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## Booklists: Should- and Want-to-Reads

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# Booklists

## Should- and Want-to-Reads

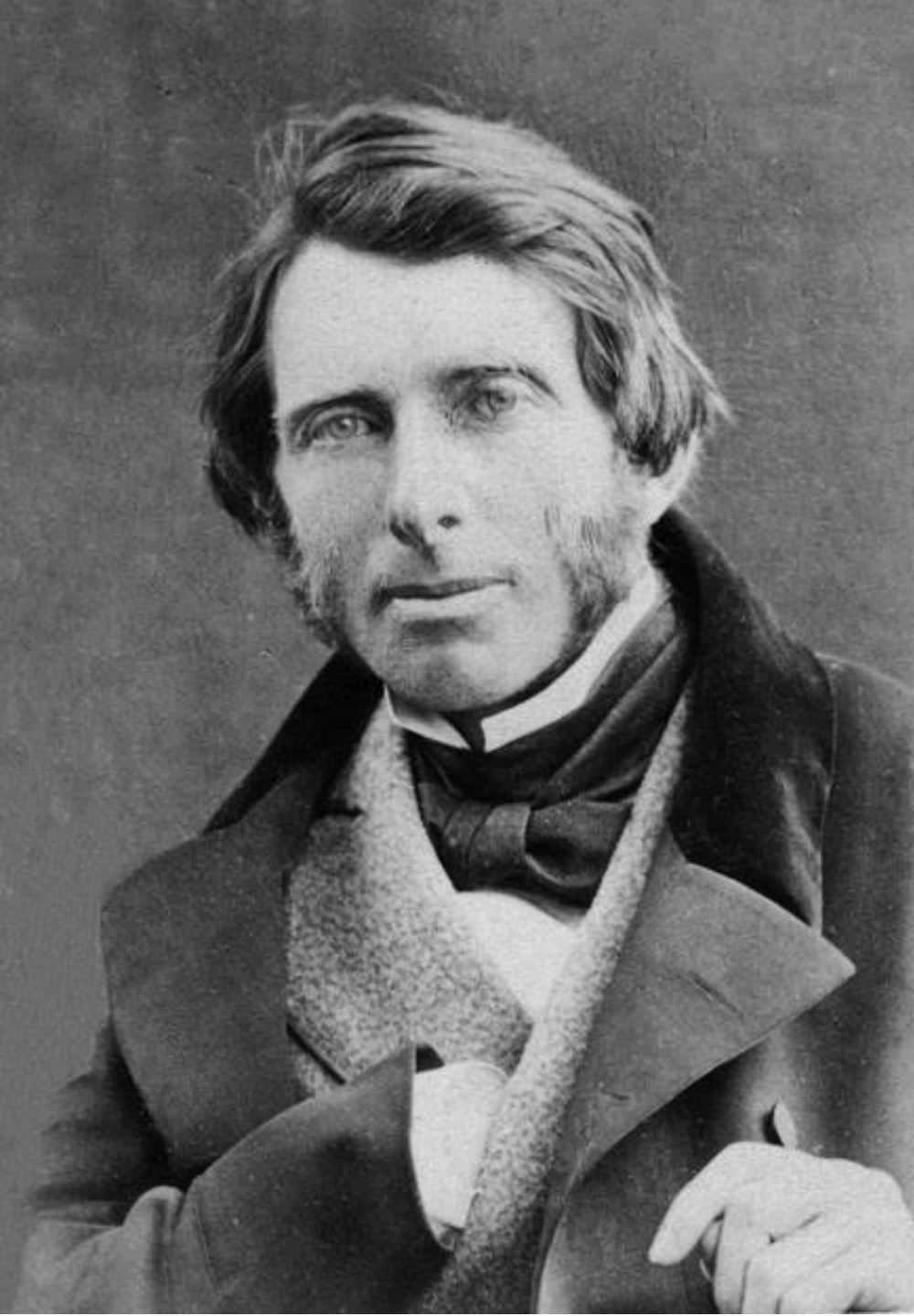
Stephanie Wiegand & Sarah Naper  
University of Northern Colorado Libraries

November 11, 2006  
Colorado Association of Libraries Annual Conference  
Denver, Colorado

# Identify Your Booklist

Identify the booklist you are given by checking it against the titles of the booklists that are placed on the seats of the chairs around the room. Once you have found your match, have a seat!

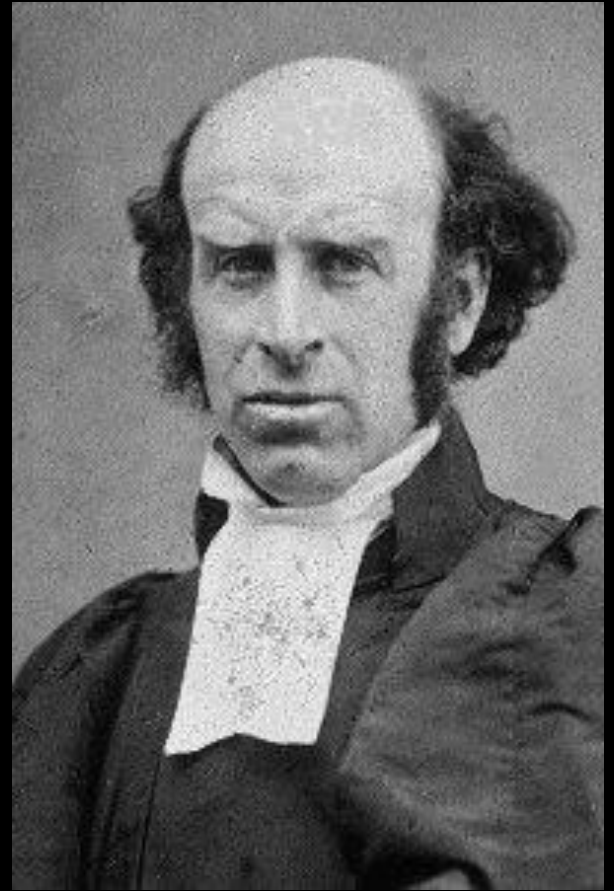
After you settle in, take another look at your list and circle all the books on your list that you've read.



