SONY

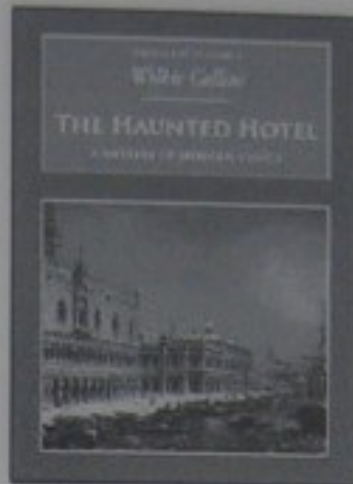## The Haunted Hotel

Collins, Wilkie

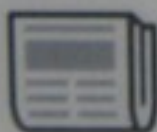Last read : 9-2-2011 1:23 PM

Books (397)

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The Haunted Hotel
Collins, Wilkie

The Fire Wolves
Lebbon, Tim

Edgar Allan Poe: Co...
Poe, Edgar Allan

Periodicals (0)

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Manage Sony x50 Reader Book List Plugin User Guide

Version 1.2.1

General Information

THE *Manage Sony x50 Reader Book List* plugin allows you to manage the home screen Books list and the Unread Books collection on your Sony reader. The plugin enables you to specify which books should be included in each list, either explicitly by selecting your choices in one of the Calibre device book views, or by establishing criteria that the plugin uses to make book selections. Selection criteria can specify that books be chosen from collections on the reader device, or based on queries executed against the Calibe Library. For the Books list, you also have control over how books appear in the list.

Installation

Installation of the *Manage Sony x50 Reader Book List* plugin is most easily accomplished using the Calibre plugin manager which you can access from the Calibre "Preferences" dialog in the "Plugins" section. Use the "Get new plugins" button to launch the "User Plugins" dialog, from which you can install the plugin (and also browse for other useful plugins that might interest you).

As part of the installation process, you will have the chance to specify which toolbars you wish to add the "Book Lists" action to. You can update the toolbars after installation by following the instructions in step 2 of the manual installation process outlined below.

Note: *The "Book Lists" action can only be added to toolbars that apply when a device is connected.*
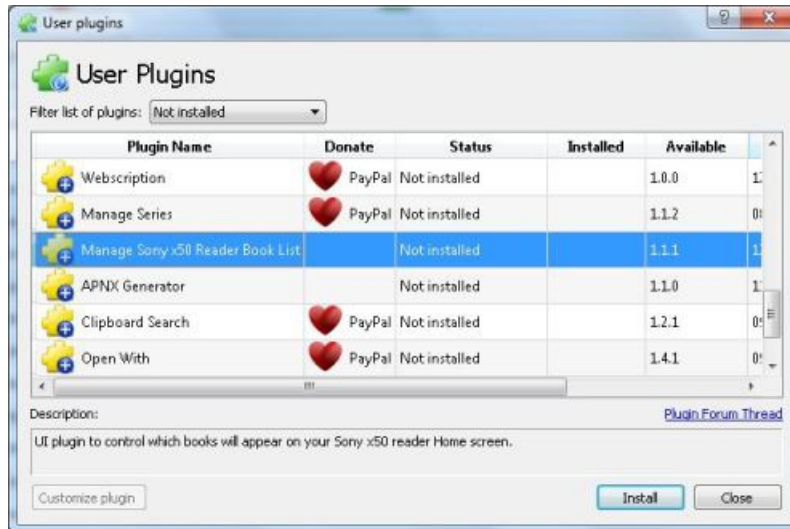
To manually install the *Manage Sony x50 Reader Book List* plugin, you need to complete 2 steps:

1. From the Calibre "Preferences" dialog, select "Plugins" in the "Advanced" section. From the resulting dialog, press the "Load plugin from file" button and select the *ManageSonyX50BookList_plugin.zip* file which is the plugin package. Apply the changes.

2. From the Calibre "Preferences" dialog, select "Toolbar" in the "Interface" section. From the resulting dialog, select "The main toolbar when a device is connected" in the drop down selection. Select the "Book Lists" action from "Available actions" and move it to the "Current actions" section. Place the action in the desired position. Apply the changes.
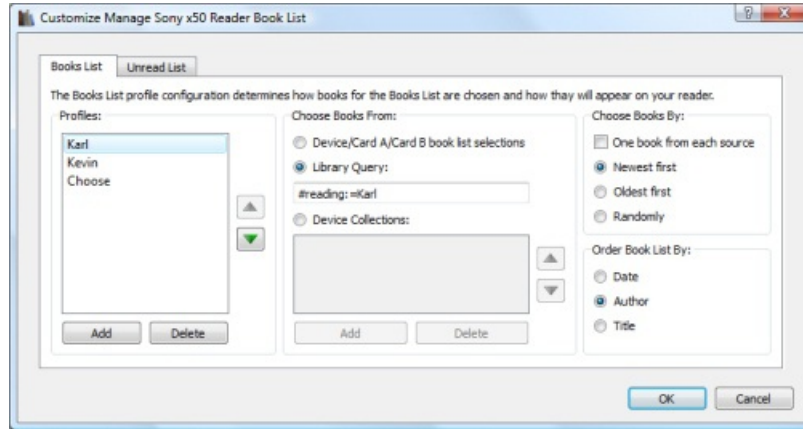
Restart Calibre to enable the newly installed plugin.

