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Thursday, 11 April 2002

- Book-Selling: More on Amazon's Used Book Sales: An [essay by Fred Bernstein](#) in today's *New York Times* compares his attempts to sell four used books to the Strand bookstore in NYC and through Amazon.
Also: [Publisher's Lunch responds to Author's Guild actions](#).
- Libraries: Woman Jailed For Overdue Library Books: A 24-year-old Pennsylvania woman is prison this week after **failing to return three overdue library books** -- *Star Trek, Triangle, Fall of Freddie the Leaf* -- checked out in Sept. 2000. **She owes the [Hazleton \(PA\) Area Public Library](#) \$120 for the books.** "She does still owe us money; it is a violation of the crimes code," said reference librarian Jane Dougherty, who filed a private criminal complaint against Keller." Although charges are filed when patrons don't return the books or pay the fine, "only **those who ignore a court summons to answer the charges are sent to jail.**" [More in Ledger-Enquirer.Com \(Columbus, GA\) / \[Link\] via LIS News](#)



- Book Clubs: New Reading Group Guides: Reading group guides have been published recently for these books:
 - [The Adventures of Allegra Fullerton](#) - Robert J. Begiebing
 - [Big Cherry Holler](#) - Adriana Trigiani
 - [The Black Madonna](#) - Louisa Ermelino
 - [A Chosen Few](#) - Mark Kurlansky
 - [The Cock's Spur](#) - Charles F. Price
 - [Confess, Fletch](#) - Gregory McDonald, and guides for [Fletch](#) and for [Fletch's Fortune](#)
 - [The Death of Vishnu](#) - Manil Suri
 - [The First American: The Life and Times of Benjamin Franklin](#) - H. W. Brands;
 - [Gabriel's Story](#) - David Anthony Durham
 - [Garden of Faith](#) - Lynne Hinton
 - [Gob's Grief](#) - Chris Adrian
 - [The House of Sight and Shadow](#) - Nicholas Griffin
 - [In the Heart of the Sea: The Tragedy of the Whaleship Essex](#) - Nathaniel Philbrick
 - [The Ice Storm](#) - Rick Moody, and also [Purple America](#)
 - [Island](#) - Alistair MacLeod
 - [Millie-Christine: Fearfully and Wonderfully Made](#) - Joanne Martell
 - [The Minotaur Takes a Cigarette Break](#) - Steven Sherrill
 - [The Queen of Harlem](#) - Brian Keith Jackson
 - [Rain Line](#) - Anne Whitney Pierce
 - [Ruin Creek](#) - David Payne
 - [Seabiscuit](#) - Laura Hillenbrand
 - [The Season of Lillian Dawes](#) - Katherine Mosby
 - [To Kill A Mockingbird](#) - Harper Lee
 - [You Know Better](#) - Tina Ansa
- Poetry/Authors: Poetry Roundtable

Discussion, hosted by Authors on the Web, with 16 poets talking about "**why poetic expression is so appealing to them** and how they would respond to those who find poetry more than a little intimidating." Participants are Mary Jo Bang, Billy Collins, Cornelius Eady, Jeffrey Greene, Richard Matthews, Honor Moore, Marge Piercy and Marc Woodworth, all of whom **write for adult audiences**; and Betsy Franco, Robin Hirsch, Mary Ann Hoberman, [Paul B. Janeczko](#), Alan Katz, X. J. Kennedy, Marilyn Singer and Sonya Sones, who **write poems for children and teens**. Poets Talk / [\[Link\]](#)

- Book Club: USA Today Announces Book Club: And its first book will be [Richard Russo's *Empire Falls*](#). In the "spirit of literary conversation, **USA Today is launching a book club, with online chats and message boards, and stories in the newspaper driving the discussion**. The first selection: Richard Russo's *Empire Falls*, which won a Pulitzer Prize on Monday and will be out in paperback Friday (Vintage, \$14.95). **A different book will be chosen every six weeks.**" More in USA Today / [\[Link\]](#)
- General Interest/Librarianship: Paper Preservation: Preservation 101: An Internet Course on Paper Preservation, presented by Northeast Document Conservation Center, covers these topics: What is Paper Preservation?, Introducing Archives, Environmental Damage to Collections, Solutions to Collections Care, Housekeeping, Emergency Preparedness, Care of Photographs, and Preservation Planning. Paper 101 / [\[Link\]](#)
- Libraries: [Congressional Bill](#) H.R. 3784 Would Double Federal Money to Maine Libraries and Museums: Public hearings

were held yesterday in the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Select Education as lawmakers decide **whether to increase for the first time since 1971 minimum payments that states receive from the federal [Institute of Museum and Library Services](#)**. Maine libraries and museums could get \$680,000 a year, rather than the current \$340,000.

Advocates say that figuring for inflation, the amount should be \$1.5 million." **Maine senator Susan Collins, "whose first job as a teen-ager was reading for the story hour at Caribou Public Library**, said she hoped Congress would raise the minimum amount to states more than the amount proposed in the House. "The programs authorized by the act have served the citizens of Maine well, providing resources for a great number of exhibits and projects throughout the state," she said." [More in the Portland Press Herald / \[Link\]](#)

Also: Excellent [summary of H.R. 3784](#) at Rhode Island's Office of Library & Information Services.

