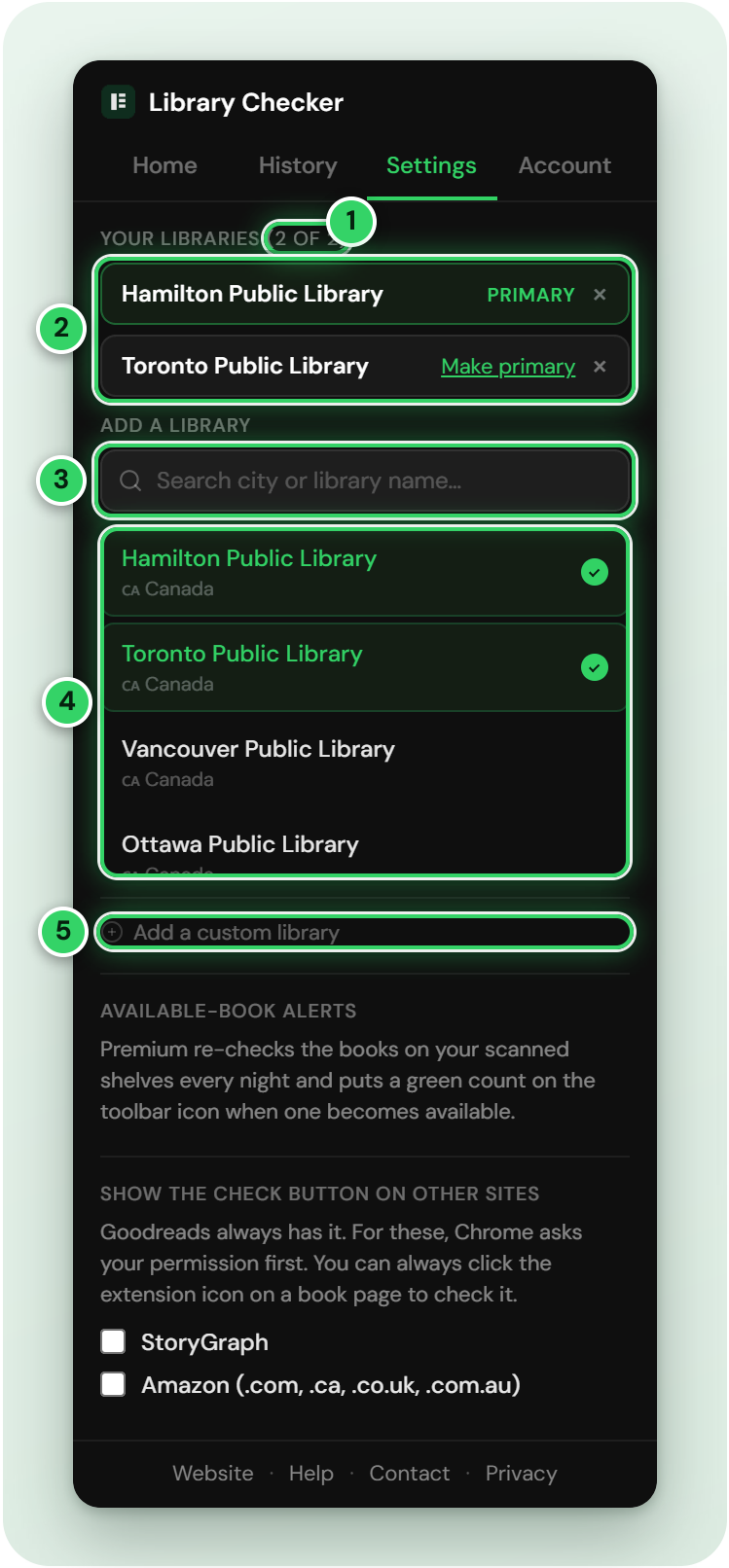


1. **Continue with Google** is the quickest way in. Pick your Google account and you are signed in.
2. Or use an **email address and a password** (at least 8 characters).
3. Press **Sign in**.
4. **Forgot password?** We email you a 6-digit code to set a new one.
5. New here? Press **Sign up**, add your name and press **Create account**.
6. If you are asked for a code, type the **6-digit code** we emailed you. It expires in 10 minutes. Check your spam folder, or press **Resend code**.