All books are  
divisible into two  
classes: the books  
of the hour and the  
books of all time.

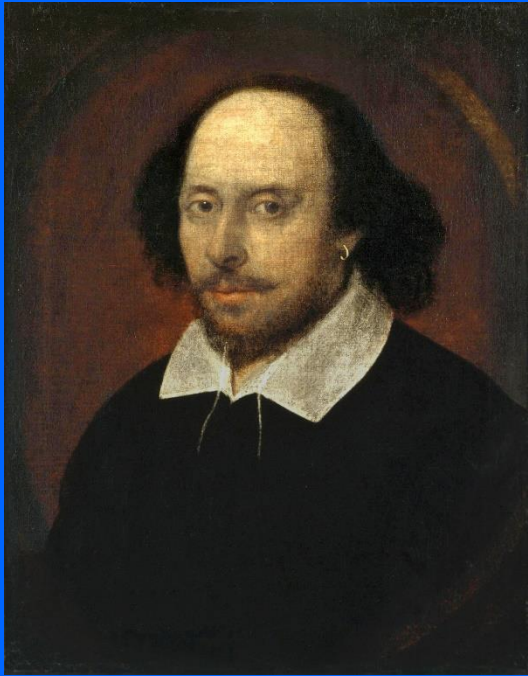
**John Ruskin**  
**(1819-1900)**

Be as careful of the books you read, as of the company you keep, for your habits and character will be as much influenced by the former as the latter.

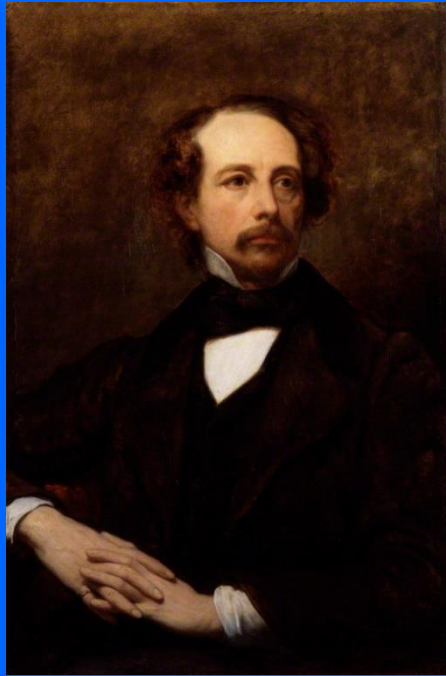


Edwin Paxton Hood (1820-1885)

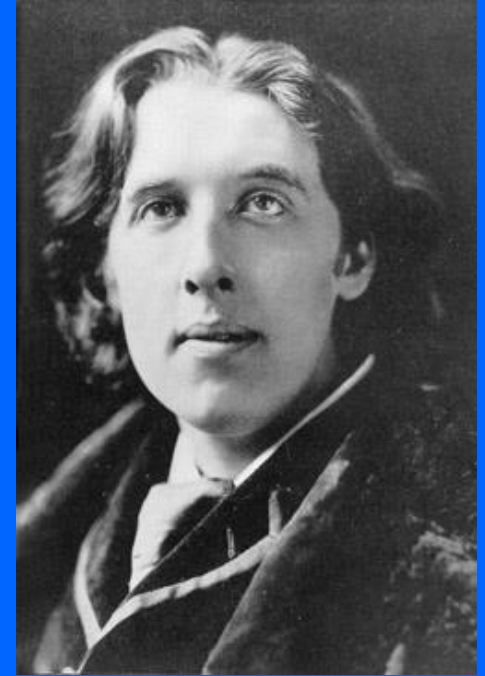
# Dead White European Males



William Shakespeare  
(1564-1616)



Charles Dickens  
(1812-1870)



Oscar Wilde  
(1854-1900)



Books and harlots  
have their  
quarrels in public.

Walter Benjamin  
(1892–1940)



S GEI V E R S  
E L E N S C H A T Z



Gesangbuch



Rom  
Luzifer

Gu 89



If we are studying what books were popular in any period of our history, it is important to know not only what people

could have read, or should have read, but *what they did read.*



Frederic G. Melcher,  
*Fifty Years of Best Sellers*, 1946



*Every Book Its Reader*

*The Power of the Printed Word to Stir the World*

Nicholas A. Basbanes



There is a growing consensus that while *the* canon may have been banished forever, there will always be *a* canon.

Leo Braudy

reporting on 1989 MLA meeting



While the number of small and alternative press titles grows rapidly in areas such as self-help, how-to, and health-related books, their acceptance in the mainstream world of major bookstores and in libraries has *lagged*.

