

Understanding Book Search Through Social Interactions

ILLC Midsummer Colloquium, 17 June 2015
Marijn Koolen

Overview

- Social Book Search
- Social Search Requests
- Social Content for Retrieval
- Social Content in the Search Process
- Future: Social Content and Literary Studies?

Social Book Search



Professional metadata

Amazon Kindle

Kindle (Wi-Fi, 6")
Kindle 3G (Free 3G+Wi-Fi, 6")
Kindle DX (Free 3G, 9.7", Graphite)
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The Concepts and ...

Social Book Search

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Enter what you're reading or your whole library. It's an easy, library-quality catalog.

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looking for astonishingly INTRICATE mystery plots, do you know any?
Book talk
Join LibraryThing to post.
This topic is currently marked as "dormant"—the last message is more than 90 days old. You can revive it by posting a reply.

1 [sharonghamari](#) First Message Jul 18, 2007, 9:17am

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Sharon Ghamari

2 [kathi](#) Jul 18, 2007, 9:31am

It's been a long, long time since I read it, but check out Tour de Force by Christianna Brand. I remember it as being especially intricate. I know I've read many other intricately plotted crime novels, but I'm only on my second mug of coffee, and the cerebral neurons are just beginning to fire. I hope you will post some of your own suggestions.

3 [Doondeck](#) Jul 18, 2007, 11:03am

Group: Book talk
155,230 messages
This group does not accept members.


About
This topic is not marked as primarily about any work, author or other topic.

Touchstones
Works
[Bella Mafia](#) by Lynda La Plante
[The Athenian Murders](#) by José Carlos Somoza
[The Flanders Panel](#) by Arturo Pérez-Reverte
[The Queen of the South](#) by Arturo Pérez-Reverte
[The Dumas Club](#) by Arturo Pérez-Reverte

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Group
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Essays (?) Recommendations

Book talk

Join LibraryThing to post.

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1 [Morphidae](#)

Mar 5, 2008, 10:12am 

I'm looking for more books in a certain style, but I can't tell you exactly what that is. Here are the three I'm thinking of:

[Bird by Bird](#) by Anne Lamott

[Ex Libris](#) by Anne Fadiman

[She's Such a Geek](#) by Annalee Newitz (ed.)

Other than the oddness of them all have Ann as part of their name what seems to be in common is that they are essays by women. There is humor and inspiration in them. They are essays about things I'm interested in (reading, writing, fitting in when different from the norm.)

I don't know exactly what to search for in order to find books similiar to these. Maybe I should start a library with just these books and see what gets recommended?

Any suggestions?

**Group
talk**

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[Bird b](#)
[on Wr](#)
[Lamot](#)

[Ex Lib](#)
[Comm](#)
[Fadim](#)

[She's](#)
[Write](#)
[Techn](#)
[Stuff](#)
[Plea](#)

Any book as good as 'David Copperfield'?

What the Dickens...?

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This topic is currently marked as "dormant"—the last message is more than 90 days old. You can revive it by posting a reply.

1 [Urquhart](#) First Message

Apr 4, 2007, 8:23pm ↕

Can someone recommend a book that has all the joy, charm, numerous characters, pathos, adventure, love of language, etc. that the novel [David Copperfield](#) has?

Its characters, such as Uriah Heep, etc., are now a part of our language and culture.

I am 65 and have spent a lifetime looking and have never found a book that matches this one. Please Advise.

Country Boy

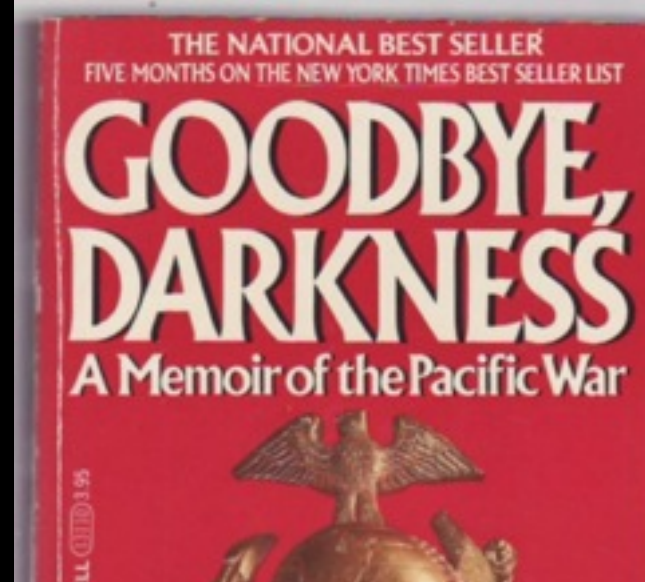
[Reply](#) | [More](#)

