

Benjamin, Walter. "Unpacking My Library: A Talk About Book Collecting."

Illuminations. Ed. Hannah Arendt. Trans. Harry Zohn. New York: Schocken, 1978: 59-68.

This classic essay meditates on the book collector's connection to his library through ownership and memory.

Brayman Hackel, Heidi. "Reading Women." *The History of British Women's Writing, 1500-1610 (Vol. 2)*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2010. 17-33.

This article addresses the challenges of discerning women as readers in the sixteenth century, examining multiple forms of historical evidence of women's literacy such as diaries and memoirs while carefully distinguishing different reading practices. Evidence of gendered differences in literacy belies any simple assertion that most women were illiterate and therefore not reading.

---. "Boasting of silence': women readers in a patriarchal state." *Reading, Society and Politics in Early Modern England*. Eds. Kevin Sharpe and Steven N. Zwicker. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003:101-121.

This chapter explores the role of patriarchy in structuring the history of women as readers in the sixteenth century. Women's "silence" is caused by a range of prohibitions (such as those against reading aloud or annotating books) and calls for a different historiography that can account for silences and absences as well as a written record to create a picture of women readers.

---. "Practicing and Teaching Histories and Theories of the Book." *Pacific Coast Philology* 40:2 (2005):3-9

This short article gives an overview of the interdisciplinary field of the history of the book, considering this field to involve histories of reading and the materiality of texts, among other topics and methodologies. The article then considers applications of this field to the literature classroom.

Fischer, Steven Roger. "The Printed Page." *A History of Reading*. London: Reaktion, 2003: 205-252.

This chapter explores the widespread societal changes caused by the advent of the printing press. The availability of works in print changed institutions, markets, and ideas, as well as the role of the reader, and Fischer provides a history of print that accounts for the intersections in this material history.

Grafton, Anthony. "Apocalypse in the stacks? The research library in the age of Google." *Daedalus* (Winter 2009): 87-98

This article provides an overview of the logistics of traditional print vs. newer online repositories in libraries, weighing the costs and benefits of both models. Grafton explains that online media are not replacing print media, but that both are proliferating at once, putting dual pressures on university libraries. He explores the changes the Internet has brought to research and reading practices as well as to libraries.

Johns, Adrian. "Introduction: The Book of Nature and the Nature of the Book," *The Nature of the Book: Print and Knowledge in the Making*. Chicago: University of

Chicago Press, 1998: 1-57.

This introductory chapter contests a notion of "print culture" based on fixity. Instead Johns promotes a more dynamic historical understanding of print and its effects on culture involving "collective consent" and a range of agents in the early modern bookmaking and knowledge production industry.

Lewandowski, Joseph D. "Unpacking: Walter Benjamin and His Library":

This article could possibly be paired with Benjamin's "Unpacking My Library". It explicates and contextualizes Benjamin's famous essay, arguing that Benjamin is so interrelated with his books that he unpacks himself and his books simultaneously.

Manguel, Alberto. "Notes Towards a Definition of the Ideal Library" *A Reader on Reading*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2010.

A whimsical list of the characteristics of the ideal library.

---. "Reading Shadows." *A History of Reading*. New York: Penguin, 1996: 27-40.

This chapter gives an entertaining overview of historical theories of the relation of perception to reading.

---. "The Last Page." *A History of Reading*. New York: Penguin, 1996:3-26.

This essay weaves together personal memoir with historical facts about reading in an introduction to the book.

---. "The Library as Order." *The Library at Night*. Toronto: Alfred A. Knopf, 2006. 36-63.

In this chapter Manguel reminisces about childhood attempts at ordering a personal library, leading to a consideration of the highly individual systems of order used in personal libraries, and extending these insights to the ultimately arbitrary ordering of public libraries.

---. "The Library as Power." *The Library at Night*. Toronto: Alfred A. Knopf, 2006. 91-104.

This chapter explores the totemic power granted books and the power of libraries as monuments and memorials founded by public figures. Though built to consolidate power, ironically, public libraries such as the Carnegie Libraries had the effect of empowering the public that used them.

---. "The Library as Space." *The Library at Night*. Toronto: Alfred A. Knopf, 2006. 64-89.

This chapter explores a number of historical attempts on the part of libraries to cope with a lack of space for material texts. Different strategies have been used, including the destruction of books and newspapers in favor of equally (or more) unstable media like microfilm or CD, and also including attempts to condense information into a compact form, the encyclopedia.

Poblete, Juan. "Reading as a Historical Practice in Latin America: The first Colonial Period to the Nineteenth Century." *The Literary Cultures of Latin America: A Comparative History (Vol. 1: Configurations of Literary Culture)*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004. Eds. Mario J. Valdes and Djelal Kadir. 178-192.

This article argues for an understanding of the social, collective production of meaning in the interpretation of texts, rather than a decontextualized discourse analysis. This understanding of the location of reading practices is applied to pre-colonial and colonial situations in the reception and understanding of texts in Latin America.

Schoenfeldt, Michael. "Reading Bodies": *Reading, Society and Politics in Early Modern England*. Eds. Kevin Sharpe and Steven N. Zwicker. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press: 215-243.

This chapter examines connections between books and physiology, reading a number of figurations of the book's interaction with the body in the process of reading. Schoenfeldt then moves to the concept of the "body politic," a medical reading of politics, to argue that the connection is problematic in its assumption of an inherent hierarchy.

Sherman, William H. "Introduction: Used Books," *Used Books: Marking Readers in Renaissance England*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2008: 3-24.

This chapter introduces Sherman's extensive study of early modern marginalia. Sherman looks for patterns of use to understand the wide variety of uses to which books were put, not all of which can be described as reading. Reading itself is treated as an active and varied set of activities.