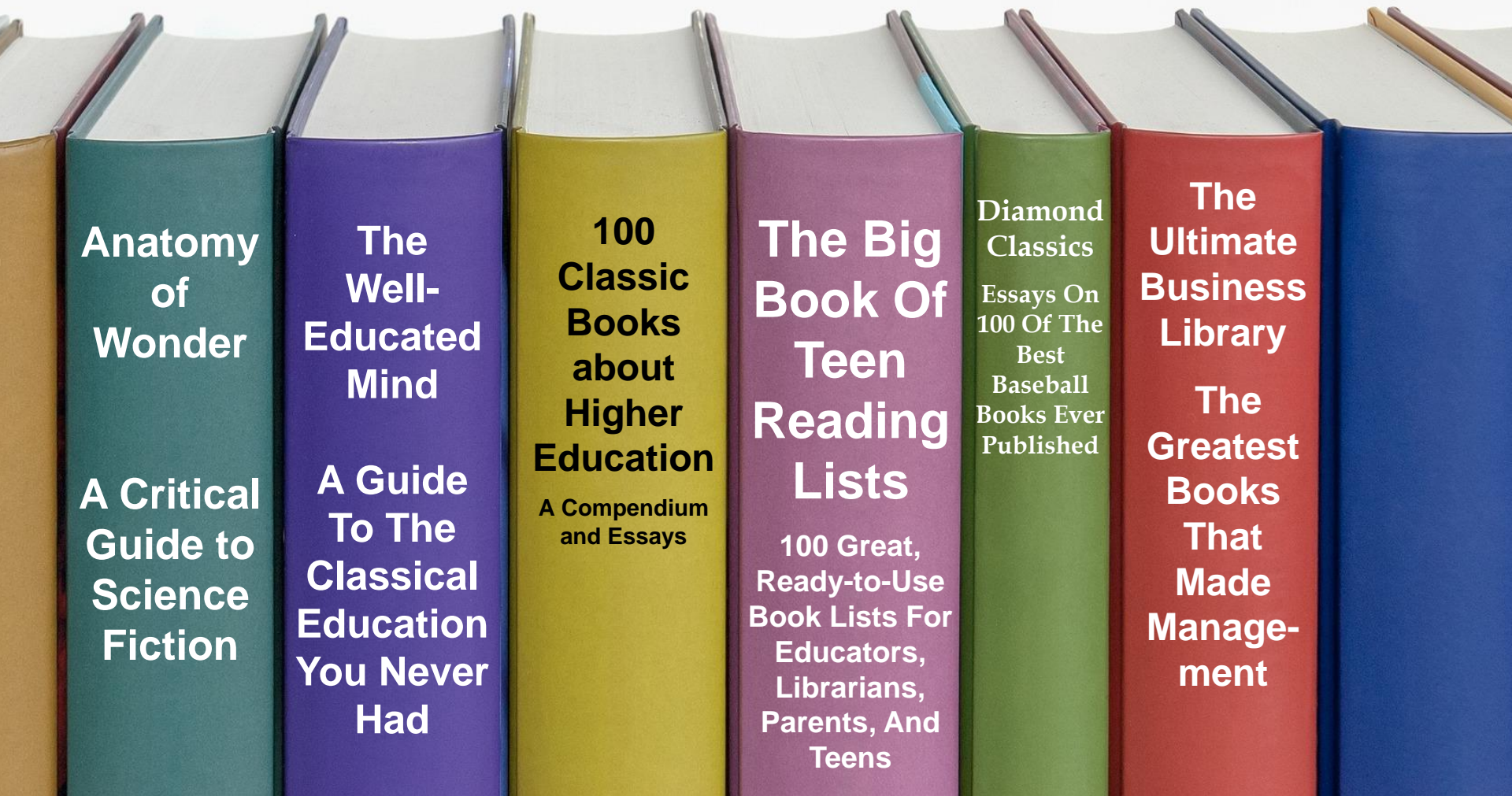
ALCTS/CMD C Collection Development in Academic  
Libraries Discussion Group, ALA Midwinter 1998





We are creating  
**‘vanilla collections,’**  
and it is clear that the costs of materials  
will force libraries to acquire an  
increasingly declining portion of  
available information.

Milton Wolf  
Vice President for Collection Programs  
Center for Research Libraries



**Anatomy  
of  
Wonder**

**A Critical  
Guide to  
Science  
Fiction**

**The  
Well-  
Educated  
Mind**

**A Guide  
To The  
Classical  
Education  
You Never  
Had**

**100  
Classic  
Books  
about  
Higher  
Education**

**A Compendium  
and Essays**

**The Big  
Book Of  
Teen  
Reading  
Lists**

**100 Great,  
Ready-to-Use  
Book Lists For  
Educators,  
Librarians,  
Parents, And  
Teens**

**Diamond  
Classics**

**Essays On  
100 Of The  
Best  
Baseball  
Books Ever  
Published**

**The  
Ultimate  
Business  
Library**

**The  
Greatest  
Books  
That  
Made  
Manage-  
ment**

**Certain Informations from Severall Parts of the Kingdome for the  
Satisfaction of all Sorts of People that Desire to Bee Truly Informed**

Printed for Henry Overton, 1643-1644



Books are the  
treasured wealth  
of the world and  
the fit inheritance  
of generations and  
nations.

Henry David Thoreau  
(1817-1862)





**Do libraries have an agenda?**

If so, where can this agenda be found – in a library's collection, or in their advocacy and ability within their community to guide society toward what is just or what is truth?

John-Bauer Graham  
Assistant Professor  
Jacksonville State University



**Should libraries  
become the storage  
centers for popular  
culture?**



European and North American researchers, scholars, and publishers commonly demonstrate the 'Gutenberg syndrome,' in which the history of the book, the world of publishing, and scholarship in general are viewed in terms of Western principles and practices.

Amadio Arboleda, Author

An open book is shown from a low angle, with its pages fanned out towards the right. The pages are white with black text, and some page numbers are visible at the bottom of the pages. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light brown color.

