Bestsellers-Reference Titles-50 of the top academic sellers

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Bestsellers — Reference Titles

by Françoise Crowell (Yankee Book Peddler) <FCrowell@YBP.com>

Publishing reference titles must be a lucrative business if the numbers YBP handled in a year is any indication. In a recent 12 month period we handled 3,570 titles coded reference. Fifty of the top academic sellers are listed here starting with the Oxford Companion to Fairy Tales. Literature tops the list with 9 titles and 6 titles in women’s studies including Routledge Biographical Dictionary of Women in Science. University Presses account for a large number with Oxford UP publishing 11 of our top sellers: on the trade side Greenwood (who else?) comes in with 10. This collection is well rounded with Science, Literature, Dance, History, Social Science and even Library Science included (see Copyright Essentials for Librarians and Educators.) Definitely a book for every corner of your library.


Oxford Companion to English Literature; Ed. By Margaret Drabble. Oxford Univ Press 2000 $75.00 Cloth 0198662440.


Encyclopedia of Eastern Europe: From the Congress of Vienna to the Fall of Communism; Ed. By Richard Frucht. Garland 2000 $145.00 Cloth 0815300921.

Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders: DSM-IV-TR: Text Revision. Amer Psychiatric 2000 $71.95 Cloth 0890420246.


Columbia Chronologies of Asian History and Culture; Ed. By John S. Bowman. Columbia Univ Press 2000 $85.00 Cloth 0231110049.


Henderson, Harry, 1951-. Gun Control: Facts On File 2000 $45.00 Cloth 0816040311.


Kelly, Robert J. Encyclopedia of Orga- continued on page 76

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**Bestsellers from page 75**


- "Crews, Kenneth D. Copyright Essentials For Librarians and Educators." Amer Library Association 2000 $45.00 Paper 0838907970.


- "Meier, Matt S. Encyclopedia of the Mexican American Civil Rights Movement." Greenwood 2000 $69.95 Cloth 0313304254.


- "Medieval Folklore: An Encyclopedia of Myths, Legends, Tales, Beliefs, and Customs," Ed. By Carl Lindahl. ABC-Clio 2000 $175.00 Cloth 1576071219.


- "Barnes, Ian, 1946-. Historical Atlas of the American Revolution." Routledge 2000 $50.00 Cloth 0415922437.


- "Frumin, Norman. Guide to Economic Indicators." M.E. Sharpe 2000 $64.95 Cloth 0765604361.


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**Something About Books — Identity Theft**

by Jack Walsdorf (Library Relations, Alibris)

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What would you do if someone stole your identity? The thought came to me as I was watching one of those nighttime television news shows. They were telling the story of a New York doctor who had her identity stolen. The thief went the full route, using credit cards, opening accounts and even taking money out of accounts. What a frightening story it was.

I wondered what books were out there on the subject and a quick check of the Alibris site, under the heading "identity theft" brought up three titles. Still more searching by subject brought me to the heading "plagiarism" and an interesting title popped up: *Words for the Taking* by Neal Bowers. I ordered this book and the telling of his tale, of the hunt for a plagiarist, is a sad story on many levels.

I first became acquainted with literary plagiarism in the early 1960s as an undergraduate student at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. I was then the editor of the student newspaper, and often wrote poetry and short stories for the university literary magazine. My dream was to be a professional writer, and I thought I was fairly good, until I was stopped in my tracks by the reading of one of my classmate's short stories in my English composition class. It was so good, that by this day, nearly forty years later, I can still retell most of the story. At the time, I sat stunned, thinking I could never write a story that well. The trouble was, as we found out a few months later, when another student began showing around the "original" story as published in Redbook magazine, it was not our student's story. The next day, in bold letters at the top of the blackboard, we found the word "PLAGIARISM" and we all heard a stern lecture on fair use.

Which brings me to the story written by Neal Bowers. Bowers is a much published poet both in book and magazine form, and among his prizes are a National Endowment for the Arts Poetry Fellowship and the Union League Civic and Arts Poetry Prize. He is on the English faculty at Iowa State University, Ames, and is also the author of the recently published novel *Loose Ends* (2001 - *Random House*) which he calls an "academic, literary mystery" novel.

*Words for the Taking: The Hunt for a Plagiarist* (W.W. Norton, 1997) begins simply enough. Bowers picks up his voice-mail messages in January 1992 and finds the continued on page 78

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