Configuration

EACH list that the *Manage Sony x50 Reader Book List* plugin manages, namely Books list and Unread Books collection, has separate configuration options. A default configuration is provided that may (or more likely, may not) suit your needs.

Books List

"Profiles" section

In this section, you manage the Books list configuration profiles. Profiles are named and capture specific criteria identifying where book choices for the reader books list come from, how they are selected, and how they will be displayed.

- Add new profiles using the "Add" buttons. A new profile is created with a default name and default options. The name is automatically put into an editable state since you will probably want to give it a more meaningful name.
- Delete the selected profile using the "Delete" button.
- Update the name for a profile by double-clicking the entry in the list.
- Rearrange the order of profiles using the "Up" and "Down" buttons. The order represents how profiles are presented in the profile selection dropdown when using the manage book list action. The first profile in the list is the default profile selected.

"Choose Books From" section

This section specifies the sources from which the plugin makes choices for books in the reader books list.

- The "Device/Card A/Card B book list selections" option signifies that, when using this profile, you will explicitly select books in one of the Calibre device book list views. The selected books will be the set of books that will be candidates to be chosen for the reader books list. If you select 3 books or less, all will appear in the reader books list. If you select more than 3 books, the selection strategy configured dictates which books will be chosen for the reader books list.
- The "Library Query" option signifies that, when using this profile, books are automatically chosen based on the results of execution of the query expression provided. The query retrieves books from the Calibre Library which are matched to books on the device based on title and author.
  The query expression can be anything that you can enter in the Calibre main UI window search field. Some examples might be: 'tags:=reading', 'search:"Books I'm reading"', and '#reading:yes'.

  Note: *If you use other means of copying eBooks to your reader rather than Calibre, then the "collections" option described below may be a more suitable choice. Use of the "query" option assumes that books in the Calibre Library correspond to books on the device.*

  Note: *The default expression is "tags:=reading". This assumes you wish the books list to include books you have tagged with value "reading", indicating you are currently reading them. If you track such books using a custom "Yes/No" column instead, the correct expression might be "#reading:yes". Of course, only you know how your library is organized, and you may use the books list for other purposes, so the default is just an educated (perhaps) guess.*
- The "Device Collections" option signifies that, when using this profile, books are automatically chosen from the list of collections specified in the list box. Books that are members of the collections are candidates to be chosen for the reader books list.
  - Add a collection to the list using the "Add" button. The name of the collection is automatically put into an editable state.
  - Delete the selected collection from the list using the "Delete" button.
  - Update the name for a collection by double-clicking the entry in the list.
  - The order of collections in the list is significant as book choices for the reader books list are made starting with the first collection, working down the list if required. Rearrange the order of the list entries using the "Up" and "Down" buttons.

"Choose Books By" section

This section specifies the strategy that the plugin uses to make book choices from the sources.

- If the "One book from each source" option is selected, the plugin will select one book only from each source. For example, each collection, assuming the reader has books belonging to that collection, will contribute one book to the reader books list.
- The "Newest first" option signifies that the plugin chooses the newest books from the source set of books to make up the reader books list.
- The "Oldest first" option signifies that the plugin chooses the oldest books from the source set of books to make up the reader books list.
- The "Randomly" option signifies that the plugin chooses books at random from the source set of books to make up the reader books list. Each run of the plugin action will result in different results since books are chosen randomly.

"Order Book List By" section

This section specifies how the reader books list is ordered.

- The "Date" option signifies that the books list is ordered by date.
- The "Author" option signifies that the books list is ordered by author.
- The "Title" option signifies that the books list is ordered by book title.

Unread List
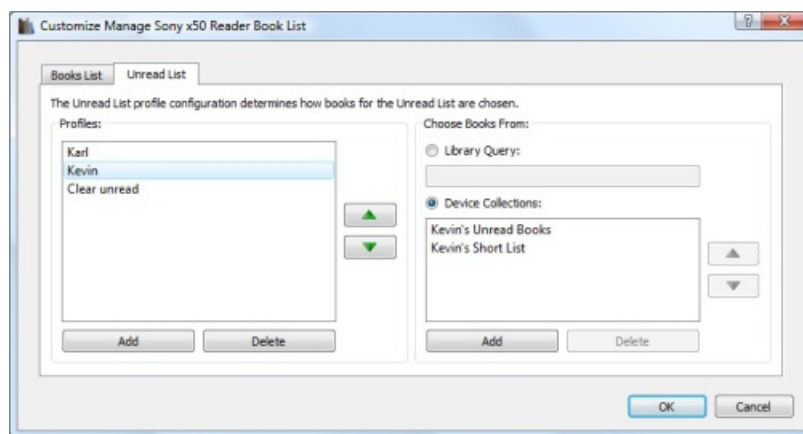
"Profiles" section

In this section, you manage the Unread Books collection configuration profiles. Profiles are named and capture specific criteria identifying which books should be included in or excluded from the unread collection.