# The Book of Great Books

A Guide to 100 World Classics

W. John Campbell, Ph.D.



# “best seller”

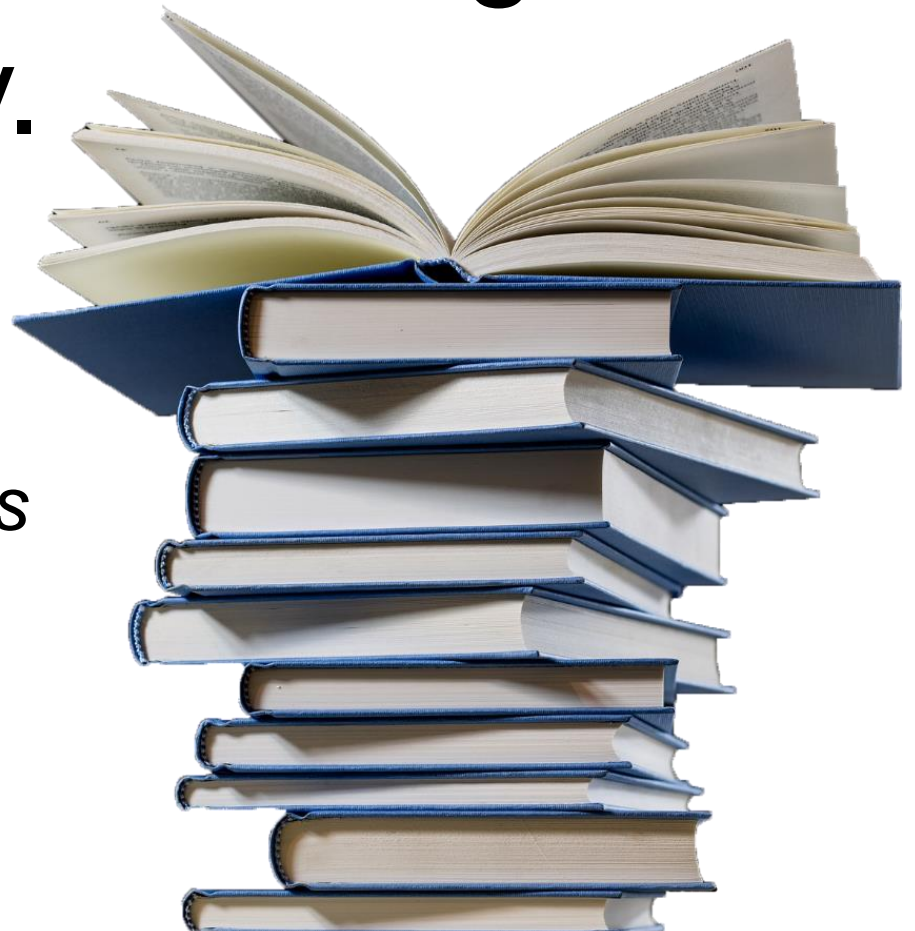
A term was needed to describe what were not necessarily the *best* books the books that people *liked best*.

Frederic G. Melcher  
*Fifty Years of Best Sellers*  
1946



Making lists of best books has been a favourite indoor sport with our wise men during the last half century.

Asa Don Dickinson  
*One Thousand Best Books*  
1924





*Don Quixote* by Miguel de Cervantes  
*Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* by  
Lewis Carroll

*Lolita* by Vladimir Nabokov

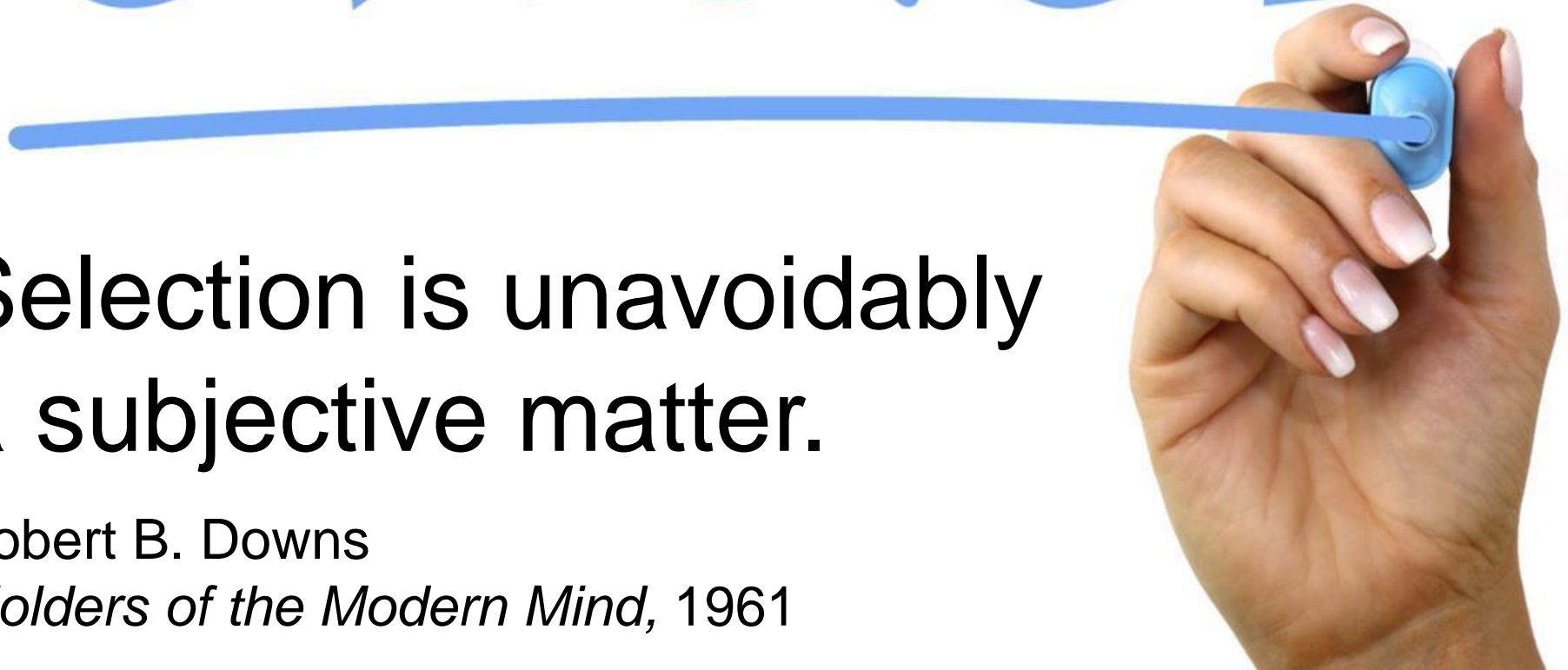
*Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen

*The Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger

*To the Lighthouse* by Virginia Woolf

Recommended  
Reading Lists

# CHOICE



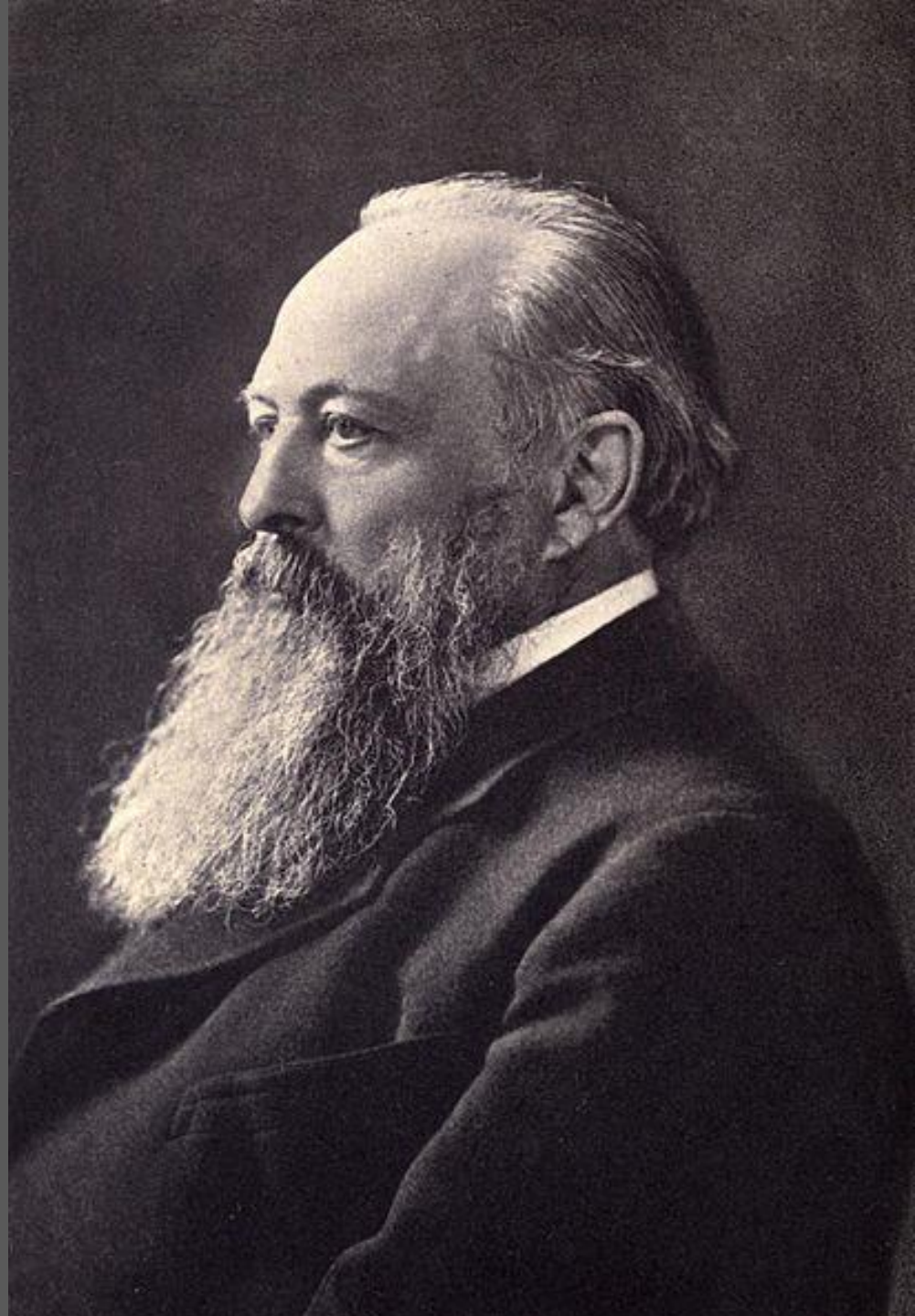
**Selection is unavoidably  
a subjective matter.**

Robert B. Downs

*Molders of the Modern Mind, 1961*

# Lord Acton's Hundred Best Books

John Emerich Edward  
Dalberg-Acton  
(1834-1902)



You can't tell a  
book by its cover.

