Popular Culture and Libraries: A Selective Bibliography
compiled by Eileen McGrath

Although popular culture is ubiquitous in American society, many librarians have not given much thought to the place of popular culture in their libraries. We hope that this issue of North Carolina Libraries has convinced our colleagues that popular culture materials have a place in most libraries. This bibliography is intended to help the new converts understand popular culture, learn how libraries have incorporated popular culture materials into their collections, and see the range of materials that libraries have collected. We have not attempted to be comprehensive; for a more complete listing, readers should see B. Lee Cooper, "Popular Culture Research and Library Services: A Selected Bibliography," Popular Culture Association Newsletter (PCAN) 19 (May 1992): 5-7. One additional caveat: This is a bibliography on the popular culture movement and popular culture and libraries. It is not a bibliography of popular culture as it has been or as it is now appearing in bookstores, theaters, television screens, and record stores near you.

The bibliography is divided into three sections. The first section is a selective list of some basic texts of the popular culture movement in the United States. Since journals, especially those from Bowling Green State University, are the most important sources for keeping abreast of developments in the study of popular culture, a list of journals completes the first section. The middle section cites books and articles about popular culture in libraries and is intended to provide guidance to librarians who want to build and service popular culture collections. The final section is meant to be inspirational. It lists works about popular culture collections that already exist in libraries around the country. Wait until you get a look at what is out there!

— Popular Culture: Basic Texts and Staying Current —
Film Quarterly. Berkeley, CA: Journals Department, University of California Press. Quarterly. Subscriptions: $18.00 individuals, $37.00 institutions.

Journal of Popular Literature. Bowling Green, Ohio: Popular Press, Bowling Green State University. 2 issues per year. Subscriptions: $12.50 individuals, $15.00 institutions.
Popular Culture Association Newsletter (PCAN). Bowling Green, Ohio: Popular Culture Association. 2 issues per year. Subscription included as part of membership in the association ($25.00).
Popular Music. Cambridge, England: Cambridge University Press. 3 issues per year. Subscriptions: $40.00 individuals, $84.00 institutions.

— Libraries and Popular Culture —
Christensen, John O. "Management of Popular Reading Collections." Collection Management 6 (Fall/Winter 1984): 75-82.
Individual Collections


Although neither publication focuses on popular culture, these are good sources for learning what other libraries are acquiring. See the regular "Acquisitions" section in College and Research Libraries News, and the occasional column "Library Notes" in AB Bookman's Weekly. The many advertisements in AB Bookman's will open your eyes to the monetary value of many popular culture titles.


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