- Add new profiles using the "Add" buttons. A new profile is created with a default name and default options. The name is automatically put into an editable state since you will probably want to give it a more meaningful name.
- Delete the selected profile using the "Delete" button.
- Update the name for a profile by double-clicking the entry in the list.
- Rearrange the order of profiles using the "Up" and "Down" buttons. The order represents how profiles are presented in the profile selection dropdown when using the manage unread list action. The first profile in the list is the default profile selected.

"Choose Books From" section

This section specifies the sources from which the plugin makes choices for books in the unread book list.

- The "Library Query" option signifies that, when using this profile, books are automatically chosen based on the results of execution of the query expression provided. The query retrieves books from the Calibre Library which are matched to books on the device based on title and author.
  The query expression can be anything that you can enter in the Calibre main UI window search field. Some examples might be: 'not tags:=read', 'not search:"Books I've read"', and 'not #read:yes'.

  Note: *If you use other means of copying eBooks to your reader rather than Calibre, then the "collections" option described below may be a more suitable choice. Use of the "query" option assumes that books in the Calibre Library correspond to books on the device.*

  Note: *The default expression is "not (tags:=read or tags:=reading)". This assumes you wish the unread collection to exclude books you have tagged with values "read" or "reading", indicating you have read or are currently reading them. If you track such books using custom "Yes/No" columns instead, the correct expression might be "not (#read:yes or #reading:yes)". Of course, only you know how your library is organized, and you may use the unread collection for other purposes, so the default is just an educated (perhaps) guess.*

- The "Device Collections" option signifies that, when using this profile, books are automatically chosen from the list of collections

specified in the list box. Books that are members of the collections make up the reader unread collection.

- Add a collection to the list using the "Add" button. The name of the collection is automatically put into an editable state.
- Delete the selected collection from the list using the "Delete" button.
- Update the name for a collection by double-clicking the entry in the list.

Usage

WHEN the *Manage Sony x50 Reader Book List* plugin is installed, you will see a "Book Lists" action on the Calibre tool bar. This will only appear when a reader is connected. The options this action provides allow you to manage the reader book lists.

Set Books List...
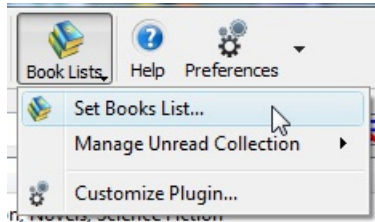
WHEN you invoke the "Set Books List..." action, a dialog appears from which you select the profile you wish to use for generating the reader books list. The dialog gives you a description of the configuration details.
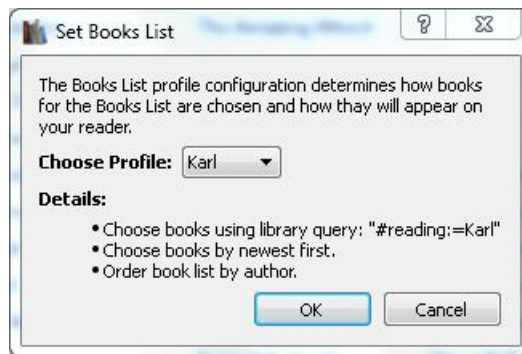

Once the action completes, an information dialog appears with the results of the action.
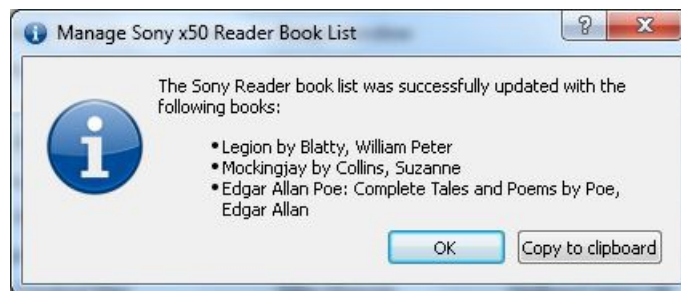
Mark Selected Read
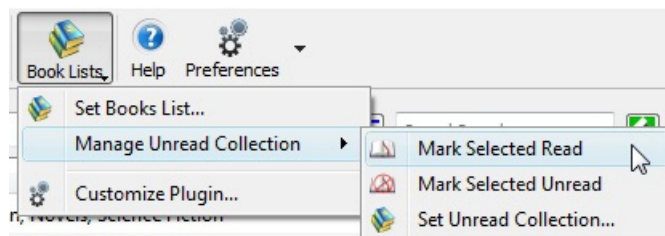
WHEN you invoke the "Mark Selected Read" action, the books selected in one of the Calibre device list views (Main/Card A/Card B) are removed from the Unread Books collection, if they were previously included.