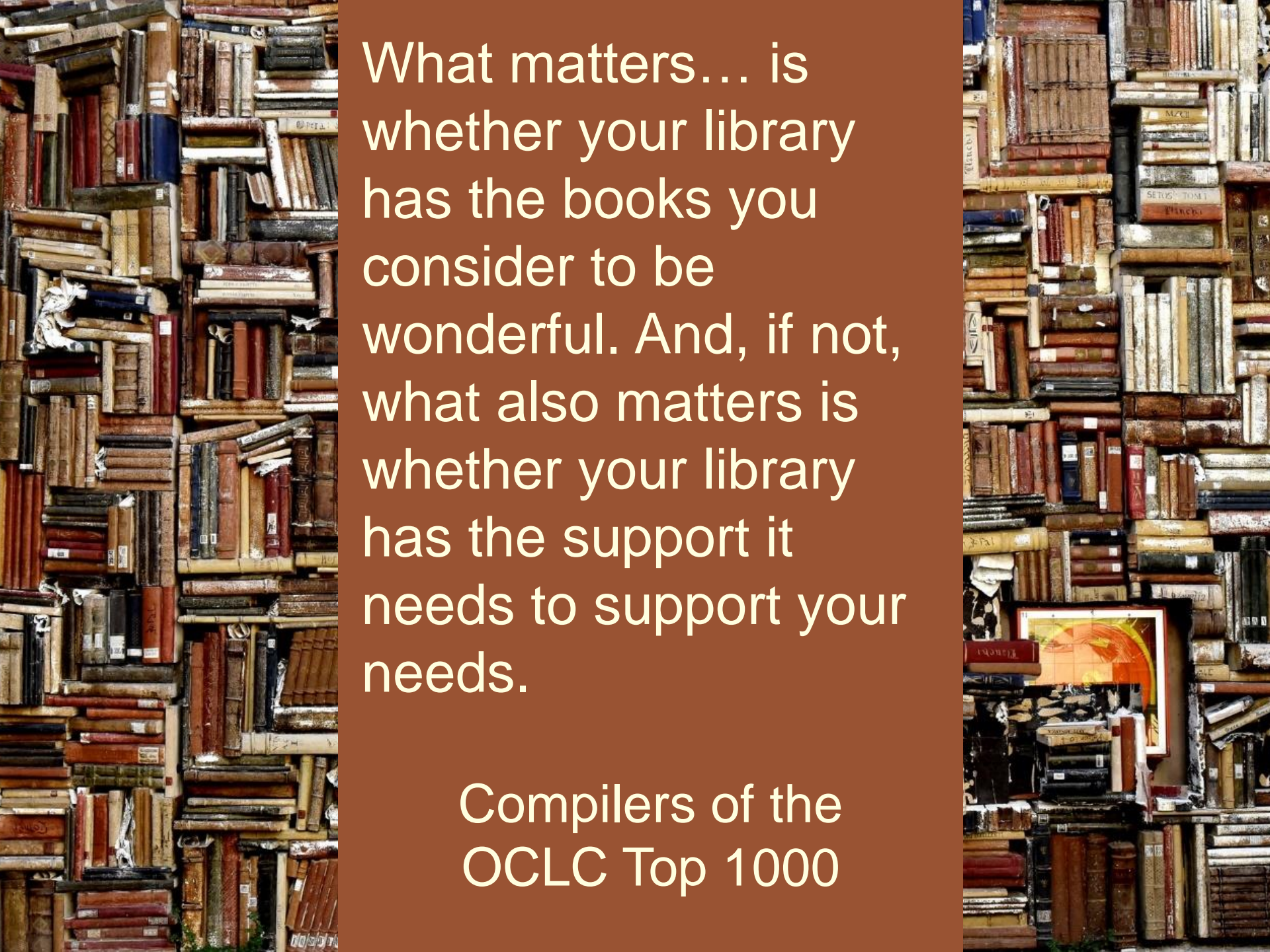


of the and I will make my judgment to rest for a light of the



There are two motives for reading a book: one, that you enjoy it; the other, that you can boast about it.

Bertrand Russell, Nobel Laureate



What matters... is whether your library has the books you consider to be wonderful. And, if not, what also matters is whether your library has the support it needs to support your needs.

