
David Goldberg is a pedantic university librarian who gets caught up in the world of power and dirty politics when he innocently moonlights as an archivist for eccentric billionaire. Goldberg’s appointment is viewed as a threat when ruthless right-wingers with close ties to the White House discover that he holds a secret that cannot be revealed. As the presidential election heads into its final stretch, the hunt is on to remove Goldberg from his position by any means necessary. *The Librarian* is a frenetic, scary, and hilarious story that is as much a thriller as it is a political satire. -- Al


Lee Bennet Hopkins takes you on a journey from tapestries to trilobites as an imaginative introduction to a wide array of natural and human-made wonders housed in museums. This vibrant collection of poems is a truly special way to instil an appreciation for nature, culture and heritage from an early age, whether you are recalling memories or creating new ones. -- NP


Playing with themes of libraries, dreams and labyrinths, the works of the celebrated Argentine writer, Jorge Luis Borges, are most frequently described as fantasy or philosophical literature. In a New York Times review, author David Foster Wallace boldly declares, “the truth, briefly stated, is that Borges is arguably the great bridge between modernism and post-modernism in world literature.” Translated from the original Spanish, this collection of poignant, visionary short stories provides the perfect escapist reading for summer. -- NP

Told in reverse chronological order, this fictionalized historical tale describes the movement of the Sarajevo Haggadah, one of the oldest surviving Jewish texts. Interspersed with the intriguing narrative of its travels are snippets from the contemporary world. We are offered a window into the experiences of Hanna Heath, an Australian book conservator, as she toils on the restoration of the ancient work. Through the discovery of such intriguing trace evidence in the book as an insect wing and wine stains, Hannah uncovers more and more of the life of this significant text. The outcome is a riveting glimpse into a journey that bridges the ordinary and the mystical across time and space. -- NP


This story follows Catherine Gehrig, a museum conservator in London, who is burdened with the devastating loss of her partner. Amid her grief, Catherine begins a new restoration project, reinstating a nineteenth century mechanical bird to its former glory. As Catherine finds solace engaging with the found diaries of the man who commissioned the bird for his dying son, his story becomes inextricably linked with hers. A transformative experience with the mechanical creature provides an exhilarating conclusion, raising questions of how inorganic objects complement the organic world. Through this encounter, Carey explores how connections forged with objects may blur the boundaries between what is assumed to be real and what is taken as illusory. -- NP


After an appearance on a hit TV show Brooklyn Wainwright, a rare book expert and appraiser, is plagued by mysterious, recurring and potentially violent incidents. Is someone after the valuable copy of *The Secret Garden* that she featured on the show? With all of these sudden dangers coming her way, Brooklyn can’t wait to find out. Teaming up with her security expert boyfriend, Derek, Brooklyn takes matters in her own hands. If you’ve ever fancied yourself a potential detective, this gripping story of a bookbinder-turned-sleuth is perfect for you. The fast-paced story will keep you guessing until the end, making it the perfect beach, cottage or even patio read. -- NP

Behind a tight French twist and sensible clothes, Ally Sheffield, a 40 year old librarian hides a sassy and unrestrained nature. After a night of uninhibited passion, however, even her prim and proper attire cannot help her hide the fact that she is passionately in love. This clever and funny novel follows Ally as she begins to discover how to live life with abandon and without the help of a reference book. A perfect, light-hearted summer read for the wild-at-heart librarian looking for romantic escapism. -- LC


Assembled by a former librarian, this selection of nineteen short stories contains contributions from well known names such as Alice Munro, Ray Bradbury, Ursula K. Leguin, and Jorge Luis Borges. Entirely focused on libraries and librarians, the stories, drawn from genres as diverse as science fiction, comedy, mystery, and romance, seek to illuminate the often mysterious culture of these institutions. The wide variety of perspectives on offer helps to mitigate the stereotypical images of librarianship. An intriguing read for anyone who has wondered about the inner workings of the library, or the inner life of their favourite librarian. -- CP