- Special Interest: Museum of Banana Labels: This is Becky Martz's collection of over 2,000 banana labels from around the world, past and present. Something you'd probably never get to see if it weren't for the web! I thought the Tesco one was pretty impressive, and the **Tucana label sets (holiday themes)** and Frieda sets ('**strawberry to apple flavor**'?) were interesting, too. Others with apple flavours are Mauna Kea, a Hawaiian banana, which comes in an 'Eco-OK' variety, too, and Melissa, a Mexican banana, some of whose labels warn '**Don't Forget: Green Plantains Should Not Be Eaten Raw.**' As if this weren't enough, Becky's also got printed **broccoli and asparagus bands**. [Around the World with Fruit / \[Link\]](#)

- @ WPL >> 16 new books added to [Fiction With A Maine Setting](#) list.
- Book Reviews/Bestsellers: Top Hardcover Fiction Books, based on sales at independent bookstores across the U.S., **summarised, with a notation concerning tenor of reviews** from the Christian Science Monitor, New York Times, Kirkus Review of Books, and one other daily newspaper for each entry. Top three are *Stupid White Men* by Michael Moore, *Self Matters* by Phillip C. McGraw, and *The Wisdom of Menopause* by Christiane Northrup. [Reviews / \[Link\]](#)

Wednesday, 10 April 2002

- Authors: 'Freeze Frames From Indian Literary Landscape': Believing that "literary writings in numerous Indian languages ultimately **represent the true meaning of India**," photographer B. Jayachandran travelled throughout the country, "**setting authors against their respective literary landscapes**. ... Whether it is [Mahasweta Devi](#) captured in the backdrop of the Victoria Memorial in Kolkata, pointing to the filth of Kalighat which inspired her work *Breast-Giver* or MT Vasudevan Nair, who drew inspiration for his novel *Varanasi* from a dying woman on the banks of the Ganges, **the photo essay captures the myriad moods of the country**." There are 120 photos of 60 authors, writing in 22 Indian languages. [More in the Times of India / \[Link\]](#)
- Book Awards: Ian McEwan's [Atonement](#) Wins WH Smith Literary Prize: "The award is the first for a work **regarded as a near-masterpiece** by many critics. Though one of the literary best sellers of the year, it did not win the biggest cash prizes, the Whitbread and the Booker. ... The [WH Smith](#)

[prize](#), the last of the season, brings him £5,000." McEwan's book was chosen by a literary jury, but the other WH Smith awards were chosen by customers. **Nick Hornby won for fiction with *How To Be Good***, Emily Barr won the new talent award for her novel *Backpack*, and **Eoin Colfer's *Artemis Fowl* was voted best children's book**. More in the *Guardian* / [\[Link\]](#)

Also: [First chapter of *Atonement*](#).

- Librarian Humour: Overdue: [Cartoon short featuring library police](#) / [\[Link\]](#)
- Bookstores: Amazon's Sale of Used Books Angers Authors: "Authors are rebelling against **new efforts by Amazon.com to spur sales of used books**, a practice that has become a major source of revenue for Amazon [through sales commissions] but **pays nothing to writers or publishers**. The Authors Guild, a trade group for writers, yesterday sent an e-mail message to its 8,200 members, advising them to stop helping Amazon sell books by linking to it from their own Web sites, citing Amazon's 'notorious used- book service.' **'Amazon's practice does damage to the publishing industry, decreasing royalty payments to authors and profits to publishers,'** the guild wrote in its message. 'There's no good reason for authors to be complicit in undermining their own sales.'" The guild was responding to Amazon's latest twist, a **Web page that reminds returning shoppers "what their previous purchases were and advising them how much they might earn by reselling them through Amazon."** An Amazon spokesperson says that selling used books "is something that is great for the customers, and it is good for the authors, too, because it **encourages customers to try authors and genres**

they may not have tried' by making books available more cheaply." Used book sales accounted for 15% of Amazon's book sales from July-Dec. 2001. [More in the New York Times / \[Link\]](#)

Also: **Publisher's Lunch responded to the Guild's action** in this way: "The cruel irony is that the impact on Amazon of losing a modest number of affiliates [only 10% of Guild members even have websites] will be infinitesimal, and by playing the story so big in the media **the Guild actually serves Amazon's cause**. The company has long made it clear that they are not a bookseller and are not interested in the petty established concerns of the traditional book business-- **they are a customer-obsessed online shopping company that continues to be a favorite of consumers**. ... The company's official position [that used books encourage customers to try new authors] will strike many customers as reasonable, ranking right up there with **the library argument (and embarrassingly, some authors have been complaining about libraries recently, too)**."