Once the action completes, an information dialog appears with the results of the action.
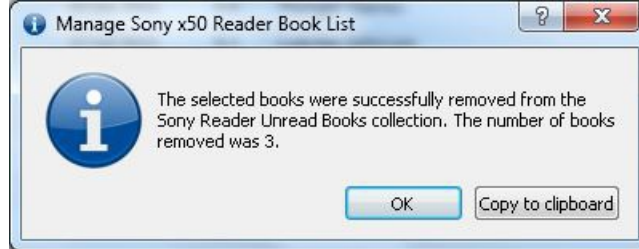
Mark Selected Unread
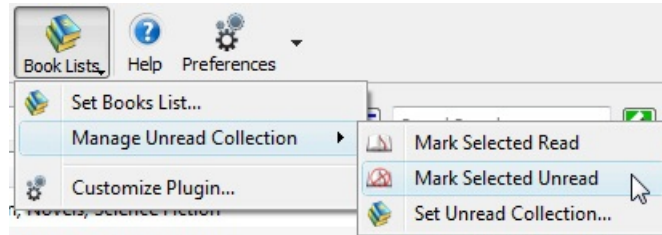
WHEN you invoke the "Mark Selected Unead" action, the books selected in one of the Calibre device list views (Main/Card A/Card B) are added to the Unread Book collection, if they were previously not included.

Once the action completes, an information dialog appears with the results of the action.
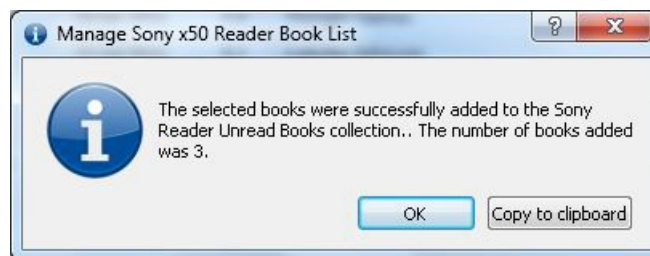
Set Unread Collection...
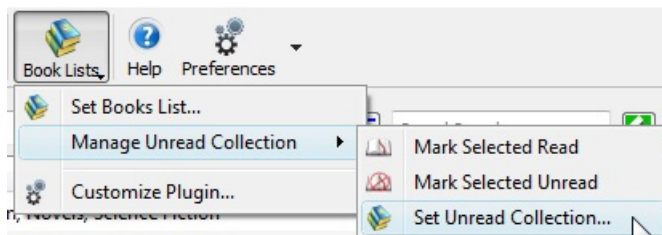
WHEN you invoke the "Set Unread Collection..." action, a dialog appears from which you select the profile you wish to use for generating the unread collection list. The dialog gives you a description of the configuration details.

Note: *When using the "Set Unread Collection..." action, all books that satisfy the criteria specified in the profile (whether that be based on a query or a set of collections) are included in the unread collection, while all other books are excluded. It synchronizes the unread collection with the profile criteria.*

Once the action completes, an information dialog appears with the results of the action.
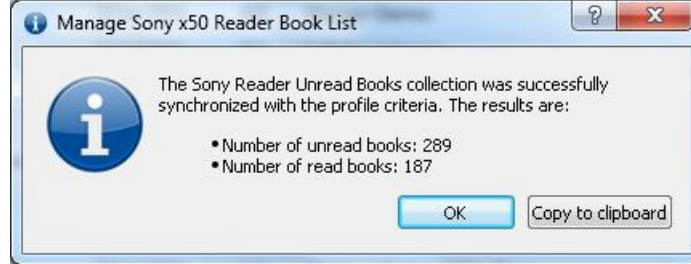
Customize Plugin...
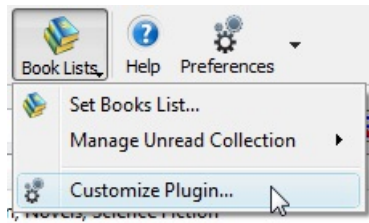
WHEN you invoke the "Customize Plugin..." action, the *Manage Sony x50 Reader Book List* plugin customization dialog is launched.
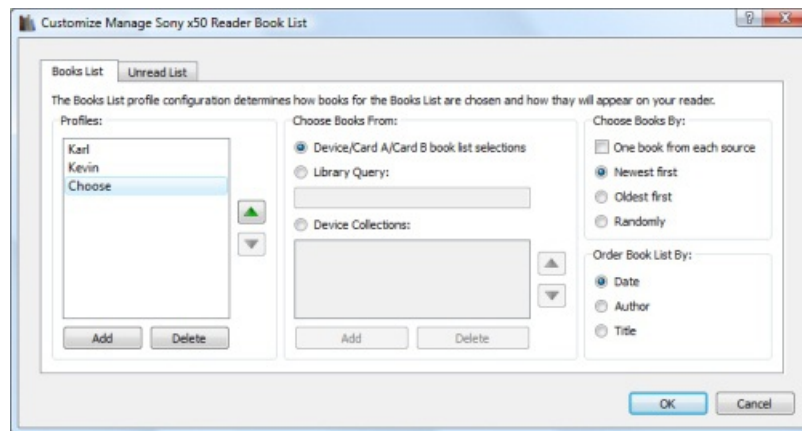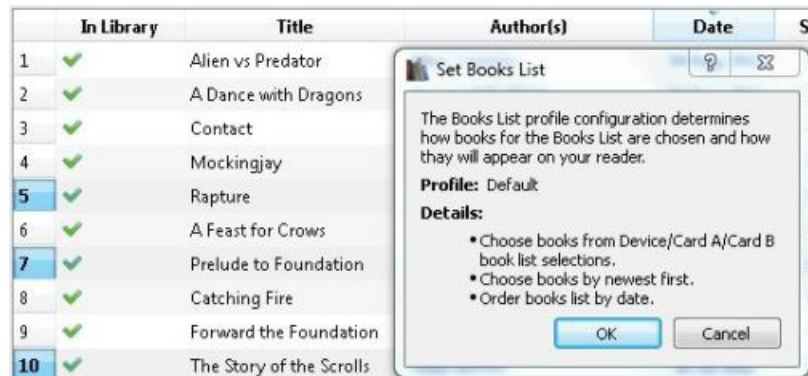
Use Cases