2 [almigwin](#)

Apr 4, 2007, 8:40pm ↕

Lessons

- Book searchers struggling with existing systems (search engines, recommender systems)
- Need for suggestions, opinions, perspectives
- Need to measure **quality** aspects



183 of 191 people found the following review helpful

★★★★★ **Poetic and Haunting**, July 14, 2003

By **Rodney J. Szasz "GESS INTERNATIONAL. Rod Szasz"** (Tokyo, Japan Japan) - [See all my reviews](#)

REAL NAME

This review is from: Goodbye Darkness: A Memoir of the Pacific War (Mass Market Paperback)

If one could read two accounts of the Pacific War written from the perspective of Americans this book and Sledges "With the Old Breed at Peleliu and Okinawa" would be the best that one can get. There are a lot of very good narrative history books on all aspects of the Pacific War, but the poet-gone-to-war genre is something that really the British usually do much better than the Americans. That is why when I stumbled upon Manchester's memoirs I was immediately sucked into the guts of wartime experience.

Manchester writes with passion borne from desperation and experience of long times in the firing line. He waxes from the lyrical experiences of a fireside chat on the battle-line with a student of philosophy (himself?) regalling the troops with an exposition on the nature of time. One is left with the images of hard worn veterans from small American towns, experiencing the wonder of ideas for the first time on the eve of battle. Their far off, empty stares as the philosopher marine finishes his exposition in sheer silence is something that one can almost feel. That very same night they cut up a large Banzai charge on Guam --- one can cut the atmosphere of the book with a knife.

Manchester can then go on and describe his visceral uncomfortable feelings of being close to the Japanese today. Their inability to admit to former atrocities is something that Manchester admits, planted the seed of dislike deeply inside him. Try as he might he cannot shake it and we are at least amazed with his honesty. This contrasts with the cerebral, fair-minded Manchester we all know from his biographies.

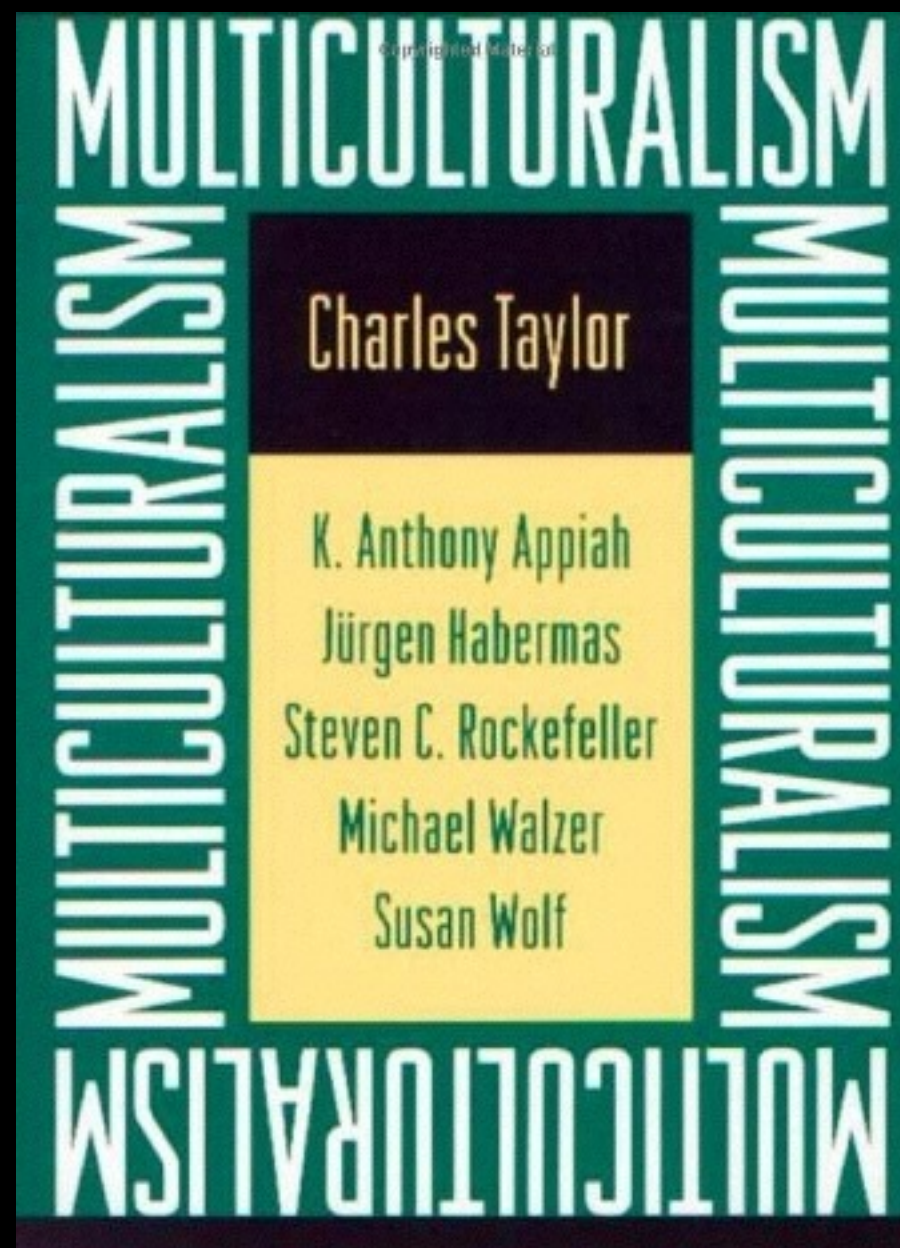
I have read more than 200 narrative histories and memoirs of the Pacific War, British, American, Japanese, Indian and Chinese, Australian, Canadian ... and this is one of the best. Like all good books, it stays with you for a long time....

