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List of Suggested Books for Review: For your first review, please choose from among the books marked by an asterisk, as they are either of broader scope or pertain more closely to material covered in the first half of the term.

Please clear with me any divergence from the list below. You may also consult the other bibliographies for which I’ve provided links in the “Websites, General” folder on the CTools class site.

General Treatments, both Recent and Classic, of Basic Topics:

*Amory, Hugh, ed., et al. *A History of the Book in America*, 2000-07. (Collection of erudite articles on a wide range of topics. Vol. I: 18th C. Vols. II and III, with different editors and too recent to be in most libraries, cover 19th C. issues.)

*Briggs, Asa and Peter Burke, *A Social History of the Media, from Gutenberg to the Internet*, Cambridge (UK), 2005 (2nd ed.). (Two eminent British historians bring a socio-historical viewpoint to the discipline of media studies. Covers 500 years in some detail, with a focus on 19th and 20th centuries. Reads like a textbook; a refuge for the footnote-weary.)


*Gaskell, Philip. *A New Introduction to Bibliography*, New York, 1972 & 1995. (Nuts-and-bolts presentation of all the classic issues [type, composition, paper, presswork, binding, etc.] comprising what was for decades a core of librarian training—that is, “analytical bibliography.” Lengthy. Wonky.)

*Johns, Adrian, *The Nature of the Book: Print and Knowledge in the Making*, Chicago, 1998. (Massive and very erudite tome on print culture and 17th and 18th C. European history, especially as regards the natural sciences. Argues that the printed book had to earn respect and reliability for accuracy over several centuries via a number of strategies.)

*Eisenstein, Johns, et al. *American Historical Review* 107.1 (February 2002), 84-128: “How Revolutionary Was the Print Revolution?” (Pointed exchange of opinion between scholars with differing approaches. This exchange will give you an insight into their books, which you should consult so as to evaluate their respective arguments.) (available at http://www.historycooperative.org/journals/ahr/107.1/ah0102000084.html)

*McKitterick, David. *Print, Manuscript and the Search for Order, 1450-1830*. Cambridge, 2003 (British librarian argues that print was integrated much more slowly into European culture than generally assumed. Broad and thorough.)

(A classicist reflects on the history of written communications technology. Highly readable. Available only to students not having read this book in a previous S.I. course.)

(Classic and conventional treatment of the topic announced by the title)

Probably too specialized to review but worth knowing nonetheless:

Multivolume *Cambridge History of the Book in Britain*, 1999--. Each volume covers approximately 150 years.

**Printing techniques, printing trade, the culture of print:**

Balzac, Honoré de, *Lost Illusions / Les illusions perdues* (various editions)  
(Classic 19th century novel by the master of French realism on the printing trade in Paris, early 19th C.)

*Bowen, Karen L., and Dirk Imhof. *Christopher Plantin and Engraved Book Illustrations in Sixteenth-Century Europe*. Cambridge UK, 2008. (Focused study on one of the most important printers of the Renaissance and his use of illustration.)


*Chappell, Warren, *A Short History of the Printed Word*, New York, 1970. (Basic and very clear presentation of the mechanics of printing. Less dense than Steinberg’s and Gaskell’s treatments. Good starting point for beginners.)

*Echard, Siân, *Printing the Middle Ages*, Philadelphia, 2008. (Overview of the history of printing medieval European manuscripts since the 16th C.; numerous categories of analysis: Elizabethan-era font issues, 19th C. children’s editions of Chaucer, etc.)

Lupton, Ellen, *Thinking with Type*, Princeton, 2005  
(Reflections on typography as an esthetic system. For graphic-designer types.)


(Locates in the 1640s English “newsbook” the origins of the modern newspaper. Readable but very focused.)

(Short, lavishly illustrated bilingual treatment of topic in the form of a museum guide. Helps to have had some Chinese history.)

view, including breezy but well grounded mentions of Aldus Manutius.)


**Books and Culture, Books and Society**


*Burman, Thomas E., Reading the Qur’an in Latin Christendom, 1140-1560, Chicago, 2007. (Argues medieval learned Christians did not just attack the Qur’an, but rather engaged with it on a number of levels, including, surprisingly, its grammatical and stylistic problems.)


*Darnton, Robert, The Literary Underground of the Old Regime, Cambridge, MA, 1982 (Classic annales-style social history of printing in pre-Revolutionary France)

*---. The Forbidden Best Sellers of pre-Revolutionary France, New York, 1995 (Another classic work of social history by a leading authority on 18th century France)

*Clanchy, M. T., From Memory to Written Record: England 1066—1307, London, 1979 / 1993 (Historical treatment of orality and writing during crucial period in English cultural history)

*Gilmartin, Kevin, Print Politics: The Press & Radical Opposition in Early Nineteenth-Century England, Cambridge, 1996 (Studies the radical movement for political reform in early 19th century Britain through its pamphleteering in the broader cultural context of the day.)

*Goldsmith, Elizabeth C. and Dena Goodman, Going Public: Women and Publishing in Early Modern France, Ithaca, 1995. (Explores the ways in which French women “went public” through publication; argues they contributed to the formation of the public sphere in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries; examines memoirs, legal briefs, novels, poems, fairy tales.)