When archivist Matthias Lane meets poet Roberta Spire, he has met his match. Matthias is the protector of the coveted letters from T.S. Eliot to Emily Hale, which Roberta wants access to. Her story of identity crisis, betrayal, and her obsession with Eliot’s letters remind Matthias of his wife (Judith) who committed suicide years before. The novel is about betrayal and dedication and it weaves these concepts into the lives of Matthias, Roberta, and Judith, and ties them all together with Eliot’s letters. Asking questions about privacy and whether the wishes of the living should supersede the dead, *The Archivist* is an interesting read for anyone interested in issues of privacy and the cultural record. -- SAHF

Having been a librarian for over 20 years, David Drake has a wealth of experience and material from which to craft his bibliographically inspired verse. By library-minded, he means librarians, and readers other than librarians. The poems in his second collection tend to be longer than in his first, and some are very poignant, like the one describing the tiny blood droplets on the books returned by the mother of a recently deceased student (‘The Saddest Moment’, p. 110). The many poems in this collection are organized under six broad themes, including ‘Our Patrons, Ourselves’, and ‘Tools of the Trade’. -- CK/NS


Drake’s older collection of library-themed poetry runs the gamut, from introspective to humorous to acerbic. The collection is divided into themes universal to libraries, such as the building, librarians, patrons, books, and friends. All poems are kept short: brevity according to the author “is the soul of wit” and “heart of modern poetry.” No poem is over 30 lines -- just long enough to keep our attention -- and some are as short as four lines. -- CK


Yambo is an Italian bookseller who wakes up after a stroke, to discover that he cannot remember anything or anyone in his life, including his wife and children. There is one exception. He can remember with great clarity, every book and every line of poetry he has ever read, along with a wealth of literary quotations. In his attempt to piece together his past, he searches through boxes of old records, photo albums, and adolescent diaries. In this way, Yambo relives the story of his life and as his memories race before him, he struggles to capture the most elusive one—that of his first love. This novel is an engaging read, full of intriguing characters and gorgeously illustrated. -- LC
*PS3557 .O59 D49 1977* (Robarts)

This is a murder mystery novel, full of envy, mayhem, and hatred. Someone is sending letters to the press, suggesting that the famous rare book collection at Warner-Bok Library in Washington, DC is fraudulent. When the head of the manuscript division is found dead, only three people suspect it to be murder - Crighton Jones, a young woman who currently works as the Library's press officer, graduate student Steve Carson, and Prof. Edward George, a former library director of Yale University. The trio put their brains and research skills together to solve this crime. – CK

*PS3558 .A44338 C36 2007*

Based on a true story, this novel tells the tale of frustrated librarian Fiona Sweeny, who takes on the adventure of helping to start a camel bookmobile service in Northeastern Kenya. Inspired by the idea that “Books are their future. A link to the modern world.” (p. 10), Fiona is soon travelling to far-flung villages and befriending villagers. Mididima, the farthest outpost reached by the camel bookmobile, becomes her favourite destination. However, encumbered by her Western values, she is unaware of the problems brought along with the books. When a young boy breaks the primary rule of the camel bookmobile by not returning his borrowed books, Mididima becomes the scene of a struggle. The presence of Fiona and the bookmobile ignites a feud between those who would embrace modernization and those who fear the loss of traditional ways. A thrilling read that goes beyond the simplistic views that illiteracy is synonymous with ignorance, and that modernization is always beneficial, *The Camel Bookmobile* has inspired many. – CP

*PS8321 .A54 2006*

This compelling collection of short fiction, combining young adult fiction and adult fiction, has appeal for adults and teens alike. The stories are funny, playful, heart-breaking, angry, authentic and surreal. They are about family, friends, obstacles, searching, love, loss, music, sex, discovery and growing up. The selections range from light-hearted to mysterious to tragic, creating a portrait of teenage life. Lisa Heggum is the Youth Collections Librarian at the Toronto Public Library, who pioneered the local new music collection a few years ago. – RIM

*The Fit* refers to a long bout of hiccups suffered by John Carrington, the protagonist of Philip Hensher's novel, when he finds out his wife has left him. John is a professional indexer, and his life is as boring and repetitive as his indices. He takes to drinking, smoking, and drugs, thinking they'll cure his hiccups, but he's a social misfit mystified by much of the world. *The Fit* is a funny, light, and ultimately moving read. -- RIM