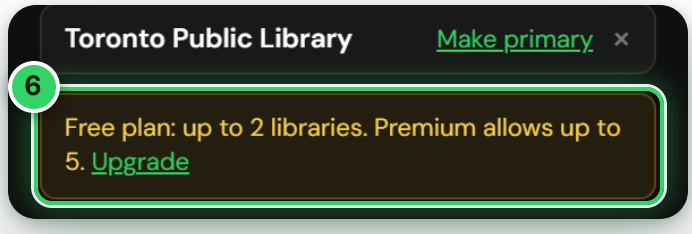
Free plan: 5 checks a day, 2 libraries and 1 shelf scan a day. You can upgrade any time from the **Account** tab.

3 Choose your library

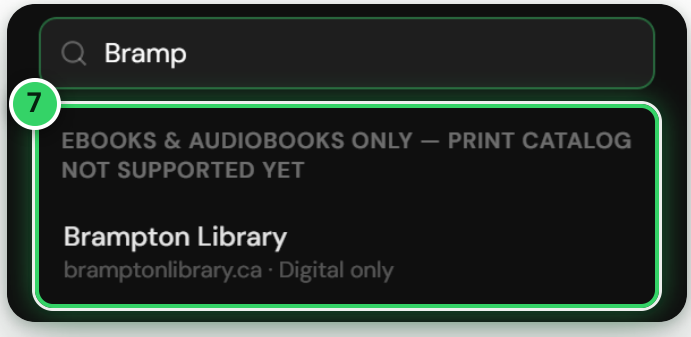
Tell Library Checker where you borrow. You can add more than one.



1. How many libraries you have chosen, out of how many your plan allows.
2. Your chosen libraries. The first is your **primary** library. Use **Make primary** to change it, or **×** to remove one.
3. **Search** by city or library name.
4. **Tap a library** to add it. Tap it again to remove it.
5. **Add a custom library** if its catalog address ends in **.bibliocommons.com**.



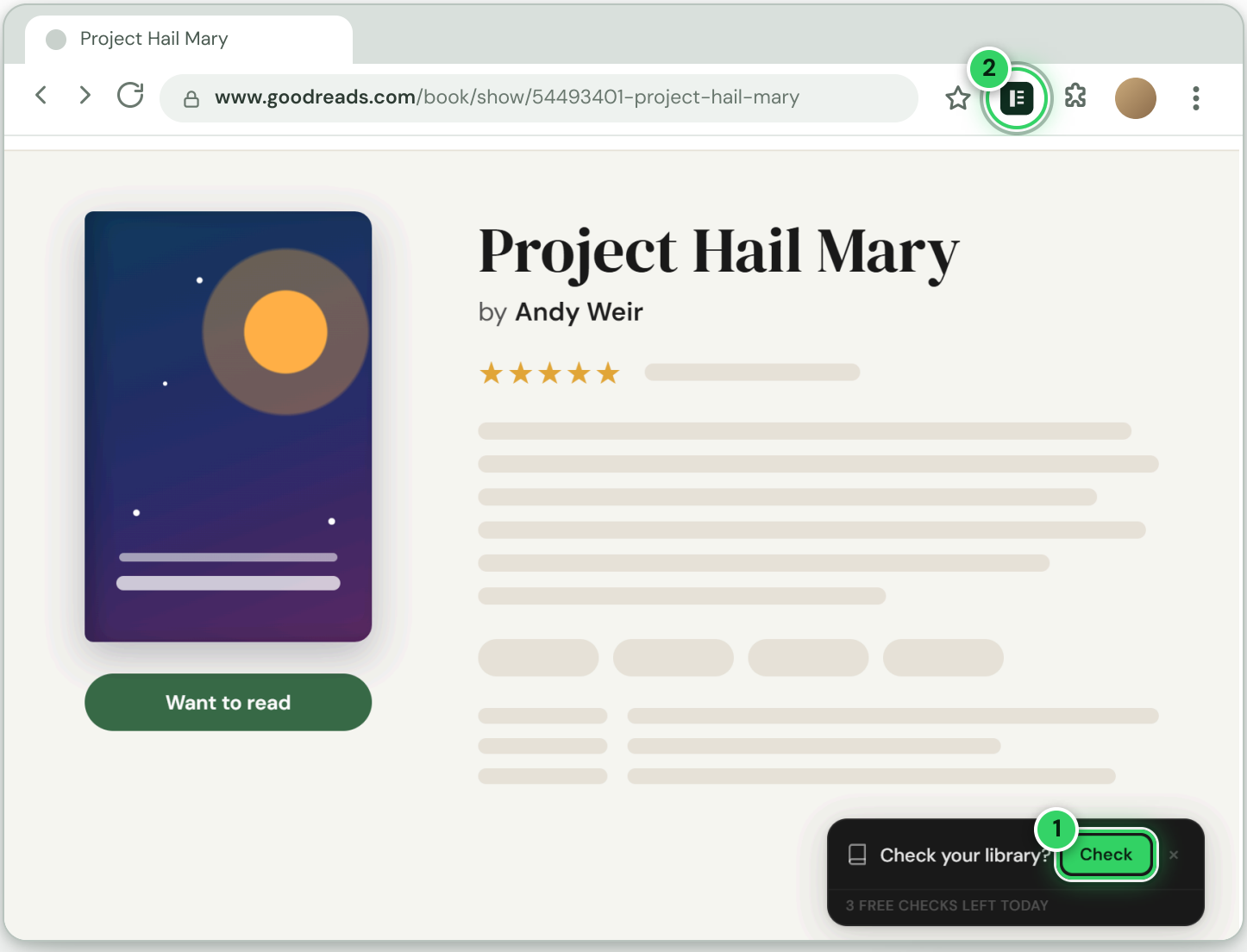
6. **The library limit.** FREE up to 2 libraries. PREMIUM up to 5. A check across several libraries counts as **one** check.



