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Bestselling Bibliographies of 1997 - YBP

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YBP

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Reference books are always forecast to be the first to go when the death of the book occurs, and burial rites for one type of reference book above all, the bibliography, the first occasion for mourning.

If anyone mourns. All bibliographies are labor of love, in the compiling. But who loves them once published? Most are released and out-of-date at once. An omission or two is enough to prove a bibliography incomplete, and a single false detail, inaccurate. By their nature they are only way stations on the road to other books, books more useful, more substantive, more interesting, and more durable. Bibliographies might as well come pre-stamped, “for specialists only.” They are the least democratic, the most despised, the most easily-replaced-by-the-Web kind of reference work.

And yet, somehow bibliographies are still very much with us. YBP treats some 350 of this hardy species each year for approval plan customers. This list of 25 represents the best sellers among bibliographies handled during calendar year 1997.

Titles are arranged in descending order of total library purchases, from our top seller, Music Reference and Research Materials (Schrimer), which we have shipped to 120 libraries to date, to Lymching and Vigilantism in the United States (Greenwood), which has appealed to 67 libraries so far. List prices top off at $100, for Garland’s Art Books: A Basic Bibliography, while the best bargains are at $39.95, a sum which will pay either for The Civil War in Books (University of Illinois Press) or for Oxford’s Edwardian Fiction. Most publishers avoid bibliographies, but over the years some have learned how to make a living off of them, a fact witnessed by the eleven titles placed on our list by Greenwood Library, a subject area with a long tradition in bibliography, is the strongest on YBP’s list, at twelve titles. Women’s Studies, a field at work documenting its own remarkable surge over the past twenty years, checks in with five and earns second place. We have modest hope that readers of Against the Grain will find our bibliography useful and interesting.

Duckles, Vincent H. (Vincent Harris), 1913-: Music Reference and Research Materials: An Annotated Bibliography. Schirmer 1997 0028708210 $45.00 Cloth


Kemp, Sandra. Edwardian Fiction: An

Greenwood 1997 03132300488 $75.00 Cloth

Ridger, Robert B. Marks, 1951-: Gay and Lesbian Movement: References and Resources. G.K. Hall 1996 $45.00 0816173737 Cloth


Carpenter, Charles A. Modern Drama Scholarship and Criticism, 1981-1990: An International Bibliography. Univ of Toronto Press 1997 $90.00 080200914x Cloth


Basic Music Library: Essential Scores and Sound Recordings. Ed. by Elizabeth Davis. Amer Libr Assn 1997 $85.00 0838934617 Cloth


Barstow, Jane M. Missner. One Hundred Years of American Women Writing, 1848-1948: An Annotated Bio-Bibliography. Scarecrow 1997 $42.00 081083314x Cloth


Durkan, Michael J. Seamus Heaney: A Reference Guide. G.K. Hall 1996 $45.00 0816173893 Cloth


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