HERE are a few example use cases that I had in mind for this plugin. They represent the kind of functionality I was looking for my Sony reader to provide in the Home page Books list and Unread Books collection.

# Use Case 1: Manually choose Books List books from device views using default configuration

I want to interactively select books that are loaded on my reader to populate the reader books list. I want the most recent books from my selections to be chosen, and I want the reader book list to be ordered by date, newest first.

THIS behaviour is the default behaviour for the *Manage Sony x50 Reader Book List* plugin, so no configuration is required.
The "Set Books List..." action results in the following dialog:

and the final result is
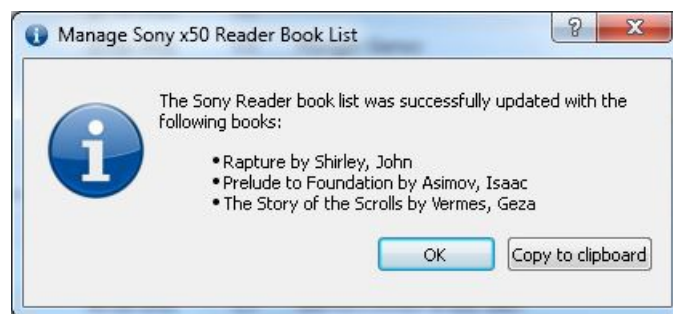
# Use Case 2: Synchronize reader Unread Collection with Calibre library using default configuration

In my Calibre Library, I keep track of what books I've read or am currently reading by adding the tags "read" or "reading", respectively, to such books. I want to be able to synchronize my reader Unread Books collection with the books flagged in this way, including only books that I have not already read and that I am not currently reading.

THIS default behaviour of the *Manage Sony x50 Reader Book List* plugin assumes this scenario, so no configuration is required. The "Set Unread Collection..." action results in the following dialog:
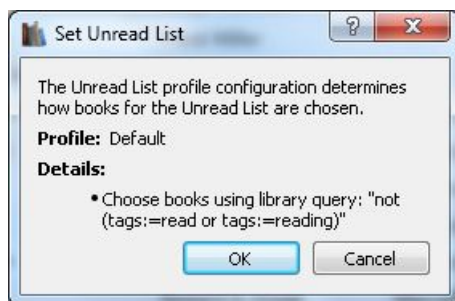
and the final result is
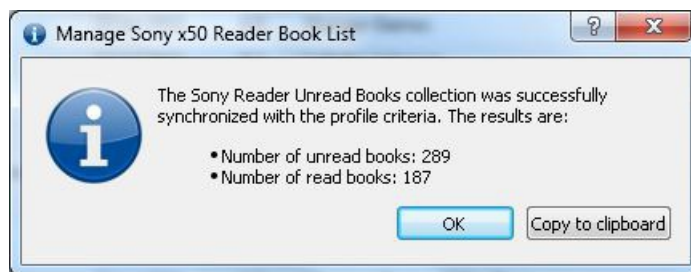
Use Case 3: Automatically choose Books List books based on collections