Publisher's Lunch goes on to **suggest another approach**: "If the Guild were really concerned about how to deal with Amazon, they'd play the game on the company's own innovative terms instead of producing publicity to help their efforts. How about, for instance, **a program that lets linking affiliates pass along their commission to buyers** -- which would make a great **polite, customer-focused way for authors to gently encourage their readers to support purchases of new books** over used books." [Source: Publisher's Lunch \(by 10 April email\)](#)

- **Information: Overwhelming or Enriching?:** I love this. It's an email conversation between Jim Fallows for the *Atlantic Monthly* and Todd Gitlin, author of *Media Unlimited: How the Torrent of Images and Sounds Overwhelms Our Lives*. Fallows ponders the ideas in Gitlin's book and asks him questions, to which Gitlin responds. **At the crux: "the weirdness of spending so many of our hours awash in media."** One remark of Gitlin's that I can't leave unquoted: **"I'm concerned with what media do in common -- produce a habitat conducive to Feeling Lite, civic disengagement, and a national attention-deficit disorder."** Recommended. [Email Q&A](#) / [\[Link\]](#) ([Gitlin's book previously blogged.](#))
- **Kids/Community: National Youth Service 'Day' 26-28 April:** Also [Global Youth Service Day](#). Both have as goals **recognizing the year-round service and volunteering efforts** of millions of young people; **recruiting a new generation** as participants and supporters of youth service organizations; and promoting **young people as community resources**, rather than community problems. Events, project ideas, and grant opportunities posted on the NYSD website / [\[Link\]](#)
- **Children's Books: Surprising Number of Classics Began As Stories For Specific Children:** Beatrix Potter's beloved *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* began "not as a book but with a tale told to a single child." So did Christopher Awdry's 'The Railway Series' (with Thomas the Tank Engine), Astrid Lindgren's *Pippi Longstocking*, E.B. White's *Stuart Little*, A.A. Milne's Winnie-the-Pooh stories, J.M. Barrie's *Peter Pan*, Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island*, and Kenneth Grahame's *The Wind in the*

Willows. [More in the Christian Science Monitor / \[Link\]](#)

- Internet Filters: Government Says N2H2 Is Best: A study of the four major Internet filtering providers completed by eTesting Labs **at the behest of the U.S. Dept. of Justice** found that N2H2's internet filtering products are the best at blocking Internet porn. The study determined that **N2H2's products "provide a 98% 'Correct Blocking Ratio.'**" This [article in the Puget Sound Business Journal](#) noted that "N2H2 shareholders didn't embrace the news." The stock traded around 30 cents a share on the over-the-counter market Tuesday; it was **delisted from Nasdaq in March** due to substandard assets and stockholder's equity.

Tuesday, 9 April 2002

- Author Interview: Randy Cohen, author of [The Good, the Bad and the Difference: How To Tell Right From Wrong in Everyday Situations: Q&A](#) format. "Randy Cohen has been addressing the issue of ethics in the *New York Times Magazine* for several years but his new book ... brings an entire collection of wit and wisdom together for all to enjoy --- and ponder. In this interview, Cohen gives some insight into how he became 'The Ethicist' and **how he feels politics, and society as a whole, impact our contemporary standard of ethics.**" I heard him on NPR recently and he was spot on. [Do the Right Thing / \[Link\]](#). Also: [Read the Right Thing](#)
- Search Engines: Google Wildcard: Google allows a wildcard character (*) to stand in for any word. For example, **Maine * books** returns Maine guide books, Maine children's books, Maine genealogy books, etc. Works with

phrases, too. Handy. [Source: Google Weblog](#)

- **Book: Past and Future: 'From Gutenberg to Gates: 500 Years of Books from Printing Press to Computer'** is an online exhibit at Springfield Library (MA), with essays on The Birth of Printing, Art and Illustration, Discovery and Travel, Print and Modern Science, Printing in the New World, The Book as Art Object, [The Future of the Book?](#) (about eBooks), as well as suggestions for further reading and weblinks. [Tour the Book / \[Link\]](#)

Also: [Acme Book News](#) features links to five articles on the **future of the book** in its 8 April weblog (2nd item).

- **Academic Libraries: University of Idaho Librarians Oppose Plan To Place Library Under Info Tech Services:** "Faculty and staff at the University of Idaho used a recent Faculty Council meeting to again voice objections to President Robert Hoover's plan to place the library under Information Technology Services. ... **At least 75 faculty members signed a petition imploring Hoover to reconsider his decision**, citing concerns over the library's academic standing. ... [UI Provost] **Brian Pitcher and head of Information Technology services Glenn Wilde previously oversaw a similar realignment of the library under Information Technology Services at Utah State University** when both were employed there in the 1990s. But the results of that switch were less than favorable, and **Utah State reversed the alignment last year.**" [Source: Library Journal](#)
- **Newspapers: Wall Street Journal's New Look: Take the online tour of the redesigned Wall Street Journal.**

Requires IE 5.0 or later or Netscape 6.0 for full effect. The '**Personal Journal**' **section is new**, with info on personal finance, travel, health and family, cars, gadgets, and leisure and arts. Some of its columns and topics are drawn from other sections of the newspaper, some are new. [Tour the WSJ / \[Link\]](#)

- More Book Deals: The biography of the American king of Afghanistan, the Central Park jogger's story, the true story of a New England family in the mid-1800s, and many more 'big deal' books are in the works, according to an 8th April report from Publisher's Lunch (via e-mail). Among titles:
 - London Times correspondent Ben Macintyre's *The Man Who Would Be King* is a **biography of 19th century American explorer Josiah Harlan**, the first American to enter and live in Afghanistan, where he worked as a **surgeon, mercenary, adviser and spy**; he eventually crossed the Hindu Kush and was **proclaimed the hereditary King of Ghor**. Out in Spring 2003.
 - The Central Park Jogger and former investment banker who was **left for dead in a 1989 assault** is telling her story and will reveal her name on publication of *I Was the Central Park Jogger*, Spring 2003.
 - Recently retired **Yankee's star Paul O'Neill's *Me and My Dad***, about his career in baseball and his strong relationship with his father (who died during the 1999 World Series). Spring 2003.
 - **Boston Globe staffers** will publish a book in June 2002 based on their coverage of the **sex abuse scandal within the Roman Catholic Church**, with interviews, records, and analysis.