7. **Not on the list?** Keep typing its name. Libraries that lend through **Libby** appear here as **eBooks & audiobooks only**. Print isn't checked for those.

4 Check a book

Open a book, click Check. The answer appears on the page in a few seconds.

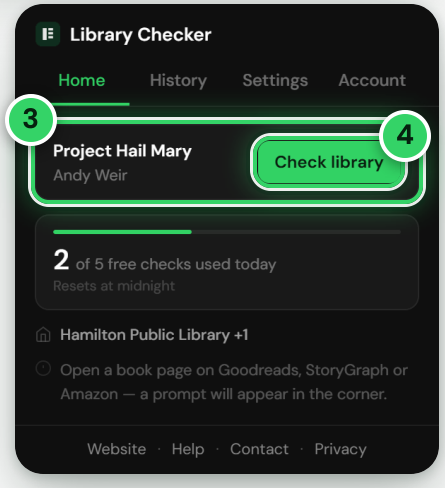


A **Open a book on Goodreads.** A small prompt appears in the bottom corner: *Check your library?* Click **Check** (1).

B **Or use the toolbar icon** (2). Click the Library Checker icon, then press **Check library**. This also works on StoryGraph and Amazon.

C **Wait a few seconds** while it asks your library. The result card opens in the corner (next page).

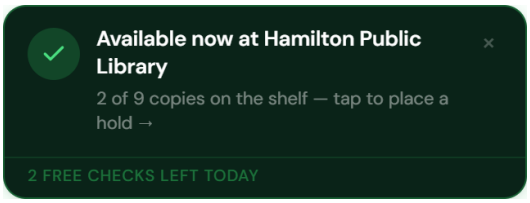
No prompt? Reload the page, make sure you are signed in (Account tab), or use the toolbar icon.



3 The book it found · 4 Check library

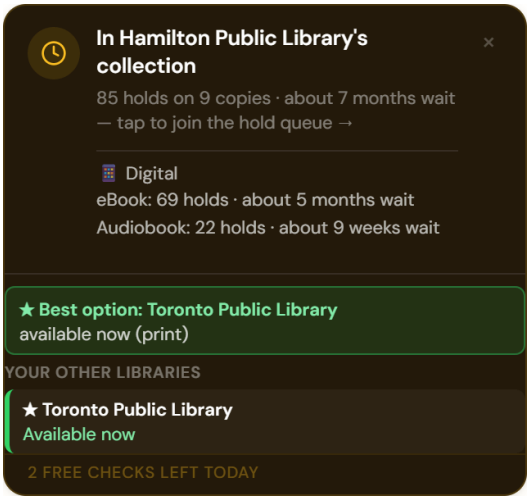
5 Read the result

The colour tells you at a glance. Tap the card to open the book at your library.



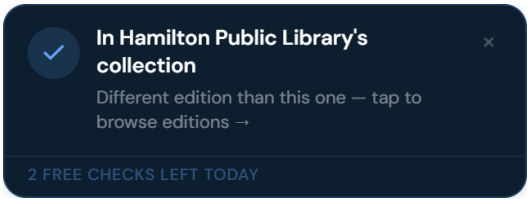
Available now

At least one copy is on the shelf. Tap the card to open the book at your library, then place a hold or borrow it there.



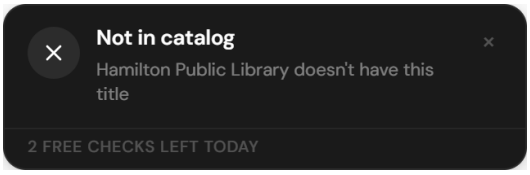
In the collection, every copy is out

You see how many **holds** there are on how many **copies**, and a rough **wait**. Under **Digital** you see the eBook and audiobook at your library (Libby): available now, or how long the wait is. Tap the card to join the hold queue.