Help other customers find the most helpful reviews

Was this review helpful to you?

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 [Comments \(2\)](#)



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MULTICULTURALISM

Charles Taylor

K. Anthony Appiah

Jürgen Habermas

Steven C. Rockefeller

Michael Walzer

Susan Wolf

MULTICULTURALISM

MULTICULTURALISM

5 of 23 people found the following review helpful

★★★★★ **Multiculturalism** October 16, 2001

By A Customer

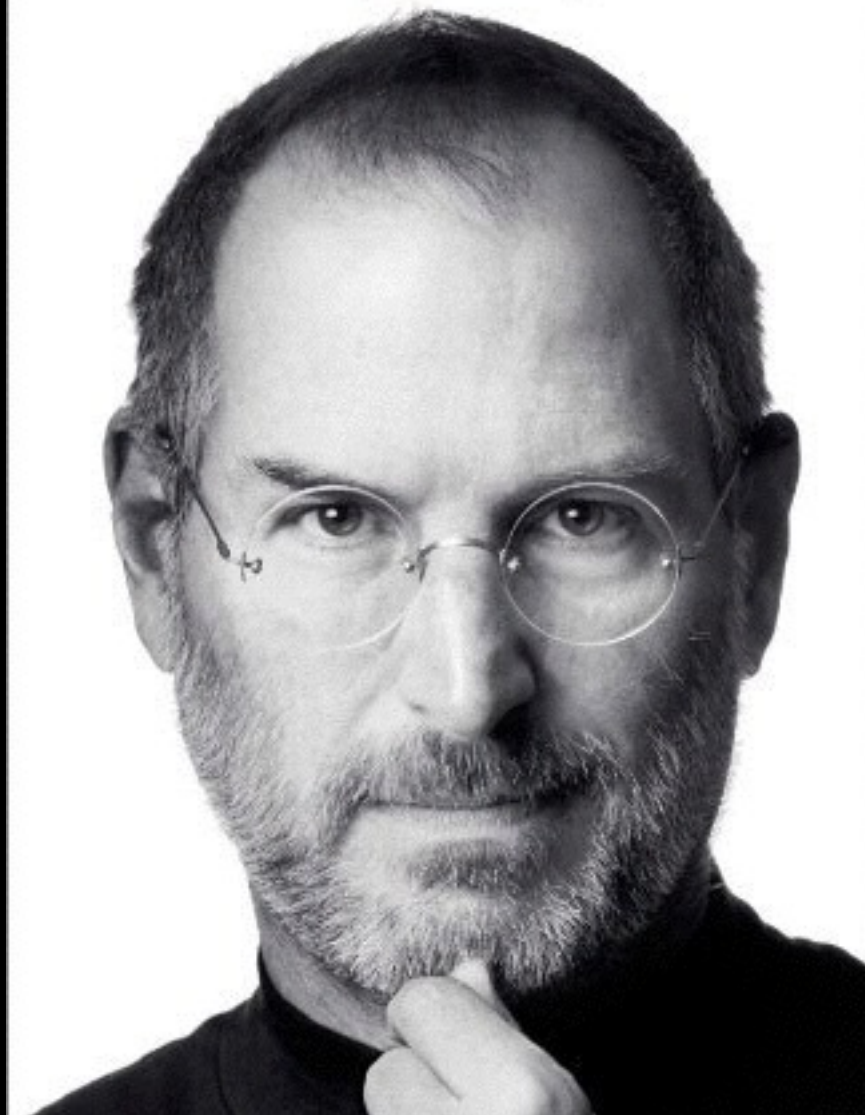
Format: Paperback

I found this book to be well written and therefore, very easy to read. Wonderful new material. I have learned several new theories.