What if? That is the question asked by *The Archivist’s Story*: What if a manuscript that had been condemned to be destroyed was saved? The protagonist of this novel is Pavel, an archivist in the Lubyanka archives during Stalin’s regime in 1939. During this period, manuscripts and other documents written by Russia’s poets and writers went missing, or were destroyed, including those of real-life Soviet playwright and writer, Isaac Babel. Holland inserts the fictional Pavel into this world, and in an act of personal redemption, he saves some of Babel’s work. Pavel’s actions and relationships with others are set against the backdrop of communist oppression; his courageous act creates a sense of something that is bigger than an individual. -- SAHF


The Ukrainian-Canadian housewives of idyllic Kalyna Beach, Ontario, typically spend their summers on the beach reading racy novels, watching their children, and gossiping over glasses of gin while their husbands work. When the wife of a local millionaire embarks on an affair, the ladies of Kalyna Beach feel their familiar world shift as dramatic changes open up their accustomed existence to opportunities of freedom as well as betrayal. The author captures the security and claustrophobia of immigrant communities in 1960s Ontario, and gives insight into the personal cost of immigration and assimilation. -- LC


In the preface to this curated collection of short stories translator and editor, Theodore Koch, declares “the bibliophile is distinguished by his taste, a certain ingenious and delicate tact, which shows itself in everything and which gives an inexpressible charm to life.” The short fictions in this book center on this theme, presenting an array of memorable characters whose love of books permeates all other aspects of their lives—for both good and ill. Though these tales span nearly a century in time, the modern bibliophile is sure to recognize the magnetic draw of the book. -- NP
We meet the protagonist of this novel, Dorothy Jarrow, DJ as she is known to her friends, as she is reeling from the aftermath of an embarrassing, ill-fated spring fling. She decides to take a librarian position in a small town in Kansas to get away from it all, taking her buttoned-up lifestyle to its predictable conclusion. To her surprise, DJ finds her new library to be a hub for gossip. What’s more, she encounters her old vacation fling where she least expects him to be, behind the pharmacy counter in her new locale. Though he doesn’t recognize her, this serendipitous encounter projects DJ on a journey of self-discovery that no one could have anticipated. -- NP

There are stories with illustrations, stories with no illustrations, and then there are drawing stories. Drawing stories differ from other types of narratives because the illustrations are drawn by the storyteller or an assistant while the story is being told. At the end, they connect to form a bigger picture. Pellowski has collected examples of drawing stories from around the world: Sweden, Korea, America, and Malaysia to name a few countries. With the text on one page and the corresponding drawings on the facing side, Pellowski shows how the illustrations and texts interconnect to tell the story. The book also includes a brief history of each story, and tips on how to make the most out of them. The best part? Because they are supposed to be done quickly, the drawings are all stick figures! --SAHF

The first in a series, this offbeat young adult novel introduces Alcatraz Smedry, a young boy with a knack for getting into accidental trouble. When he inadvertently sets his kitchen on fire, Alcatraz is worried that he will be placed in yet another new foster home. Instead, he unexpectedly receives an inheritance from his grandfather in the form of a bag of sand. When the sand is taken away by a librarian, Alcatraz is visited by his grandfather. To Alcatraz’s great surprise, he learns that members of the Smedry family are born with secret powers to help them in their fight against an evil cult of librarians, who covertly rule the world. Using clumsiness, which is, in fact, his secret power, the preteen takes off on a wild, and often very silly, adventure in an attempt to thwart the librarians. --NP

The Central Registry of Births, Marriages and Deaths is the setting for *All the Names*, Nobel Prize-winning Portuguese author José Saramago's seventh novel to be translated into English. The names in question are those of every man, woman, and child ever born, married, or buried in the unnamed city where the Registry is located, and they are the special province of Senhor José, who is employed there as a clerk. A middle-aged bachelor who labours thanklessly among the archives, he is interested only in the mundane daily routines of his job. One day, he chances upon the records of an anonymous young woman, and finds himself changed.