I have an "I'm Reading" collection on my reader (something I got to really like when my Kobo was my primary reader), and I typically have 4 or 5 books on the go at any point in time. I want my reader books list to display 3 of the books from my "Reading" collection so I have easy access to them.
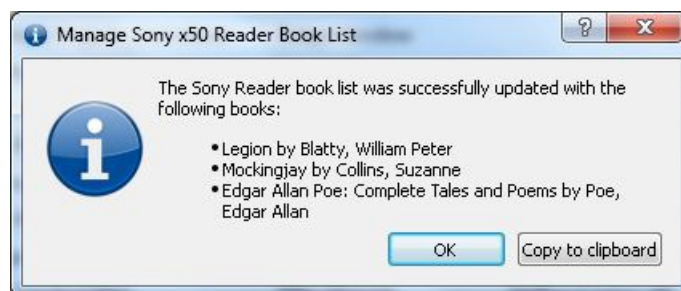
THE following configuration enables the above use case:
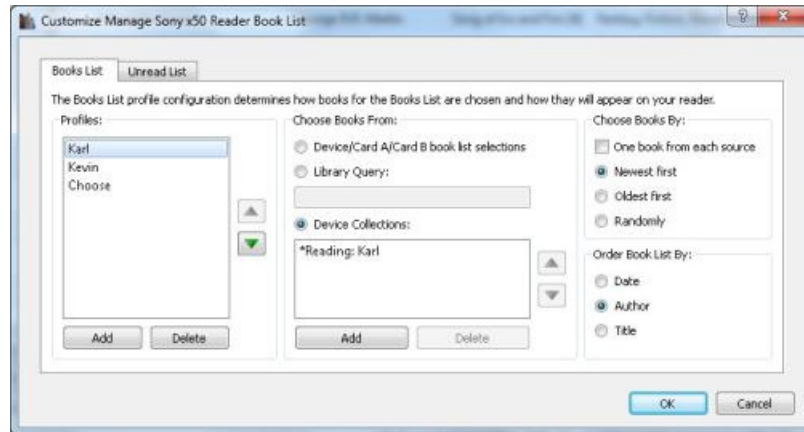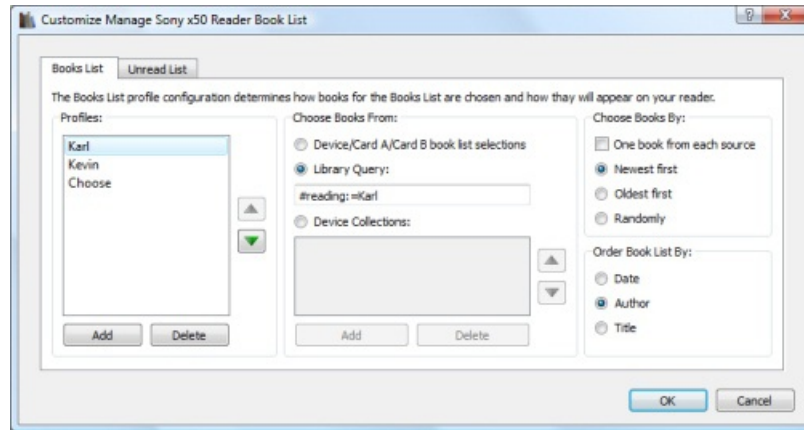

The "Set Books List..." action results in the following:
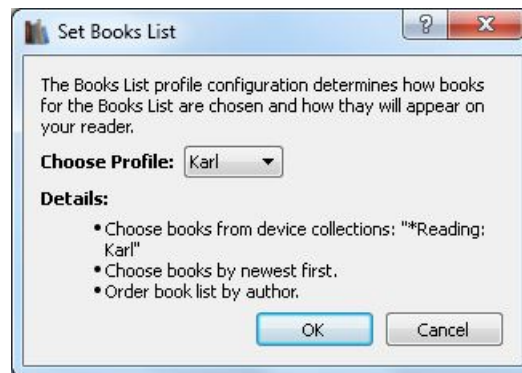
and the final result is

Use Case 4: Automatically choose Books List books based on a query

The "I'm Reading" collection on my reader, from the previous use case, is managed from Calibre based on a custom column I've defined named "#reading", which has value "Karl" for books that I am currently reading. In this alternative use case, I wish to populate the reader Books List with books flagged in Calibre in this way, without requiring that an explicit collection be maintained on my reader.

THE following configuration enables the above use case:

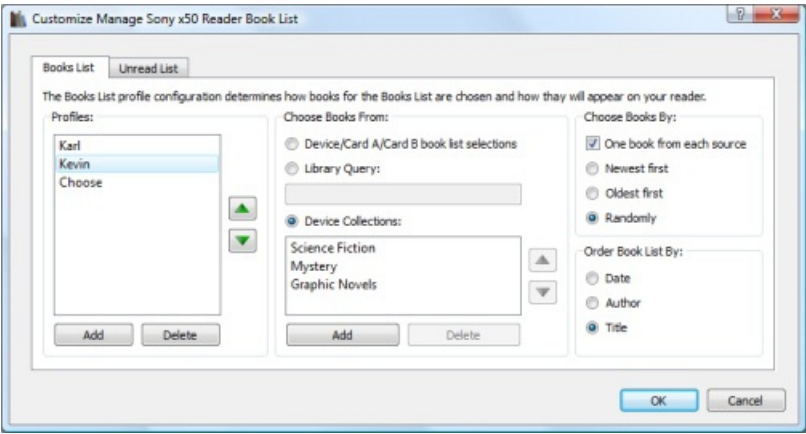The "Set Books List..." action results in the following:
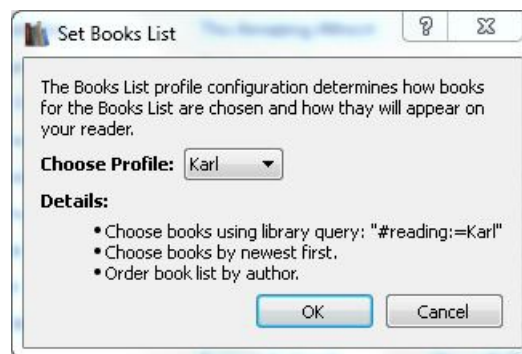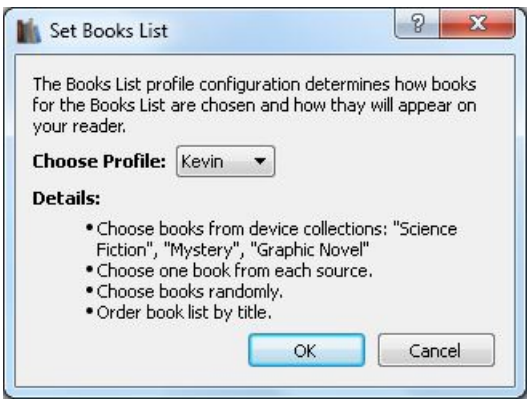