- The *Gotham Writers' Workshop Guide to Writing Fiction*, edited by Nikki Moustaki, will be a "comprehensive and user-friendly **guide to the craft of fiction writing**, and a second book in a series from the workshop." Winter 2003.
- Dr. Elizabeth Carlisle's *Earthbound and Heavenbent: Seven Generations of a New England Family and the House They Called 40 Acres*, a "collection of papers generated by **seven generations of women writers in one New England family** interwoven to create unique **day-to-day life of the family during three wars in the mid 1800s.**"
- Christopher Sansom's first novel *Dissolution*, is part of a **three-book deal for historical crime thrillers set in England during the time of Thomas Cromwell, King Henry VIII**, and the brutal efforts to turn England into a Protestant state. UK/US.
- Book Club: Today Show Announces It Will Begin Book Club: "As everyone is wondering who will fill the void left by Oprah and help keep television-sized audiences enthusiastic about books, the [Today Show](#)' has moved quickly to take advantage of that curiosity. **Starting in June they will launch their own book club**; the **monthly segment** will be anchored by both Katie Couric and Matt Lauer, **airing at about 8:30 in the morning and lasting for a half hour.** And the club will specifically aim to direct viewers towards **writers who are not already on top of the bestseller lists (both fiction and non-fiction).** ... 'Today' already covers about 200 books a year, albeit in far shorter segments.

The show averages over 6 million viewers a day, compared to Oprah's 7 million daily." Source: Publisher's Lunch, 9 April 2002 (email). Also reported in [MSNBC Living](#).

- **Writers' Tool:** If you're looking for a **bibliographic compiler** like [Noodlebib](#) -- which was a free service, now subscription -- try these:
 - [Slate Citation Machine](#): Free, uses simple one-page form, MLA or APA styles. **Formatting for website, book, journal article, newspaper article, email message, online forum, or interview.**
 - [Easy Bib](#): Free, automatic bibliography formatting, alphabetizing, printing, in **APA or MLA styles.**
- **Book Review:** Michael Frayn's [Spies](#): Rather unfavourable review of Frayn's latest in today's NYT. The novel is the story of two boys' obsession with spying on their neighbors, with tragic consequences. [Review / \[Link\]](#)
- **Bookstores/Privacy:** Here's the [Tattered Cover's article on its win yesterday](#) in the Colorado supreme court. ([Previously blogged.](#))
- **Libraries/Children's Book:** [Beverly Billingsly Borrows a Book](#), by Alexander Stadler, was published today, just in time for National Libraries Week (14-20 April). For kids ages 3-8, it's the "**sympathetic tale of a budding bibliophile**, a light-gray animal with bearish ears and a tentative manner [who] **receives her first library card** and uses it to borrow a volume on dinosaurs. She smiles politely as the green, birdlike librarian tells her the due date." **When the book is overdue, she fears a fine or jail**, so avoids the library

until her mother helps her return the book to the librarian, who lets it slide. "A reassuring tale for those experiencing their first bittersweet taste of independence," says *Publisher's Weekly*. [Available locally and from Amazon / \[Link\]](#) Also: More [kids' books about libraries and librarians](#).

- Specialised Interest: The Periodic Table of Comic Books, courtesy the **Department of Chemistry, University of Kentucky**, is fascinating, and I have little interest in comic books or the periodic table. **Click on an element of the periodic table and you will be shown frame images from comic books featuring that element** (click on the thumbnail image to see the full page). The creators claim 'Oxygen' is their best element, but I randomly clicked on Vanadium and got three comic book citations, one of which gave me the **melting point of Vanadium** (1,710 degree C, if comic books can be believed). Hours of fun. [Periodic Table of Comic Books / \[Link\]](#) via [Fimoculous](#)
- School Libraries/Book Challenge: Two Serial Killer Library Books Pulled From Shelves: "Books with **disturbing details about infamous murderers are being pulled from public school libraries** at the urging of a parent who was upset when his son brought a pair home. [The Encyclopedia of Serial Killers](#) and [The A-Z Encyclopedia of Serial Killers](#) will be removed from any Hillsborough County school that has them, pending **an official review of whether they should be banned** ." Parent Tony Pawlisz, whose high school son brought the books home, says that "**such books have no place in schools** , especially in the wake of notorious student violence such as the slayings at Colorado's Columbine High in 1999. '

Do we want our kids to start learning how to be serial killers? This is what it teaches, in my opinion, and teenagers are so impressionable,' Pawlisz said."

More in the *Tampa (FL) Tribune* /

[\[Link\]](#)

Also: Amazon sells the two books as a 'Great Buy' set.