Compilers of the  
OCLC Top 1000

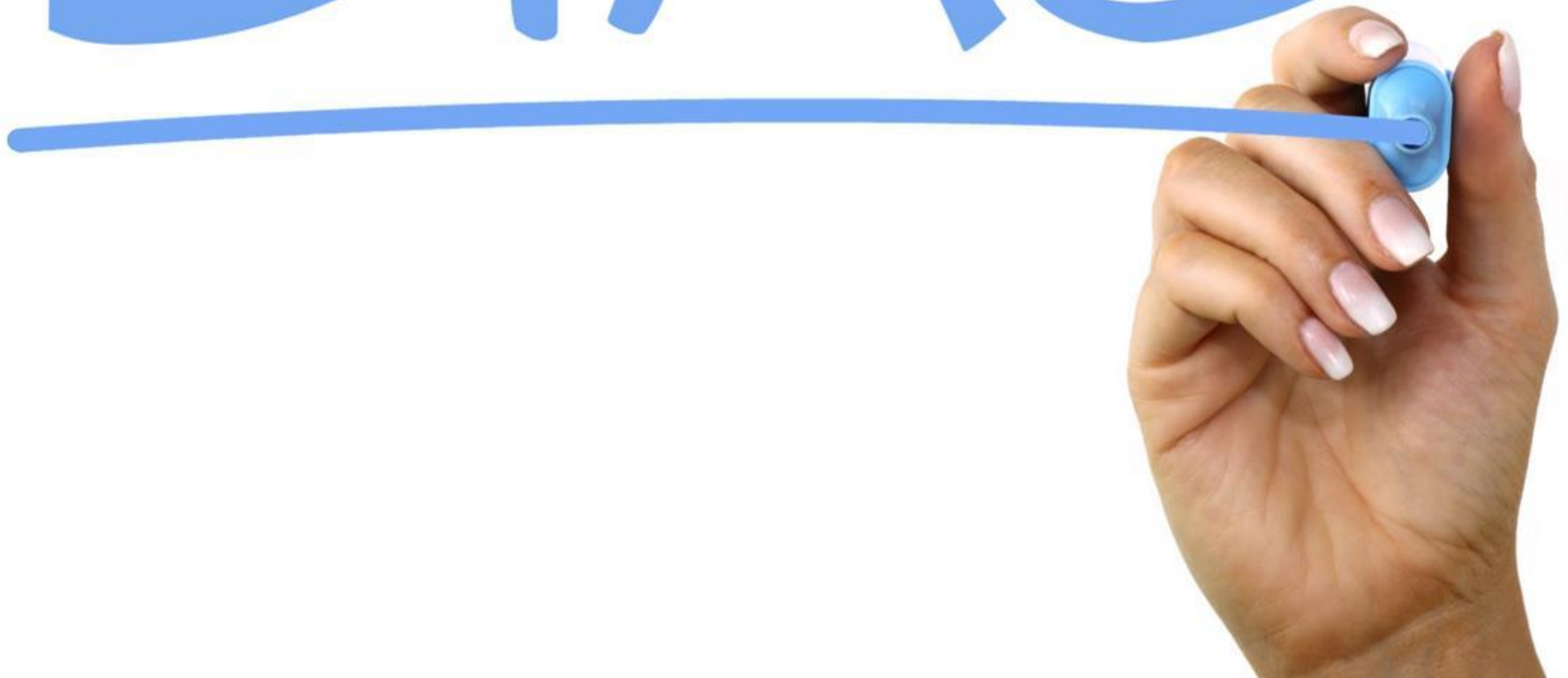


We should want all kinds of views  
present in academia.

Professor Russell Eisenman



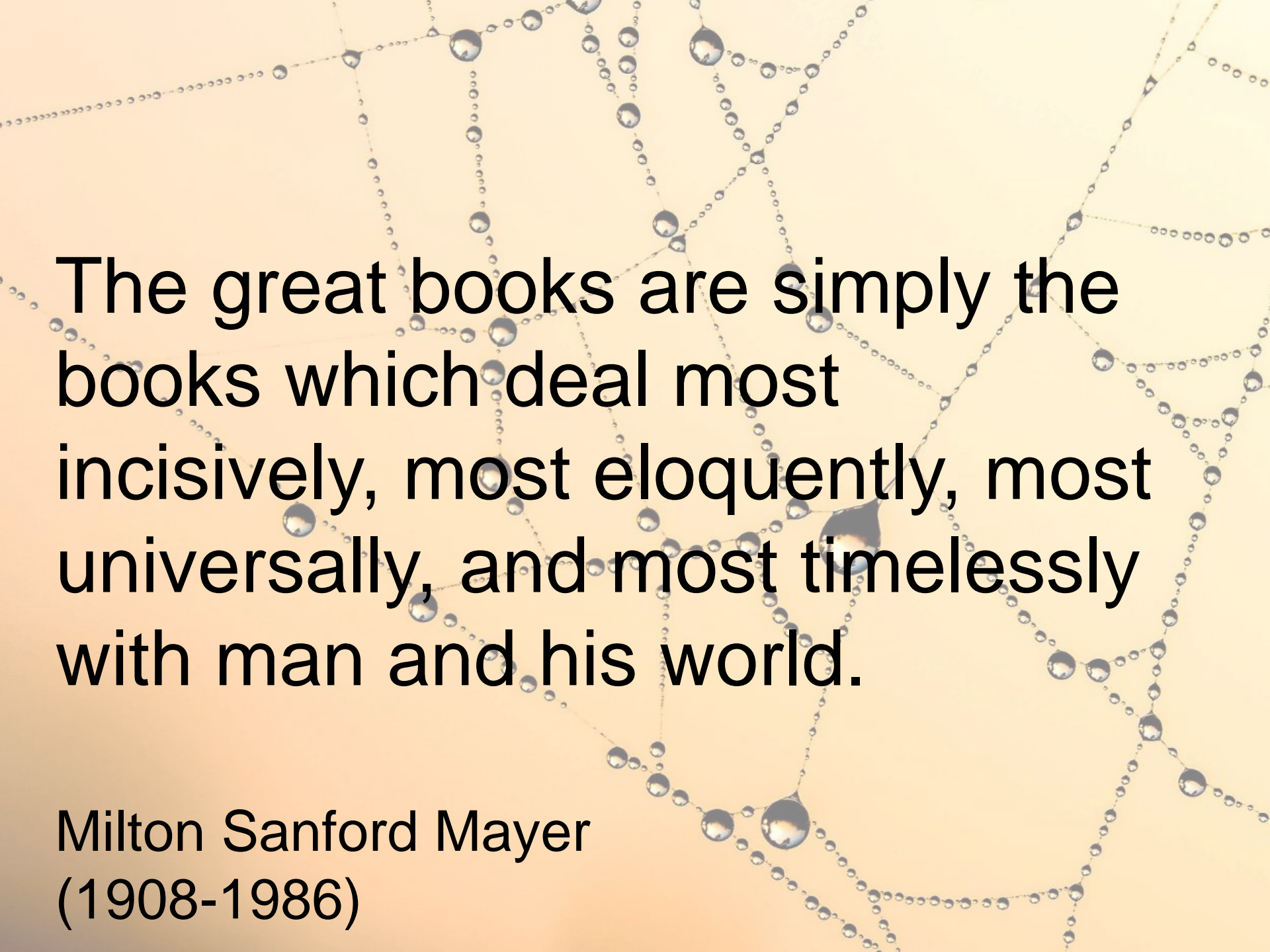
BIAS



We will find the average height of Americans based on a sample of NBA players.

