

Creating a Book List to Fit Your Course: Internet Book Sources

WHAT MAKES FOR A GOOD BOOK LIST?

“What makes a great Top 100 book list, in my view, is one that includes four criteria: 1) Plenty to agree with. 2) A few wild card picks that make you think, “Ah, yeah, good call, I wouldn’t have thought of that, but yeah!” 3) A few that are sketchy at best, or that you’re reasonably sure you can make an argument against, and 4) A few that make you mad.”

— Greg Zimmerman 07-10-13 [Book Riot](#)

Book Reviews and Literary Commentary

My favorite subscription sources

Literary Hub (lithub.com)

My absolute favorite Internet literary resource. I **subscribe** to their Saturday weekly e-magazine, “Lit Hub Weekly” (subscribe to Lit Hub Daily and select the weekly option). Links to book reviews, literary essays, and book recommendations from about 250 sources. I can spend all Saturday reading through it. Incredible free resource.

The Atlantic’s Books Briefing

Subscribe for their lovely e-newsletter that focuses on a different theme each week. For example, March 22, 2019 focused on the theme of *apocalypse*, highlighting “literature about the natural world that engages readers with the very real threat of global warming.” Subscribe here: <https://www.theatlantic.com/newsletters/sign-up/books-briefing/>

Book Riot (bookriot.com)

Subscribe for e-newsletters on new books and books by themes.

- RIOT ROUNDUP: “THE BEST BOOKS WE READ IN MAY 2018” [E.g.:
<https://bookriot.com/2018/06/12/riot-roundup-the-best-books-we-read-in-may-2018/>
- Also a good source for book genre searches. Sample search for memoirs:
<https://bookriot.com/2018/07/03/must-read-classic-memoirs-by-writers-of-color/>

Penguin Random House (penguinrandomhouse.com)

Subscribe for e-newsletters on new books and book selections by theme.

The New York Times Books (www.nytimes.com)

Subscribe for e-newsletters on new books and reading resources at
https://www.nytimes.com/newsletters/books-review?te=1&nl=book-review&emc=edit_bk_20190625&te=1&nl=books&emc=edit_bk_20190820

The New York Times (www.nytimes.com): Best Sellers / Book Reviews

For the Best Sellers, go to <https://www.nytimes.com/books/best-sellers/>. To see a book description click on the book, “Buy now,” Amazon or Barnes & Noble.

The New Dork Review of Books

<https://www.thenewdorkreviewofbooks.com/>

Barnes & Noble (barnesandnoble.com)

- B&N READS: <https://www.barnesandnoble.com/blog/>
- B&N BLOGS (Kids, Teen, Sci-Fi and Fantasy)

For example, see B&N’s Sci-Fi and Fantasy blog:

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/blog/sci-fi-fantasy/>

Goodreads (goodreads.com)

Book Search Strategies: Searching for books by theme

Amazon (amazon.com)

- Use the search box to look for categories of books. For example, “immigration fiction books”
- Amazon Bestsellers (categorized by genre and specific groups)
https://www.amazon.com/best-sellers-books-Amazon/zgbs/books/ref=zg_bs_unv_b_1_2438_3
- Note: Amazon categorizes each book by genre and specific groups. For example:
#79 in [Books](#) > [Politics & Social Sciences](#) > [Social Sciences](#) > [Specific Demographics](#) > [African-American Studies](#)

Google (google.com)

- Search “social justice novels” or by specific social justice topics: “disability fiction”
- Search for books by identity month. For example, “Book Pride Month” or “Books Hispanic Heritage Month”

Cultural Web Sites with Literary Themes

ReMezcla (remezcla.com) “Putting Latino culture on the map.” See for example, “The Literary Canon Is Mostly White. Here’s an Alternative Latin American Reading List”

Reading While White: <http://readingwhilewhite.blogspot.com/>