Monday, 8 April 2002

- @ WPL >> Maine Writers Index
Addition: Ocean Park (Saco) resident [Bill Silliker, Jr.](#), nature and wildlife photographer and writer.
- @ WPL >> Maine Writers Index
Addition: [Earl Brechlin](#), Bar Harbor resident, journalist, and outdoors writer. That's 260 writers now in the Index!
- Book & Library Idea: Check Out Other Books By the Author of Your Favourite Book: [Project #4](#) of Jeffrey Yamaguchi's '52 Projects' is "Think of your favorite book. Then, **go to the library and seek out the other books by the author of your favorite book.**" As he notes, "**especially with the classics, people have not looked beyond the one book.** A library is the perfect place to view and access the complete works." Examples: If Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* is your favorite, check out *Tender Is the Night* or *This Side of Paradise* or *The Last Tycoon*. If you loved Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*, try *Travels With Charley*. And so on. (My favourite project so far is #2, the key lime pie project.) [52 Projects / \[Link\]](#)
- Book Awards: 2002 Pulitzer Prizes for Arts and Literature Announced: The winners are: **Fiction:** *Empire Falls* by Maine's Richard Russo!; **Nonfiction:** *Carry Me Home* by Diane McWhorter; **History:** *The Metaphysical Club* by

Louis Menand; **Biography:** *John Adams* by David McCullough; **Poetry:** *Practical Gods* by Carl Dennis; **Drama:** *Topdog/Under* by Suzan-Lori Parks; and **Music:** "Ice Field" by Henry Brant. More on each from the *New York Times* / [\[Link\]](#)

- @ WPL >> More on [Richard Russo](#).
- Bookstores/Privacy: Colorado Supreme Court Reverses Decision Against Tattered Cover (Denver) Bookstore: In a ruling released this morning, "Colorado's Supreme Court has reversed a decision against Denver's [Tattered Cover Bookstore](#), whereby it **had been ordered to deliver customer sales records to police investigators**. As the decision from the Court's website explains, it came down to **First Amendment rights**, and 'the Supreme Court concludes that **the law enforcement need for the book purchase record in this case was not sufficiently compelling to outweigh the harm that would likely follow from execution of the search warrant.**' In fact, the judges ruled, 'the search warrant in this case is not enforceable and should not have been issued' because it 'could substantially chill **the exercise of fundamental state constitutional rights.**' Everyone, the ruling declared, has '**the right to purchase and read books without fear of government disclosure or reprisal.**'" More at Moby Lives / [\[Link\]](#) Also: [Re-cap of the case in pre-decision Reuters wire article](#) (dated 7 April).
- General Interest/Nature: Rainforest Web: "Your Gateway to Rainforest Information and Resources." Part advocacy and fundraising project, part educational tool, this searchable site, sponsored by Rainforest Action Network, offers **rainforest news**, information on indigenous peoples,

rainforest animals and plants, biodiversity, maps, rainforests in various regions of the world, **rainforest destruction and its causes, and ways to protect rainforests**. Also has a [section for kids](#), with links to websites that will appeal to them, and [educational resources](#) for parents and teachers. [Rainforest Web / \[Link\]](#)

- Books: Written Voices, Bringing Authors and Readers Together: Attractive website, with **reviews, excerpts, and author bios for each book featured; live author chats;** audio interviews; interactive reader questions and author answers. **Browse featured books by category:** African American, Art, Asian American, Biography, Current Events, Education, Entertainment, Essays/Criticism, Historical Fiction, Mystery, Food, US History, World History, Memoir, Nature and Environment, Pets and Animals, Politics, Race Relations, Reference, Relationships, Science, Society and Culture, Spirituality and Religion, Sports, Travel, True Crime, and Women's Issues. **Currently featured interviews** with Louis Menand, author of *The Metaphysical Club*; Dina Temple-Raston, author of *A Death in Texas*; and Laura Davis, author of *I Thought We'd Never Speak Again*. **Current excerpts/reviews** for *Complications: A Surgeon's Notes on an Imperfect Science* by Atul Gawande; *My Sisters' Voices: Teenage Girls of Color Speak Out*, edited by Iris Jacob; and *The Truth About Getting In: A Top College Advisor Tells You Everything You Need to Know* by Katherine Cohen, Ph.D. [Written Voices / \[Link\]](#)
- Librarianship: [Evaluating and Selecting Non-Book Formats](#): Part of Dr. John Ellison's course LIS 519: Selection, Acquisition, and Management of

Non-Book Materials, at the University of Buffalo, this website **provides definition, history, characteristics, advantages and disadvantages, selection criteria, evaluations, storage and care, management issues, classification tips**, and more, for these non-book resources: **genealogy materials**, realia, art reproductions, **oral history materials**, models, original art, **archives and manuscripts**, games, photographs, **local history materials**, toys, music scores, **microforms**, simulations, **audio recordings**, pamphlets, **talking books and eBooks**, films, programmed instruction and CAI, serials, **videocassettes**, Internet and web pages, **DVD and videodiscs**, flat pictures/posters/charts/postcards/maps, **CD-ROM/CD-R/CD-RW/multimedia**, and computer disks (hard, zip, floppy, jaz, external). Also includes a [list of readings](#) on the topic, from *Media Librarianship* (ed. John Ellison).

