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Booklists: Should- and Want-to-Reads

Stephanie Wiegand  
*University of Northern Colorado*, stephanie.wiegand@unco.edu

Sarah Naper  
snaper@txstate.edu

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Booklists
Should- and Want-to-Reads

Stephanie Wiegand & Sarah Naper
University of Northern Colorado Libraries

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Identify Your Booklist

Identify the booklist you are given by checking it against the titles of the booklists that are placed on the seats of the chairs around the room. Once you have found your match, have a seat!

After you settle in, take another look at your list and circle all the books on your list that you’ve read.
All books are divisible into two classes: the books of the hour and the books of all time.

John Ruskin (1819-1900)
Be as careful of the books you read, as of the company you keep, for your habits and character will be as much influenced by the former as the latter.

Edwin Paxton Hood (1820-1885)
Dead White European Males

William Shakespeare (1564-1616)

Charles Dickens (1812-1870)

Oscar Wilde (1854-1900)
Books and harlots have their quarrels in public.

Walter Benjamin (1892–1940)
If we are studying what books were popular in any period of our history, it is important to know not only what people could have read, or should have read, but what they did read.

Frederic G. Melcher, *Fifty Years of Best Sellers*, 1946
Every Book Its Reader
The Power of the Printed Word to Stir the World

Nicholas A. Basbanes
There is a growing consensus that while *the* canon may have been banished forever, there will always be *a* canon.

Leo Braudy reporting on 1989 MLA meeting
While the number of small and alternative press titles grows rapidly in areas such as self-help, how-to, and health-related books, their acceptance in the mainstream world of major bookstores and in libraries has lagged.
We are creating ‘vanilla collections,’ and it is clear that the costs of materials will force libraries to acquire an increasingly declining portion of available information.

Milton Wolf
Vice President for Collection Programs
Center for Research Libraries
Certaine Informations from Severall Parts of the Kingdome for the Satisfaction of all Sorts of People that Desire to Bee Truly Informed

Printed for Henry Overton, 1643-1644
Books are the treasured wealth of the world and the fit inheritance of generations and nations.

Henry David Thoreau
(1817-1862)
Do libraries have an agenda?

If so, where can this agenda be found – in a library’s collection, or in their advocacy and ability within their community to guide society toward what is just or what is truth?

John-Bauer Graham
Assistant Professor
Jacksonville State University
Should libraries become the storage centers for popular culture?
European and North American researchers, scholars, and publishers commonly demonstrate the ‘Gutenberg syndrome,’ in which the history of the book, the world of publishing, and scholarship in general are viewed in terms of Western principles and practices.

Amadio Arboleda, Author
The Book of Great Books
A Guide to 100 World Classics
W. John Campbell, Ph.D.
“best seller”

A term was needed to describe what were not necessarily the best books the books that people liked best.

Frederic G. Melcher
Fifty Years of Best Sellers
1946
Making lists of best books has been a favourite indoor sport with our wise men during the last half century.

Asa Don Dickinson
*One Thousand Best Books*
1924
Don Quixote by Miguel de Cervantes
Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll
Lolita by Vladimir Nabokov
Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen
The Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger
To the Lighthouse by Virginia Woolf
Selection is unavoidably a subjective matter.

Robert B. Downs
Molders of the Modern Mind, 1961
Lord Acton’s Hundred Best Books

John Emerich Edward Dalberg-Acton (1834-1902)
You can't tell a book by its cover.
There are two motives for reading a book: one, that you enjoy it; the other, that you can boast about it.

Bertrand Russell, Nobel Laureate
What matters... is whether your library has the books you consider to be wonderful. And, if not, what also matters is whether your library has the support it needs to support your needs.

Compilers of the OCLC Top 1000
We should want all kinds of views present in academia.

Professor Russell Eisenman
BIAS
We will find the average height of Americans based on a sample of NBA players.

Selection Bias?
The great books are simply the books which deal most incisively, most eloquently, most universally, and most timelessly with man and his world.

Milton Sanford Mayer
(1908-1986)
If you can reduce book selection to a simple formula based on demand, what the hell do you need those professionals for?

Question posed by John Berry
Libraries can be storehouses of information, but when does a storehouse become a junkyard?

Gregory A. Crawford & Matthew Harris in *Best-Sellers in Academic Libraries*
Collection development is not only what you *buy*, but what you *keep*. 
The books we think we ought to read are poky, dull, and dry;
The books that we would like to read we are ashamed to buy;
The books that people talk about we never can recall;
And the books that people give us, oh, they’re the worst of all.

Carolyn Wells (1862-1942)
Thank You!

If you have other books that you would like to recommend (for either the canon or for any reader) please feel free to email us with up to an additional five titles.

If you leave your email address with us, we will be happy to send you the link to the website where the final list of everyone’s recommendations will be posted.

sarah.naper@unco.edu  
stephanie.wiegand@unco.edu
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