He begins an obsessive search that may lead him to the woman. As he gets closer, he discovers more about her and about himself than he would ever have wished. *All the Names* is a psychological thriller that will keep you turning the pages. -- RIM


Susan Swan delves into the life of the 18th century's most notorious womanizer, while following the parallel adventure of contemporary protagonist, Luce Adams. The story begins with Luce travelling through Europe with the lover of her recently deceased mother. The purpose of the trip is two-fold: to pay tribute to Adams's lecturer mom, and to deliver some Casanova-penned letters, discovered in the family cottage, to the Venetian Library. As the journey progresses, Luce reads the letters and discovers an affair between the infamous rake and her distant relation, Asked For Adams, a cousin of former president John Adams. An engaging read that will be enjoyed by fans of “historical” fiction. -- RIM


The first in a beloved manga series, *Ranma ½ Vol. 1* introduces a teenage martial artist who shifts between male and female genders when splashed with water. The quirky comic is filled with other memorable characters, like Ranma’s father who also has a similar, though unique, ability to morph. This lively story takes the pair on an action-filled quest to find a way for Ranma to stay in one body. A fun-filled romp for all ages! --NP

An adaptation from the hit TV-movie, *The Librarian* follows Flynn Carson, a librarian who has taken on the responsibility of guarding the mystical artifacts of the world, which are scattered throughout our history. In this issue, Carson is on a quest to find King Solomon’s Mines and protect the Key of Solomon from falling into the wrong hands. During his mission he meets Emily Davenport, a beautiful scientist, who may be his only hope to finding the Key of Solomon. --YF


This beautiful children’s story introduces the impactful life of Lillian Smith, the first children’s librarian in the British Empire. During a time when children’s literature was devalued, Smith shared her love of reading and promoted children’s literacy in the early 1900s, leaving a mark in the field far beyond this moment in time. --NP


This mature young adult novel offers a coming of age story about adventure, young love and friendship through trying circumstances. To find an outlet for their creative energies, high school best friends Hannah and Zoe create The Museum of Intangible Things, curating eccentric exhibits. Both Zoe and Hannah have dreams of pursuing their dreams beyond the confines of their rural upbringing, so Zoe is devastated when she gets a rejection letter from the school of her dreams. When the young women take off on a road trip to blow off some steam, Zoe’s bipolar disorder is triggered. In trying to escape from the doldrums of their small town, Hannah and Zoe’s journey ends up testing the limits of their friendship. This gripping narrative sheds light on the stigmatized, though prevalent, experience of living with a mental health concern by channelling this theme through a multifaceted and realistic account of youth. --NP

We’ve seen libraries through the lenses of patrons, librarians, students, iSchoolers, and now it is time to see it through the eyes of poets. The poems in this collection revolve around the public library, and vary in length from a few lines to a few pages. See what others think about the public library, and see if it refreshes your point of view. –SAHF

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**Interesting formats**


While this stunningly illustrated book contains no text, the unique accordion pages and gorgeous imagery guide the reader through a visual depiction of Hans Christian Andersen’s beloved fairy tale “The Wild Swans.” In this classic story, eleven princes are transformed into swans by their stepmother. Although the siblings are able to keep their youngest sister from the same fate, she vows to save them from their curse. This captivating edition is sure to equally enchant those who are familiar with the tale and new generations of readers. --NP


With the intriguing format of raised lines on paper, this all-black book provides the sighted reader with an avenue through which to imagine how those who with blindness experience reading braille. Additionally, Cottin presents the braille alphabet, which, along with Faria’s stunning tonal imagery, produces a fascinating sensory experience. --NP


This beautiful boxed set contains two volumes of a behind-the-scenes glimpse at the acclaimed graphic novel *The Arrival* by Australian author, Shaun Tan. Much like the story to which this is a companion, Tan explores the process of his work through evocative illustrations. This narrative, from concept to finished work, similarly unfolds in this uniquely engaging, visual style. --NP

Borchert shares his experiences of working in the suburban Los Angeles library system in this charming tell-all. For 12 years, the family-man author has held the post of assistant librarian. In this book, Borchert relays a conversation with an aged librarian who reveals how it was in the good old days (where staff lunches used to be served with wine), then starkly contrasts that account with modern-day library culture, with issues such as latchkey kids abandoned in the library for long, numbing afternoons. -- CA