- Books/Celebrities: Maine's Gardiner Library Releases Latest List of Celebrities' Favourite Books: Glenna Nowell, retired from [Gardiner Public Library](#) (ME), has since 1988 compiled 'Who Reads What?' a list of the favourite reading of the rich and famous. This year's additions, released ahead of National Library Week (14-20 April), include favourites of **California governor Gray Davis** (*A Man for All Seasons*), actor-comedian **Lily Tomlin** (Annie Proulx's *The Shipping News*), **actor Mira Sorvino** (Hawking's *A Brief History of Time*), **teen star Haley Joel Osment** (*Sphere* by Michael Crichton and Michael Shaara's *The Killer Angels*), **Victorian crime novelist Anne Perry** (Dante's *Inferno* and G.K. Chesterton's *The Ballad of the White Horse*), **mystery writer Mike Stewart**

(*Huckleberry Finn* and *The Catcher in the Rye*), **horror novelist Clive Barker** (collected works of T.S. Eliot, and *The Shipping News*), **former Olympic figure skater Oksana Baiul** (*Never Die Easy: The Autobiography of Walter Payton*), **figure skating Olympian Tara Lipinski** (Herriott's *All Creatures Great and Small*), and **actor Matthew Modine** (Jean Giono's *The Man Who Planted Trees*). Source: *Austin American-Statesman* (AP) / [\[Link\]](#) Take Me To ['Who Reads What?'](#)

- Libraries: Montgomery County Libraries (PA) Get 'Cones of Silence': **"Maxwell Smart would indeed be proud. The Cone of Silence**, once a running gag in the bumbling fictional secret agent's satirical 1960s TV show, 'Get Smart,' is now a reality and will soon get a tryout at several [Montgomery County public libraries](#). ... The new **high-tech library cones, however, are no joke, being financed by an \$87,000 federal Library Services and Technology Act grant.**" System Administrator Maryam Phillips described them as **"hemisphere-type clear plastic, almost like an acoustical device that you hang over a work station**, which allow the sound to be contained almost in a vertical pattern, just where you're standing.' ... The cone delivers stereo sound and audio content to users without disturbing other library patrons." The lion's share of the grant money will be used for more mundane purposes, to replace about 100 computers. More in *The Mercury* (PA) / [\[Link\]](#)
- Book Deals: Charles Frazier Signs \$11 Million Book Deal: Frazier, who wrote the best-selling Civil War novel *Cold Mountain*, has **been promised more than \$11 million for his second book**, on the basis of a one-page outline. The

novel, which is **not expected until 2005**, will be based on the true story of **a Civil War-era white man raised by Cherokee Indians**. Frazier's **advance from publisher Random House was \$8 million**, and **film producer Scott Rudin will pay more than \$3 million for the film rights**. It's not the biggest literary advance ever offered -- Mary Higgins Clark signed a \$45 million five-book deal with Simon & Schuster -- but it is believed to be the **biggest advance paid for a single book**. Frazier said that besides money, another key concern was **his editor. He chose Ann Godoff, Random House's editor-in-chief**. Grove Atlantic's president, Morgan Entrekin, who gambled on an unknown in publishing *Cold Mountain* in 1997, was graceful about losing him: 'I'm really, really disappointed, but I can't begrudge him for whatever decision he has to make for his family.' For a list of the **largest book advances**, see *The Independent /* [\[Link\]](#)

Sunday, 7 April 2002

- @ WPL >> [WPL April-May newsletter](#) online.
- Book Review: Loren Estleman's [Sinister Heights](#): From Bookreporter.com, a review of this private-eye mystery set in Detroit. [Review / \[Link\]](#)
- Internet/Children: Kids Prefer Internet over TV, Phone, Radio: "New data suggests there may be a ... **fundamental shift occurring in kids' media consumption. More children said they would pick the Internet over TV, telephone and radio if they were allowed only one medium** or media technology, according to a study ... by Knowledge Networks/Statistical Research Inc. One third ((33%) of kids

ages 8-17 chose the Internet over TV (26%), phone (21%), and radio (15%).

This is the "first time the Internet has surpassed TV since KN/SRI began tracking children's attitudes on media. Children **prefer the interactivity of the Internet**, analysts say.

There were **marked differences between boys' and girls' preferences: More girls (31%) would actually choose the phone than the Internet (28%), TV (17%), or the radio (17%), but boys vastly preferred the Internet, with 38% choosing it as most important; 34% of boys chose the TV, and 12% each the radio and phone.** [More in Media Buyers' Daily / Link](#)

- Libraries: South Africa's Libraries Poorly Funded: "In South Africa dwindling numbers of school libraries and budget cuts for public libraries means that **the nation's access to books is becoming severely limited.** Public libraries cannot offer the service that people require and many face closure. ... **'Nobody cares about libraries or appreciates them as agents of change. We want a literate, reading nation and if we don't have libraries, we won't have that,'** said a spokesperson for Friends of the Library." In 1994, the public libraries became the sole responsibility of the provinces, whose budgets don't always favour them: "Two years ago the library in Sasolburg in the Free State **received no new books for a year.** According to a spokesperson for the library, the province told them that this was because the provincial budget had been **spent on building the Pakisa racecourse in Welkom.**" [More in the Mail & Guardian \(Johannesburg\) / Link](#)
- Author Profile: Children's Book Author