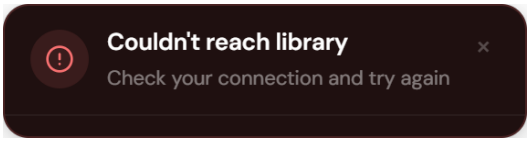
Other edition

Your library has the title, just not the exact edition on this page. Tap to browse what it has.



Not in catalog

The library doesn't list this book. If you are sure it does, tell us and we will look into it.



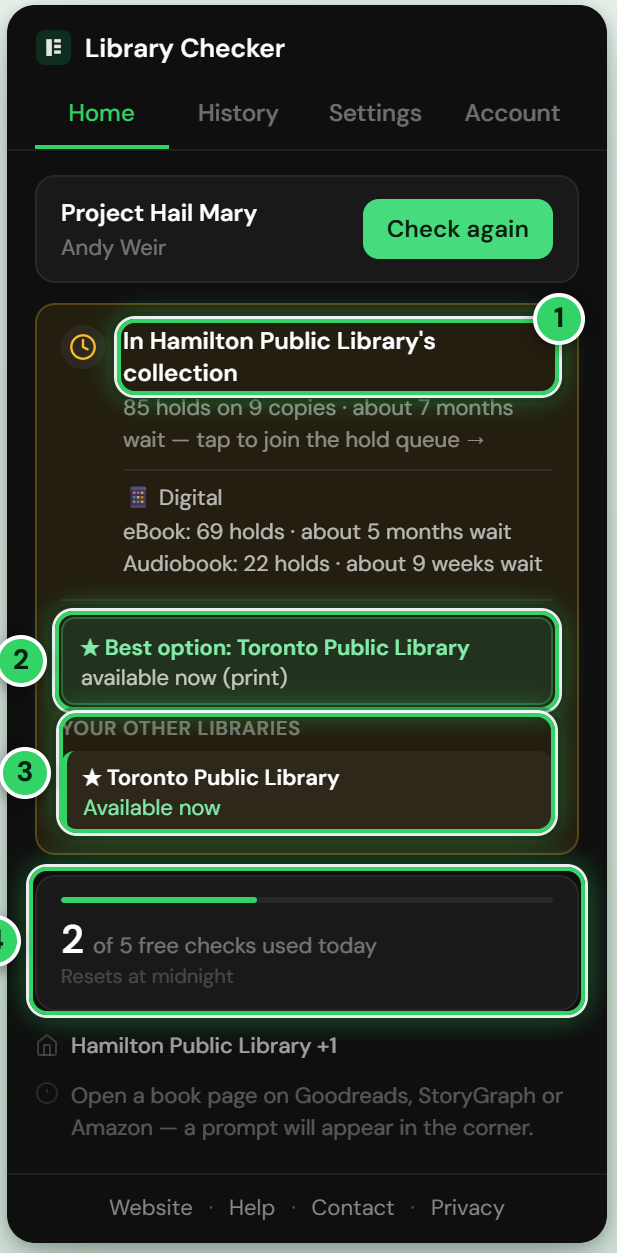
Couldn't reach library

The library's website didn't answer. Try again in a minute. A check where no library answers isn't counted against your daily limit.

About wait times: they are estimates, worked out from the number of holds and copies and a typical loan period. Digital estimates come from the library's Libby.

6 Check more than one library

Hold a card at two libraries? One check covers both and tells you where to go.



1. Your **main library** comes first, with holds, copies, wait and digital copies.
2. The green **★ Best option** banner shows where you can read it soonest. Tap it to open that library's page.
3. **Your other libraries**: one row each, with that library's answer. Tap a row to open it.
4. However many libraries you check, it counts as **one** check.

To add a second library: Settings tab, search for it and tap it. FREE up to 2 libraries, PREMIUM up to 5.