*King, John N. *Foxe's Book of Martyrs and Early Modern Print Culture*. Cambridge, UK, 2006. (Detailed study of one of the most important English books of the sixteenth century, a Reformation polemic.)

*Kuskin, William, *Symbolic Caxton: Literary Culture and Print Capitalism*, South Bend, 2008 (Situates both Caxton and introduction of printing in England in social, cultural and political context; argues fifteenth century crucial for understanding all later development in English literature.)


*Lowry, Martin. *The World of Aldus Manutius: Business and Scholarship in Renaissance Venice*, Ithaca, 1979. (Well-written examination of both idealistic and pragmatic dimensions of the early printing business in one of Europe’s most important cultural centers)


*Robin, Diana. *Publishing Women: Salons, the Presses, and the Counter-Reformation in Sixteenth-Century Italy*, Chicago, 2007. (Investigates the role of women in the early years of Italian book production and acquisition in five different cities.)


Wright, Bradford W. *Comic Book Nation: The Transformation of Youth Culture in America*, Baltimore, 2003. (Examines major post-war cultural currents as reflected in comic books.)
Reading, sometimes as opposed to digital-age pursuits:

Badia, Janet and Jennifer Phegley, eds. Reading Women: Literary Figures and Cultural Icons from the Victorian Age to the Present, Toronto, 2005. (Ten or so self-contained essays on various aspects of the theme announced in the title, women as readers of literature.)

Bayard, Pierre. How to Talk About Books You Haven’t Read (orig. Comment parler des livres que l’on n’a pas lus?), Paris, 2007. (More substantive than title implies; French-style reflection on what it means to read fragmentarily, approximately; how we construct a public self through a wide range of relationships to the printed word. Intentionally provocative.)


Bradbury, Ray, Farenheit 451, New York, 1953. (Classic novel about the lamentable rise of television-watching at the expense of literary reading, not censorship, according to recent correctives issued by author.)


*Coleman, Joyce, Public Reading and the Reading Public in Late Medieval England and France, Cambridge, 1996 (insightful exposition of the period-specific phenomenon of public reading out loud; scholarly audience)


*Jackson, H. J., Marginalia: Readers Writing in Books, 2002, or Romantic Readers: The Evidence of Marginalia, New Haven, 2005 (A professor of English investigates the phenomenon of handwritten notations made in books over the past several hundred years. Surprisingly engaging. The more recent study is much more focused; ascribes meaning to the marginal notes that British readers made in two thousand books between 1790 and 1830.)

Johnson, Steven, Everything Bad is Good For You, New York, 2005. (Science writer argues provocatively in favor of the conceptual and esthetic complexity of products of electronic technology; subtitle is “How Today's Popular Culture Is Actually Making Us Smarter”) (makes a good second book for comparison with the Birkerts book)

Manguel, Alberto, A History of Reading, London, 1996. (Readable, general-public treatment of the topic over vast time and subject area.)
Pearson, Jacqueline, *Women's Reading in Britain, 1750-1835: A Dangerous Recreation*, Cambridge, UK, 1999. (Explores literary and social ramifications of a surge in the number of women reading; argues for considerable ambivalence towards this trend in these years.)


*Saenger, Paul, *Space Between Words: The Origins of Silent Reading*, Stanford, 1997. (Seeks to explain why word separation, absent from the classical world’s written texts, came about in Europe after centuries of evolution and what what social shifts are implied.)


**Writing, Literacy:**

*Gaur, Albertine, *Literacy and the Politics of Writing*, Bristol, UK, 2000. (study of the history of writing and literacy, treating language as a political system, over a period of millennia)


*---. *The Domestication of the Savage Mind* Cambridge (UK), 1987. (A classic on oral versus written culture.)


**Pre-print or pre-writing:**

*Carruthers, Mary, *The Book of Memory: A Study of Memory in Medieval Culture*, Cambridge (UK), 1990. (Important study of an important topic in the rhetorical tradition.)


Foys, Martin K., *Virtually Anglo-Saxon: Old Media, New Media, and Early Medieval Studies in the Late Age of Print*, Gainesville, 2007. (Argues for unsuspected parallels between medieval manuscript reading conventions and post-print electronic textuality.)


**Post-print:**

  (Argues for rigorous conservation of the supposedly ephemeral daily newspaper by librarians)


---.  *The Economics of Attention: Style and Substance in the Age of Information*, Chicago, 2007.  (Wide-ranging study that treats textuality pre- and post-electronic revolution)


Stoicheff, Peter and Andrew Taylor, eds.,  *The Future of the Page*, Toronto, 2004.  (Collection of essays on the history and future of page layout; you may select a subset of essays to review.)


Libraries:


*Petroski, Henry, *The Book on the Bookshelf*, New York, 1999. (An engineer looks at why books came to be shelved and stored the way they are; forthright and interesting. More recent investigation by this author: the cultural history of the toothpick [!])


Materiality (production and reproduction), Ownership, Attribution, Control:


Schiffriin, André, *The Business of Books: How the International Conglomerates Took Over Publishing and Changed the Way We Read*, London, 2000. (Title says it all; policy wonks will enjoy. Author is the son of French WWII émigré parents to New York; socialist activist and founder of several non-commercial publishing houses.)