Margaret Mahy: Interesting article on the prolific New Zealand children's writer Margaret Mahy (who also worked as a children's librarian), nominated for the international Hans Christian Andersen Award, to be announced on Wednesday. [Mahy Profile / \[Link\]](#)

Saturday, 6 April 2002

- Bookstores: Bookstore Owner Doesn't Want To Part With Books: Carol Urness, owner of **Corner Books in St. Anthony, MN**, is attached to her stock. "After retiring as curator of the University of Minnesota's James Ford Bell Library in November, she rented a storefront in a local mall and **stocked it with books exclusively from her personal collection** [of almost 50 years' accumulation]. She opens the store only two days a week, and hasn't even bothered to hang a sign, but word about Corner Books's odd business policies has spread across the Twin Cities and beyond." Her collection includes foreign-language books, American and European history, Russian history (not for sale), and nature books and bird books (also not for sale). Her customers have been looking for an algebra textbook from 1983, a third-grade geography book, novels by Zane Grey, and someone to talk with about books; she was able to provide the last. Urness says she's **probably given away more books than she's sold, because it's too much trouble to write out a sales slip** for inexpensive items. [More in *The National Post* \(Ontario\) / \[Link\]](#)
- Libraries: Candidates for ALA President: Both candidates for the American Library Association President, 2003-2004, have been interviewed by Blake Carver on LIS News. Here's [Katina Strauch's](#)

[interview](#), and here's [Carla Hayden's interview](#). For additional background on each candidate, check the the [Carla Hayden Candidacy site](#) and [Katina for President](#).

- Libraries: Computerising Card Catalogs: About half of the 42 public libraries of Livingston, Ontario, Wayne and Wyoming counties of New York State are putting their [inventories online](#), at a shared cost of about \$300,000 for the conversion and \$200,000 per year for maintenance. Some people love it: **book orders have doubled** since the library on Canandaigua's North Main Street went on the new system in February; the online, Web-based circulation method allows anyone to find materials at any of the libraries, instead of each library managing its own circulation system; a photo of the **book jacket, reviews, author information, and a book summary appears with each catalog selection**. Some people don't like it: 'What happens when the computer goes down?' remarked a retired library director; Bristol Library's director says, **'Some people like the old ways. ... People like spending time in a library -- looking for books, reading and rummaging around. ... It's almost like coming to a live museum here.'** [More in the Daily Messenger \(Canandaigua NY\) / \[Link\]](#)
- Libraries: Library Aims To Shed Stodgy Image: Christine Siegel, new district manager of the Rancho Peñasquitos library (one of the branches of the [San Diego Public Library System](#)), has a mission: To show the citizens in her area that "that **libraries are nothing like they used to be**. ... The staff is **trying to overcome the image of cranky librarians** who 'shushed' people who dared speak above a whisper or

hapless patrons trying to find books via the card catalogs. ... 'We want people to realize **we are relevant in their lives,**' said Maria Biondo, the library's activity director." Events are planned for children and adults each month to appeal to varied interests and to present fresh ideas. The library also offers a monthly book club for teens and adults, a kids' summer reading program, and adult reading programs with free dinners and gift certificates as prizes. [More in the San Diego Union Tribune / \[Link\]](#)

- General Interest/Pets: Traveling with Pets: From the NPR Car Talk guys, tips on traveling with dogs or other pets, including **pet first aid, how to keep dogs safe** around cars, dealing with **motion sickness**, links to **pet-friendly accommodations** and city parks, **finding vets** while traveling, etc. [F.I.D.O. \(Freeway Information for Dog Owners\) / \[Link\]](#)
- Homeschooling: Homeschoolers Come of Age: "Legal in all 50 states since the 1980s, homeschooling has **often been criticized as a paranoid practice of right-wing religious fanatics that stunts children's emotional growth.** But as that first generation of homeschoolers settles into young adulthood, **the criticism is proving unfounded.** If anything, some experts say, the **homeschoolers are proving to be better prepared for adulthood than their traditionally schooled peers.** Many homeschooled young adults say that being freed from the rigidity and conformity of high school **allowed them to explore their individuality, creativity and independence.** ... 'I think a lot of this stuff [about high school] is mythology, that maybe we've got a whole lot of falsehoods associated with schooling,'

says J. Gary Knowles, a University of Toronto researcher who has extensively interviewed adults who were homeschooled. 'We have **all these weird rites of passage that are deemed important and many are quite dysfunctional.**' Knowles has found homeschoolers to be **more self-reliant and focused.**

"If he has any concerns, they are about socialization. **Children schooled within a rigid social view may not be well equipped to live in a diverse culture,** he says. 'They may have had very little exposure to the cultural complexities of society, to a range of ideas,' Knowles says. 'I am very concerned about families with very narrow views on what is appropriate preparation for citizenship.'" [More at Fox News / \[Link\]](#) via [LIS News](#)

See our [homeschooling resources!](#)

Friday, 5 April 2002

- EBooks/Bookstores: Cambridge (Ontario) Bookstore Installs Print-On-Demand Machine: Canada's Book Express recently installed a print-on-demand (POD) machine, called an [InstaBook](#), that can produce literary classics like the two-volume *Adam Bede* by George Eliot **in five minutes**, at a cost to the buyer of \$20. The machine downloads content from a computer, **prints the pages, trims and mechanically binds them together, and can even personalise the cover.** "InstaBook is one of a number of print-on-demand systems slowly coming on stream in North America. Some observers see the technology as an integral step to publishers and book buyers alike becoming more comfortable with electronic books." **Both print-on-demand and ebooks**

eliminate the need to print and ship books that simply sit in bookstores.