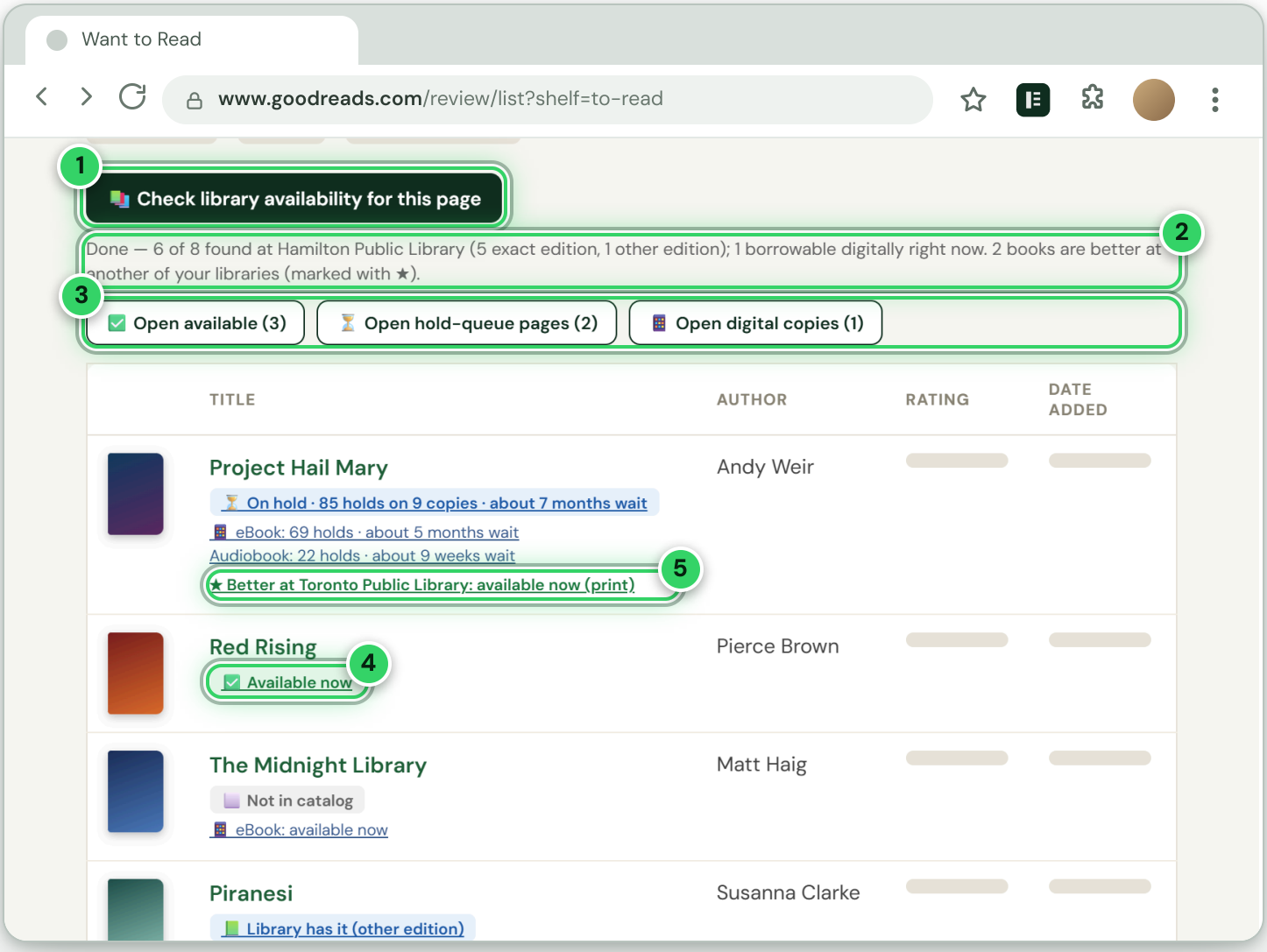
How the best option is chosen

Hamilton: all copies out, about 7 months. Toronto: a copy on the shelf.	**Toronto**
Hamilton: print wait of about 3 weeks. Toronto: eBook available now.	**Toronto, eBook**
Both have a copy on the shelf.	**Your main library**
A library with no wait estimate, without the book, or that didn't answer.	**Never picked**

A copy available now beats any wait, and a shorter wait beats a longer one, whether print, eBook or audiobook.

7 Scan a whole shelf

Check every book on a Goodreads shelf in one click, then pick what to read from what you can borrow.



A On Goodreads open a shelf, for example **Want to Read**, in **list view**.

B Click **Check library availability for this page** (1). Every book on the page gets a badge (4).

C Want more books checked? Raise Goodreads' **per page** setting on the shelf.

Free: 1 scan a day, the first 10 books, at your main library. **Premium:** unlimited, the whole page, and every library you chose.