In March of 1990, two men broke into the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston and stole a dozen masterpieces totalling over $500 million, including one Vermeer, three Rembrandts, and five Degas. After hundreds of leads, thousands of interviews, and a $5-million reward, not a single painting has been recovered. These missing masterpieces have become the ‘Holy Grail’ of the art world and one of the United States’ most intriguing unsolved mysteries. -- CA


With recipes from resident chefs, Ben Parnaby and Hazel Herworth, along with input from café supervisor Charles Kirkbride, this cookbook transports the reader to the Bowes Café at the British Bowes Museum. Delight your guest with such culinary delights as “Twice Cooked Leg of Spiced Mutton, Pickled Vegetables and Ice Cream,” or bring a “Vodka Watermelon” to your next summer party. All the while feasting your eyes on historic paintings included alongside the recipes. --NP


Legendary art thief Myles Connor has used every technique in the book to steal priceless pieces of artwork, from breaking and entering, to cat burglary, to false identities and elaborate con jobs. As a promising young rock star, he collected Japanese swords and weapons, but his collection soon expanded through less than legitimate means. Disguised as an art collector, he spent time in the archives of museums far and wide, and visited after hours to take advantage of what he learned by day. -- CA

A great read for librarians who need a smile or a laugh about the highs and the lows of the profession. Witty writing, hilarious illustrations, and telling anecdotes make light of the librarian world. Expanding on her online *Warrior Librarian Weekly* site, Credaro, an Australian teacher-librarian, offers humorous advice and enlightening examples for every librarian who has ever had a bad day at work. – YF


Be warned, some books are in fact fatal to their authors. Think about it: if Galileo had not written *Dialogue Concerning the Two Chief World Systems* he would not have been imprisoned and perhaps worse—discredited. Ditchfield has compiled authors of various subjects who all have one thing in common: their lives would have been better, perhaps even prolonged, if they had not written, and then published their works. The authors run the gamut from theological to satire, Henry Cornelius Agrippa to Daniel Defoe. It is interesting to see who has suffered so that we may learn. --SAHF


You may not recognize Doctorow without his goggles, hot air balloon, and red cape, but you will recognize the activist spirit shown in all of his work, fiction and non-fiction alike. He gives us approximately 200 pages covering everything from Facebook to McDonalds to fan fiction. The essays range in size and topic, but are connected by the common thread of information in all of its complexities. --SAHF


On a morning in 1994, two men driving a stolen car break into Norway's National Gallery and capture Edvard Munch's iconic, tortured, best-known work. Norwegian police proceed to call on the world's greatest art detective - Scotland Yard's enigmatic, irascible, and brilliant Charley Hill. The hunt for The Scream will either advance his career or end in humiliation. This “whodunit” work of fiction is the winner of the Edgar Allan Poe Award for Best Factual Crime book. -- CA

This is the story of Scott Douglas, who started his library career as a page in a library branch, went on to get his MLIS, and now works as a librarian at Southern California’s Anaheim Public Library. He has spent many years documenting his experiences on McSweeney’s website*. His memoir offers unique and engaging insights, valuable for public librarians, managers, trustees, and library lovers. – CA

* http://www.mcsweeneyes.net/links/librarian/28myspace.html


This book is a collection of cartoons that illustrate different situations in the life of a public library, from the dreaded obtrusive reference question to the parent wanting help with their offspring’s homework. Epstein has captured the facets of librarianship that amuse and annoy. Based on puns and pop culture, *Interlibrary Loan Sharks and Seedy Roms* is a must read, humorous look at libraries. --SAHF


*The Case of the Killer Robot* starts with a case study of a programmer who is charged with manslaughter for writing a faulty code that ended up killing someone. The case study is designed to get people to realize the difficulty in integrating ethics into software development and practices. Although the case study is fictional, it addresses important and relevant questions about culpability and how far is too far. For anyone who wishes to learn more about the complexities of ethical decision-making, this is a book for you. --SAHF

The paranoid believe that the government has a detailed and ongoing personal file compiled on each of us, or perhaps narcissistically, just on them. But what if the government did? What if you could see that file? Timothy Garton Ash gets the chance to do just that. The titular file is compiled by the East-German Stasi during Garton Ash’s time in Berlin in 1978. He examines the file in 1993 after the Wall is destroyed and in the process, sees how the events of his life are perceived through the eyes of the state. We’re always told to look at our actions from another perspective, Garton Ash does, and so should you. --SAHF