U.S.-based Forrester Research expects "**custom publishing, digital textbooks and consumer e-books** to reach \$7.8-billion in sales, or **17.5% of the U.S. publishing industry, by 2005.**"

Since Book Express installed InstaBooks in December, only about 50 books (12x20 cms) have been printed, perhaps not surprising since InstaBooks currently offers only about 650 titles, mostly literary classics. [More in the Globe & Mail / \[Link\]](#)

- Author Interview: John Grisham: Grisham talks about his inspirations, favourite books, family and friends, career and legal training, coaching Little League, more. [In Page One Lit / \[Link\]](#)
- Book News: Oprah's Ending Her Book Club: "All good things, it seems, must end eventually. Today **Oprah Winfrey announced on her program that she is ending [Oprah's Book Club](#)** as it currently exists. **'It has become harder and harder to find books on a monthly basis** that I feel absolutely compelled to share,' Winfrey said in a statement. 'I will continue featuring books on the Oprah Winfrey Show when I feel they merit my heartfelt recommendation.'" Her 46th and **last pick is one of her favourites, [Toni Morrison's Sula](#)**. [More at *Publisher's Weekly* / \[Link\]](#)
- School Libraries: High Schools May Lose Certification If They Lose Librarians: "Seven [Nashville] Metro high schools are **in danger of forfeiting their national certification if they lose librarians as planned** under next year's proposed budget from Metro Schools Director Pedro Garcia. ... Garcia's **proposed 2002-03 budget bumps the money for books and other library**

materials from \$7 to \$15 per student. But that money comes in part from the cuts in high school librarians. His new formula allots one librarian to every school, with one extra position to high schools with enrollments of more than 1,500 students. Across the system, eight librarians would be eliminated. But the **SACS [Southern Association of Colleges and Schools] staffing formula requires one professionally trained librarian per 1,000 students.**" Schools that don't meet SACS standards could lose accreditation, which is important to graduates applying to colleges and for high school transfer students. More in *The Tennessean* (Nashville) / [\[Link\]](#)

- Essay/Current Events/Maine: Why A Terrorist Might Not Get Far in Maine: John Gould's weekly column explains how Mainers' detect suspicious characters in their midst, and along the way gives a short history lesson on the state's name. Strangers Among Us / [\[Link\]](#)
- Libraries: Phone Manners: Marylaine Block's current *Ex Libris* column focuses on the way libraries present themselves to phone callers. **"I've often argued that the library web page is our public face, one of the first ways our users find out about libraries and the services we offer,** and that it behooves us to make those pages warm, inviting, and easy to navigate. But it is equally true that **for many people, their first experience of the library is through the telephone.** I've been calling a lot of libraries recently in connection with articles I'm writing, and I have to tell you, I have not enjoyed the experience. Perhaps we need to consider what our users will think about our library on the basis of their first telephone contact with us." (The 'Cool

Quote' that follows the article isn't bad, either.) [The Real Public Face of Our Libraries](#) / [\[Link\]](#)

- **Book News: Frank McCourt To Publish New Memoir in 2003: McCourt, author of memoirs *Angela's Ashes (1996)* and *'Tis*, is working on a book about his time as a teacher.** "Teaching, he said during an interview, is 'the most significant of all professions.' Yet he revealed profound doubts about whether he'd made a mistake teaching for 29 years rather than turning earlier to writing." He hopes to have the book completed within a year. [More in Yahoo! \(AP\)](#) / [\[Link\]](#)
- **Book News: The Literary Detective Story Behind [The Bondwoman's Narrative](#), the **1850s autobiography of Hannah Crafts, a slave who escaped** to freedom. The manuscript was discovered by Henry Louis Gates, Jr., at an auction in 2001, and is being published this month by Warner. There's been a lot of talk about this book already; this article is a good overview of the book's contents and provenance. [More in the Guardian](#) / [\[Link\]](#)**
- **Book Excerpt: [Body of Lies](#) by Iris Johansen:** "From the best-selling author of *The Search* and *Final Target* comes a taut, fast-paced, and terrifying **psychological thriller,**" featuring **forensic sculptor Eve Duncan** testing her skill and courage against a killer. [Read Excerpt](#) / [\[Link\]](#)
- **Libraries: They're Not Bookstores!:** Beth Teitell's essay in Tuesday's *Boston Herald* points out **differences between bookstores** -- cappuccino and biscotti, paper gift bags, hot books displayed on tables and by cash register, glossy magazines, stationary, books you can

buy and display on your bookshelves -- **and libraries** -- 'No cell phones. No eating. No drinking.' **It's like Mars in there -- the atmosphere is not compatible with human life.**" Libraries don't come out ahead. Even though Teitell easily finds the book she wants in her library, plus a few others, she later loses it and buys a replacement for the library, *and* a copy to sit on her bookshelves. Hmmm. Is she a 'library gal,' a reader, or just a literate consumer? [Libraries Overdue for Update / \[Link\]](#) (Thanks, Marian!)

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