2 A summary of the scan.

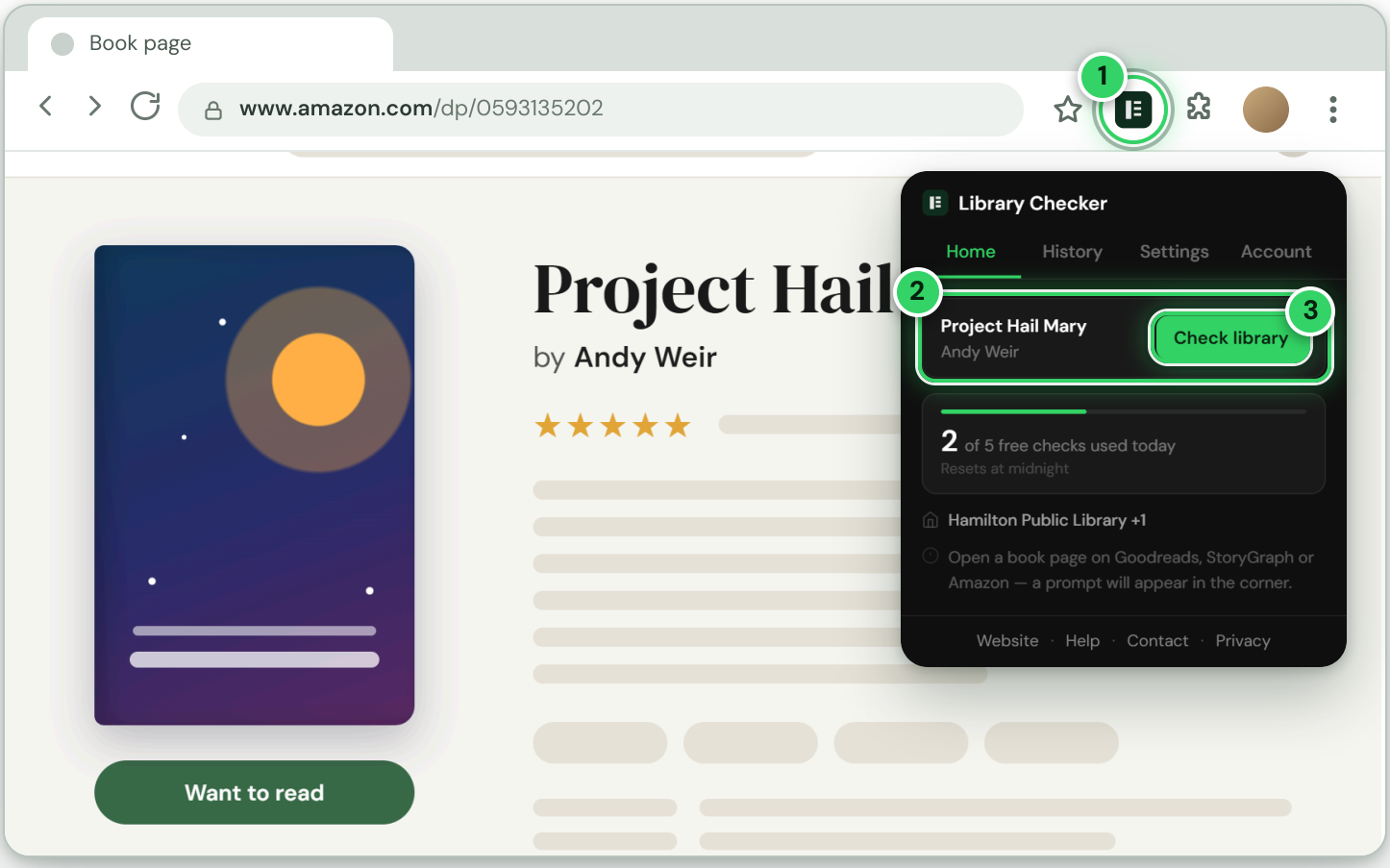
3 PREMIUM **One-click buttons** open your library's page for all the available, hold-queue or digital books at once, ten tabs at a time. You still place each hold on your library's own site.

4 A **badge** under each title: available now, on hold with the wait, other edition, not in catalog, plus eBook and audiobook lines.

5 PREMIUM **★ Better at…** appears when another of your libraries beats your main one.

8 Works on StoryGraph and Amazon too

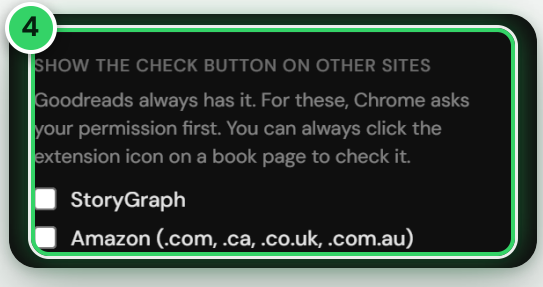
The same check, on the other places you find books.