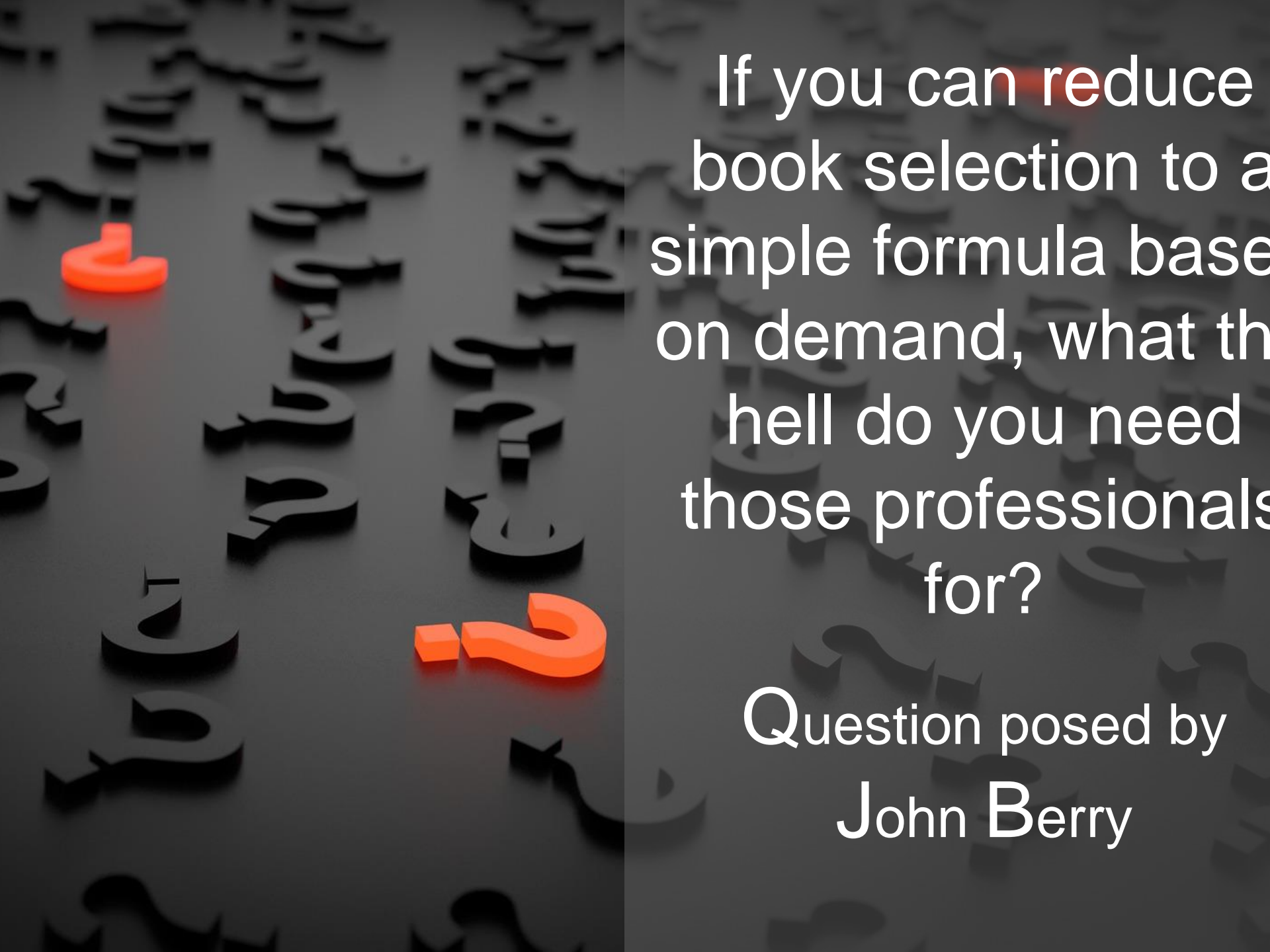
Selection Bias?





The great books are simply the books which deal most incisively, most eloquently, most universally, and most timelessly with man and his world.

Milton Sanford Mayer  
(1908-1986)

The background is a dark grey surface covered with numerous 3D question marks. Most are black and slightly recessed, while two are bright orange and stand out prominently. One orange question mark is in the upper left, and a larger one is in the lower center.

If you can reduce  
book selection to a  
simple formula based  
on demand, what the  
hell do you need  
those professionals  
for?

Question posed by  
John Berry



# Libraries can be storehouses of information, but when does a storehouse become a junkyard?

Gregory A. Crawford & Matthew Harris in *Best-Sellers in Academic Libraries*





Collection  
development is  
not only what  
you *buy*, but  
what you *keep*.



**The books we think we ought to read are poky, dull, and dry;  
The books that we would like to read we are ashamed to buy;  
The books that people talk about we never can recall;  
And the books that people give us, oh, they're the worst of all.**

**Carolyn Wells (1862-1942)**





# Thank You!

If you have other books that you would like to recommend (for either the canon or for any reader) please feel free to email us with up to an additional five titles.

If you leave your email address with us, we will be happy to send you the link to the website where the final list of everyone's recommendations will be posted.

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[stephanie.wiegand@unco.edu](mailto:stephanie.wiegand@unco.edu)



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