Organized by course, this cookbook presents a collection of recipes from trustees, library staff and patrons from around the world, who gathered for the American Library Trustee Association fundraiser “A Taste of Brooklyn” in New York, 1986. This buffet feast was so well received that demands for its recipes arose. Now this cookbook serves to raise additional funds for the nation’s libraries. – YF

***Glozer, Liselotte F. (1965). *A Librarian’s Cook Book or How to Keep Your Mind on Classifying, Cataloguing and Doing Bibliographic Research and Yet Think of Food*. Berkeley, California: Peacock Press. **641.5 G566L** (UTL at Downsview)

This tiny cook book consists of only 10 recipes, each with its respective Dewey and LC Classification numbers. Each recipe has humorous and informative anecdotes with reference to its bibliographic source. There is also a useful appendix with “Household Hints” or practical advice dedicated to three separate groups of people: bibliographers, cataloguers, and He-Libs. Each recipe is worth trying and the appendix is full of “things worth knowing.” – C


Better than fiction, this book introduces readers to dozens of modern stories on stolen artworks and some of their recoveries. Although art theft is glamorized in our popular culture, in reality long-time thieves and criminals are involved in these sophisticated international operations. The problematic issue of repatriation, a conundrum for museums housing collections of dubious provenance, is a key component of Houpt’s account of modern art crimes. Highlights also include a beautiful appendix filled with colour reproductions of missing artworks. -- YF
[DC718 .A44 L33 2012](https://uoft.me/93j5)
Weaving together biographic essays and illustrations, this story relays the feelings of otherness experienced by a young American woman growing up in Paris. Connecting with the material world becomes a mode of coping for LaCava as she deals with the resulting anxiety and depression. Taking on museum trips and scavenger hunts as a distraction, this narrative explores how a creative engagement with objects of wonder provided may provide a means of coping, and a new lens through which to view the world. --NP

[Z682 .M33 2004](https://uoft.me/93j5) (UTL at Downsview)
MacMillan roamed the highways, attics, and basements of Ontario, seeking out hidden and forgotten treasures of our documentary heritage. He was involved in the founding of the Glengarry Historical Society, the Dunvegan Pioneer Museum, and the Nor’Wester and Loyalist Museum at Williamstown. In 1964, he was hired onto the Ontario Archives’ staff as a 'roving archivist', where he spent the next 25 years accruing an invaluable mass of documentation. All Canadians are in his debt for his initiatives have saved much of our documentary heritage. -- CA

[020.207 M279M](https://uoft.me/93j5) (UTL at Downsview)
At first glance it is hard to tell whether or not Will Manley is simply messing with your information professional mind. It is very clear, however, that he understands librarians. Take the second page of the book, where you can find his photo, since he hates when author’s photos are at the back of the book. Below this picture are the words “You Don’t Have to Start Here Unless You’re a Cataloger”. The rest of the book is stream-of-consciousness writing on such events or topics as “Pasadena Do-Gooders Do Bad” and “Manley’s [Experience] Maxims”. Full of practical advice and personal anecdotes, this book is about librarians, for librarians, and written by a librarian. --SAHF

Lawyer jokes, doctor jokes, and jokes about the differences between men and women abound. But what about librarians? Scott McCullar’s book is a collection of library-based comics. Making equal fun of patrons, librarians, and policies, McCullar’s book is an entertaining look at the trials and joys of being a part of a public library. My favourite: the first cartoon on page 40 --SAHF


Intellectual freedom is a right that librarians champion, but we often hear of it in theory rather than in practice. This true-to-life account details McShean’s personal experiences with censorship as a librarian. From the censorship of children’s literature, to issues of sex and religion, each of the book’s 31 chapters recounts a different episode in his career. Through this series of entertaining stories, the reader will learn how one librarian fought against censorship and will be inspired to do the same. -- EV


Behind the scenes, museums often bury the truth behind many of the objects that the public never sees. The darkest secrets of the cultural world are revealed through Moses’ account of the politics that keep items hidden from the public’s view. Woven together with great research, each revealing story focuses on one object within varied American museums. The role of the museum as a steward of culture has been placed center stage in this interesting read. -- YF