and the final result is
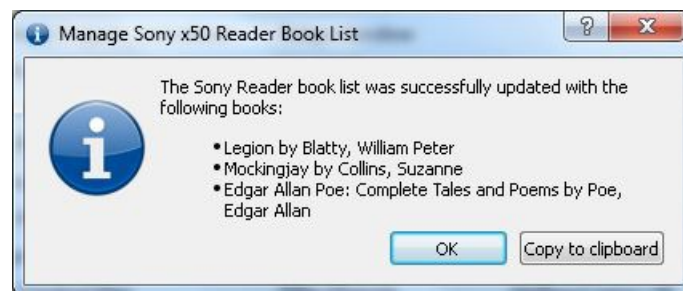
Use Case 5: Choose random sampling of books from various collections for Books List

My son likes to use his reader books list as a suggestion list for what book he would like to read next. He wants the book list to provide him with a random sampling of books that have been categorized as "Mystery", "Science Fiction", and "Graphic Novels".
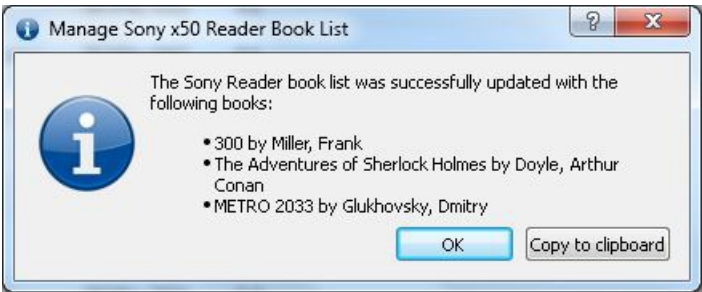
THE following configuration enables the above use case:

The "Set Books List..." action results in the following:

and the final result is

Use Case 6: Manage multiple readers with different book list requirements

I manage more than one reader using the same Calibre library. Both my son and I have our own readers, and we have different requirements for how the reader books list and unread collection should behave. I want to be able to easily set the contents of both our reader's book lists.

CONFIGURING separate profiles enables the above use case:
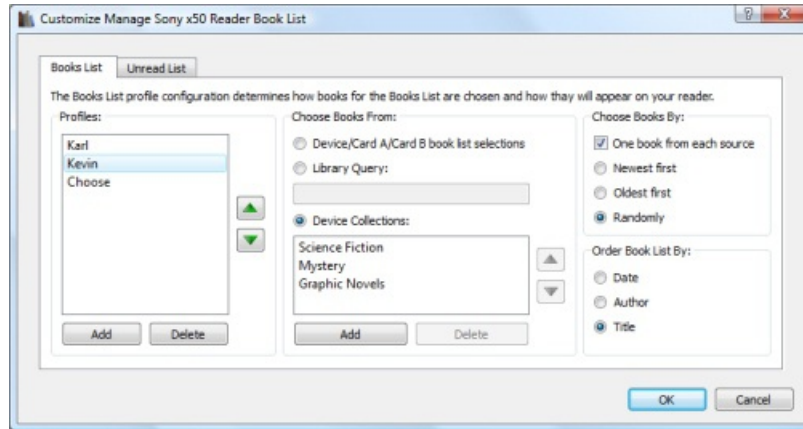
Use Case 7: Manually add/remove books to/from the unread collection

I want to maintain my unread collection by adding and removing books on the fly. Although the Sony reader does not allow direct management of the Unread Collection, I want to use the device book lists (Main/Card A/Card B) to select specific books for inclusion in or exclusion from the Unread Books collection.