A Open a book page on **StoryGraph**, or on **Amazon** (amazon.com, .ca, .co.uk or .com.au).

B Click the Library Checker icon (1). The popup shows the book it found (2). Press **Check library** (3). No extra permission is needed.

C **Want the corner prompt there too?** Open **Settings**, find **Show the check button on other sites** (4) and tick StoryGraph or Amazon. Chrome asks your permission first. Reload any open tabs afterwards. You can switch it off any time.

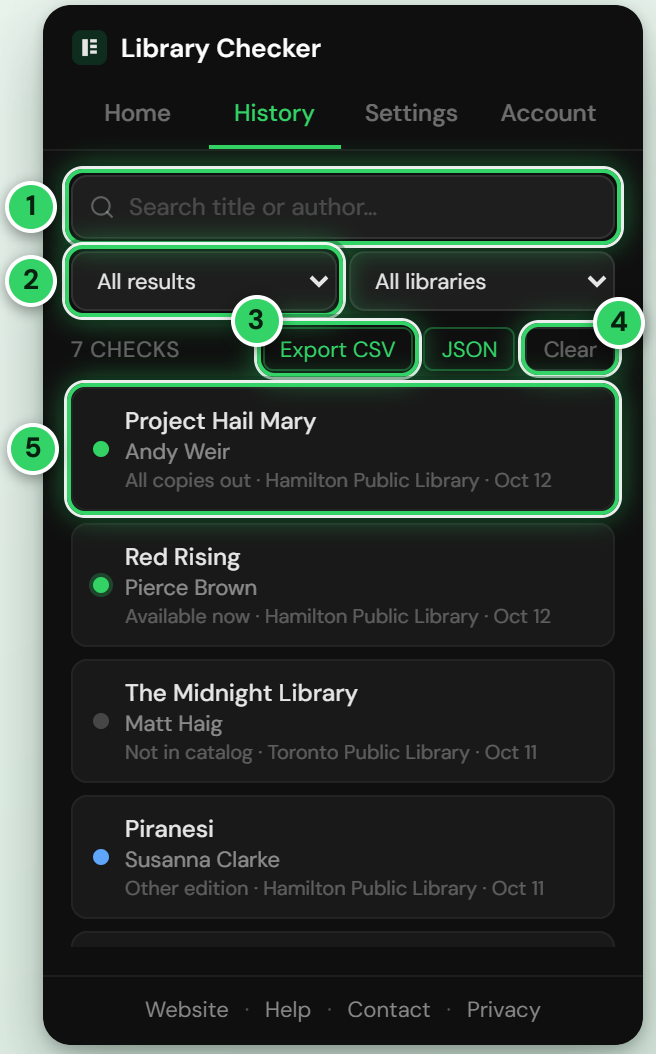


4 The switches in Settings

Whole-shelf scans work on **Goodreads** shelves only.

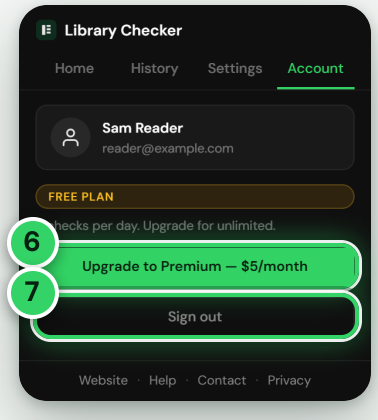
9 Your history and your account

Every check is saved, searchable and yours to export.



1. **Search** by title or author.
2. **Filter** by result (available now, on hold, not in catalog…) and, when you use several libraries, by library.
3. **Export CSV** opens in Excel or Google Sheets. **JSON** is there too. It exports what is shown, or everything if no search is set.
4. **Clear** deletes your whole history, after asking you to confirm. Export first if you want a copy.
5. **Tap any entry** to open that book at your library.

History is free for everyone. The coloured dot shows the result: **green** in the catalog (with a glow when a copy is available now), **blue** another edition or digital only, **grey** not in the catalog, **red** couldn't check.