Did you know that the cure for sun-burn involves lemon juice and salt? It does, according to Jane Mosley (1669-1712). The Derbyshire Museum Service has put together all of Mosley’s recipes and remedies. If you find yourself wondering how to cure ‘ich or scurf of the body’ — look no further! Fancy a Pippin Tart? Jane has the recipe! A great read for anyone interested in a little glimpse into seventeenth century life in Derbyshire. —EV

A decided blend of memoir and literary criticism, *Reading Lolita in Tehran* is the story of Azar Nafisi, a resigned professor at a university in Tehran, Iran. She invited seven of her best female students to attend a weekly reading group and engage in discussion about forbidden Western classics. The women met in secret to talk, share, and “shed their mandatory veils and robes and burst into color.” The weekly meetings served as a safe forum for debating social, cultural and political realities of living under strict Islamic rule. It is most definitely a celebration of the liberating power of literature. -- CA


Casting a comprehensive light upon the reality of worldwide access to information, Volume 3 of this expanded three-volume set, is a chronology of the net. Chapter 1 describes pre-Arpanet history, Chapter 2 summarizes the genesis of Arpanet, the precursor to today’s Internet, and so on. The last chapter covers the 2000–2004 period. Organized by year, the concise entries function as a crash course in the history of one of humankind’s most far-reaching creations – CA/NS


Who should you ask when you are in need of a good recipe for an upcoming dinner party? This book proclaims: your local librarian! A compilation of 400 librarians’ favourite recipes, and accompanying articles on Cajun cooking, cookbook-collecting, catering and more, this cookbook has brought together librarian’s best kept secrets, their recipes. -YF


A concise collection of eccentric occurrences from Sheridan’s own experiences as a public librarian, this book captures a range of unique and entertaining patron requests. Through quirky short stories and her musings of life on the reference desk, Sheridan’s tales pay homage to the relevance of librarianship in contemporary everyday life. --NP

Planet Google is a behind the scenes look at Google and its goal to organize the world’s information. Based on the extraordinary access he gained to the highly secretive “Googleplex,” *New York Times* columnist Stross, looks at Google’s evolution from its humble beginnings, through the company’s early acquisitions, on to its current position as a ubiquitous presence. The unfolding narrative reads like a suspense novel - entertaining, informative, and provocative. – CK


A visually-driven introduction to statistics presented in a novel and engaging form: a manga comic book. Not just an entertaining cartoon, these exhaustive supplementary texts, exercises and summaries provide a window to how statistics can be integrated in day to day life. Whether you are applying mathematics in business or in research, this fun and unique book takes the reader from the hypothesis to the Excel sheet in an original way. --NP


This book chronicles Thornton’s exploration of high-profile art spaces in the global arena. From a no-holds-barred account of a sale at Christie’s in New York, to the fantastic Venice Binnale, Thornton provides the reader with an insider’s view of the contemporary art world. He exposes the business of today’s art market, and the egos and the greed that come with the price tag of many contemporary art pieces. The art itself, however, is never forgotten, as Thornton makes sense of the cultural expression that is at the heart of this movement, and what it can tell us about life. – EV


Similar to a page-turning criminal novel, Watson and Todeschini's colourful account of Giacomo Medici, an Italian antiquities dealer found guilty of looting and taking part in illegal business dealings, is wonderfully exciting, astonishing and shocking. Accompanying an investigation, the authors gradually unveil a 30-year conspiracy surrounding some of Italy’s greatest archaeological treasures, with scandalous high-profile customers including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, NY. This book explores the complex layers involved in illicit trade that can take centuries to uncover. -- YF

This true-crime suspense book is an excellent melange of the crime of forgery with the thrill of creation, spiced with the knowledge that one false micromove can mean discovery and ruin. In 1997 a previously unknown poem by Emily Dickinson, "That God Cannot Be Understood," was uncovered. A few short weeks later, it was revealed to be a forgery by a man who had already convincingly forged documents by more than 100 literary and historical figures. This page-turner stands as an intriguing forensic case study of forgery, and includes interviews with Emily Dickinson scholars, auctioneers, and forensic-document experts. -- CA

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