THIS use case is enabled by invoking the "Mark Selected Read" and "Mark Selected Unread" options of the "Book Lists" tool bar action.
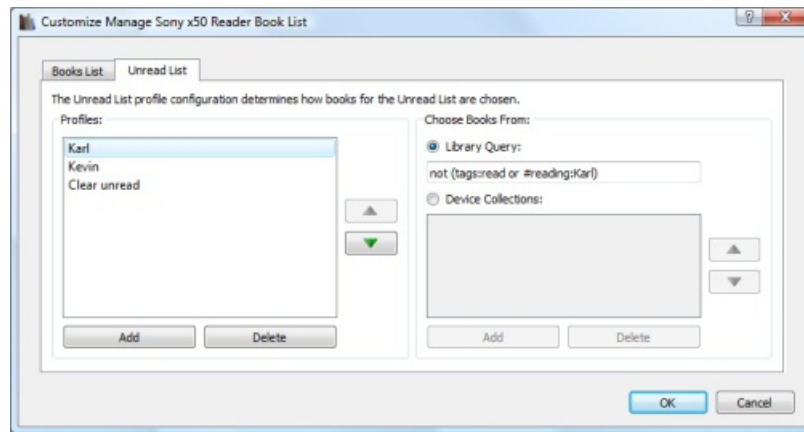
The final result is one of the following:
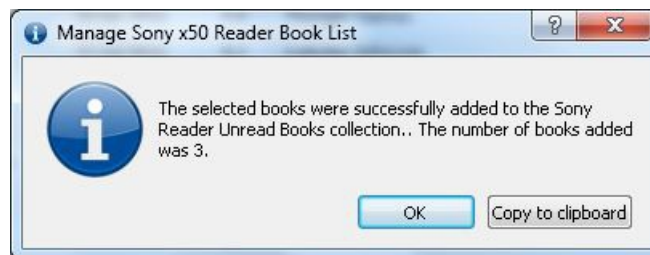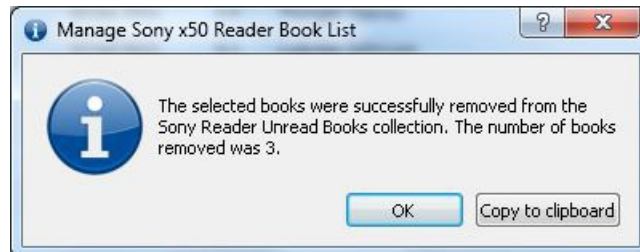
Use Case 8: Synchronize reader Unread Collection with a library query

In my Calibre Library, I keep track of what books I've read or am currently reading by maintaining either custom columns (e.g. "#read"/"#reading) or tags (e.g. "read"/"reading") to flag such books appropriately. I want to be able to synchronize my reader Unread Books collection with the books flagged in this way.
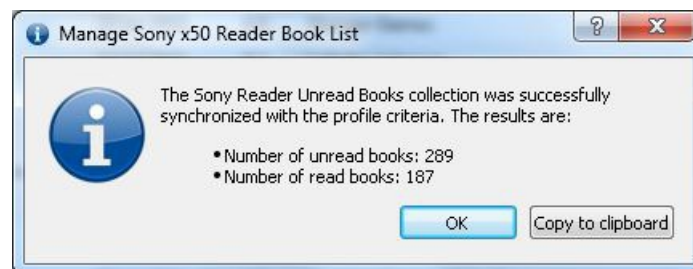
THE following configuration (or one similar) enables the above use case:

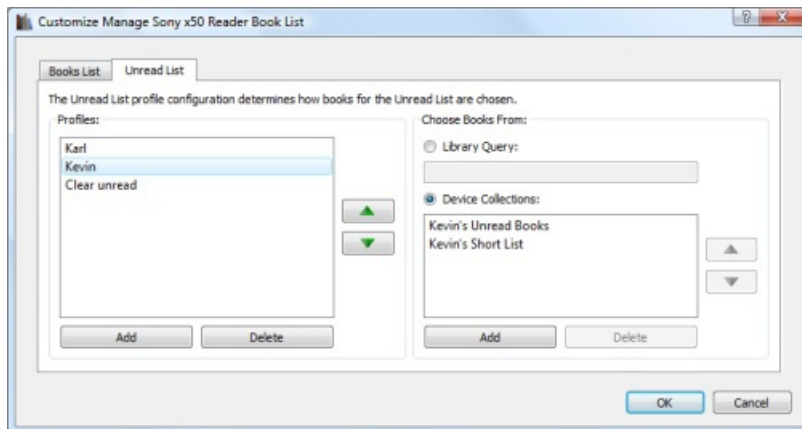The "Set Unread Collection..." action results in the following:

and the final result is

Use Case 9: Synchronize reader Unread Collection with collections

As an alternative to the previous use case, I would like to be able to maintain a collection directly on my reader, rather than in Calibre, to track books that I have not read, and synchronize that with the Unread Books collection. In this way, I can work around the limitation my reader imposes that does not allow direct management of the Unread Books collection, and take advantage of the "New" decorator that gets applied to such books.

THE following configuration enables the above use case:

The "Set Unread Collection..." action results in the following:

and the final result is