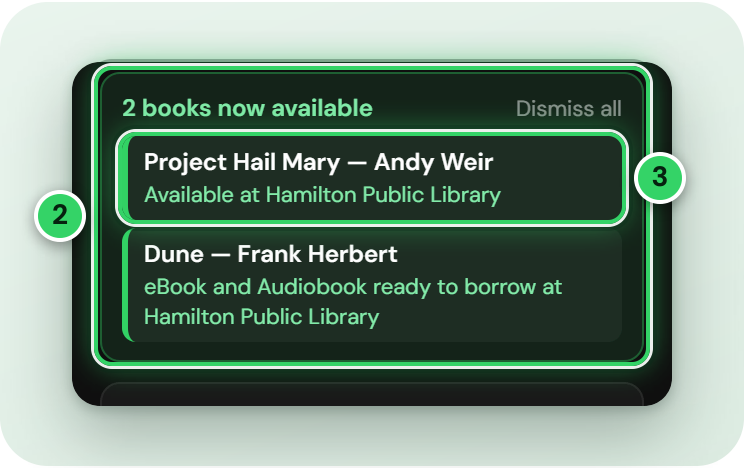
The Account tab

6. **Upgrade to Premium**, $5/month, paid through Stripe. We never see your card.
7. **Sign out** any time.

Cancel any time. Account tab, **Manage billing** (Premium members see it in place of Upgrade). You keep Premium until the end of the period you have paid for, then your account returns to the free plan. Your history stays.

10 Get told when it's your turn

PREMIUM Library Checker keeps watching the books you scanned, so you don't have to.



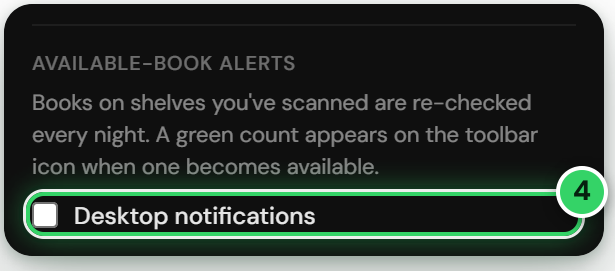
Each night Library Checker re-checks the books from your shelf scans at **every library you chose**. When one becomes available you will see:



1. A green **count** on the toolbar icon.
2. A **card on the Home tab** listing the books.
3. **Tap a book** to open it at your library. It leaves the list once you have looked, or press **Dismiss all**.

Want a pop-up too?

In **Settings**, under **Available-book alerts**, switch on 4 **Desktop notifications**. Chrome asks your permission once. It looks like this:



Dune
eBook and Audiobook ready to borrow at Hamilton Public Library
Library Checker · example notification

From: Library Checker · Today, 3:02 AM

2 books from your shelf are now available

Good news — these books from your Goodreads shelf are now available:

- **Project Hail Mary** by Andy Weir — available at Hamilton Public Library
- **Dune** by Frank Herbert — eBook and Audiobook ready to borrow at Hamilton Public Library

And an email

You also get a short email listing what became available, so you don't need to be at your computer.

Good to know: the extension looks for news about once an hour, whenever Chrome is open.

HELP

If something doesn't look right

Most problems are one of these.

WHAT YOU SEE	WHAT TO DO
“Couldn’t reach library”	The library's site may be busy or briefly down. Wait a minute and press **Check again**. It isn't counted against your daily limit.
“Sign in to check availability”	You are signed out. Open the extension's **Account** tab and sign in again.
A book my library has says “Not in catalog”	Different titles, subtitles or series names between the book page and the catalog are the usual cause. Send us the title and your library and we will look into it.
I reached my daily limit	The free plan allows 5 checks and one shelf scan a day. Both reset each day. Premium has no limit.
The prompt doesn't appear on a book page	Reload the page and check you are signed in. You can always click the toolbar icon and press **Check library**.
No prompt on StoryGraph or Amazon	It is off by default there. Use the toolbar icon, or turn the site on in Settings, **Show the check button on other sites**, then reload the tab.
The shelf scan button is missing	It only shows on Goodreads shelf pages in **list view**. Switch the shelf from the cover grid to the list, then reload.
I don't see the toolbar count	It is a **Premium** feature and only covers books from shelves you have scanned. It appears after the nightly re-check, up to an hour later while Chrome is open.
My verification code didn't arrive	Check your spam folder, then press **Resend code** (available after a minute). Codes expire after 10 minutes.
My library isn't in the list	Keep typing its name in Settings. Libby libraries appear as **eBooks & audiobooks only**. For a BiblioCommons catalog, use **Add a custom library**. Or tell us which library you use.

More help
Website and full help pages: **library-checker-backend.onrender.com**
Questions or bugs: the **Contact** link at the bottom of the extension popup.

Your data
We keep your account and check history so the extension works, and we never sell your data. The privacy policy is on the website, and you can ask us to delete your account any time.

Library Checker is an independent project. It isn't affiliated with or endorsed by Goodreads, Amazon, StoryGraph, BiblioCommons, OverDrive or Libby; those names belong to their owners. Availability and wait times come from third-party library systems and can be out of date. Book titles, library names and availability in this guide are examples.