[Comment](#) | Was this review helpful to you?

Copyrighted Material

Steve Jobs by Walter Isaacson



7 of 70 people found the following review helpful

★☆☆☆☆ **Apple sucks**, November 5, 2011

By **E. Miller "FOX.D I E"** (Iraq) - [See all my reviews](#)

REAL NAME

This review is from: Steve Jobs (Hardcover)

Apple sucks. Steve Jobs just took out of date technology put it in a white case and then suddenly it became "cool" and "mainstream". They also charged ridiculous prices for things.

Help other customers find the most helpful reviews

Was this review helpful to you?

[Report abuse](#) | [Permalink](#)

 [Comments \(3\)](#)

Lessons

- Reviews cover **quality** aspects
- Reviews cover suggestions, opinions, perspectives
- Reviews are **noisy**

Book Search Research

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- INEX Book Track 2007–2010
 - annual international collaboration+competition
 - search through full-text of digitised books
 - Microsoft Live Book Search (till May 2008)

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 - Microsoft Live Book Search (till May 2008)
- INEX Social Book Search Track 2011–2014, CLEF Social Book Search Lab (2015–)
 - ILLC involved since 2008, lead since 2011
 - 2015 competition: 18 research institutes across 10 countries

Vocabulary Control

- Age old debate on the need for vocabulary control (Svenonius, JASIS 1986)
 - **pros**: consistency, perfect precision in recall (in theory)
 - **cons**: require training for indexing and searching
- Depth of description?
 - library indexers pick 3-4 subject headings per book
 - information needs go beyond subject aspects
- ILLC-related: work by Kamps (since 2002)

User-Generated Content

- User-Generated Content (UGC)
 - uncontrolled, inconsistent, skewed distribution, noisy
- Search engines ignore reviews and most other user-generated content
 - show UGC separate from professional, curated metadata
 - keep it out of the search index

Social Search Requests

Contextual Recommendation

Great books for year 8 students

Librarians who LibraryThing

5 messages | ★ Star this topic | ✕ Ignore topic | ⬇ Jump to first unread (5 unread)

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1 [jothom](#)

Oct 12, 2011, 9:12pm ⬆

I have been asked to recommend a class text for year 8 English classes. I would really like to have something new that kids will love. Does anyone have any suggestions? Not too long, and fairly accessible as we have lots of kids with literacy problems.

[Reply](#) | [More](#)

Content Recommendation

Catholic Children's Books

Catholic Tradition

7 messages | ★ Star this topic | ✕ Ignore topic | ⬇ Jump to first unread (7 unread)

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1 [CaleeMLee](#)

Oct 18, 2011, 12:14am ↑

I always get my kids (preschool age) a few books for Christmas and would love your suggestions. My daughter is just getting into listening to chapter books so I think we'll start the Narnia books. Any other books out there you'd recommend? She loved [The Holy Twins](#) by Kathleen Norris.

[More](#)

Search


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Search+Recommendation

Merchant/Trader SF

Science Fiction Fans

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1 [cosmicdolphin](#)

Jan 1, 2012, 8:52pm ⬆️

I'd like suggestions for good Merchant/Trader SF? I've read Cherryh's Merchant books, and I'm currently reading the Andre Norton Solar Queen books (both of which are good in their own ways)

Any other SF with Traders/Merchants as the primary focus of the story?

Thanks

[Reply](#) | [More](#)

Search vs. Recommendation

- We annotated 2600 forum threads, 950 with book request (Koolen et al., ECIR 2015)
 - Requests on LT forum are complex, span continuum between search ('explicit' inf. need) and recommendation ('implicit' inf. need)
- Number of books in profile related to nature of request:
 - big catalogue => more explicit information need
 - small catalogue => more implicit information need

Politics of Multiculturalism Recommendations?

Political Philosophy

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1 [steve.clason](#)

Sep 26, 2010, 11:32pm ⬇

I'm new, and would appreciate any recommended reading on the politics of multiculturalism. Parekh's [Rethinking Multiculturalism: Cultural Diversity and Political Theory](#) (which I just finished) in the end left me unconvinced, though I did find much of value I thought he depended way too much on being able to talk out the details later. It may be that I found his writing style really irritating so adopted a defiant skepticism, but still...

Anyway, I've read [Sen](#), [Rawls](#), [Habermas](#), and [Nussbaum](#), still don't feel like I've wrapped my little brain around the issue very well and would appreciate any suggestions for further anyone might offer.

[Reply](#) | [More](#)

2 [rsterling](#)

Edited: Sep 27, 2010, 1:31am ⬇

Will Kymlicka's [Multicultural Citizenship](#) is one of the key works within this literature, and his later work has built on but also modified his argument there. See his author page [here](#). I think his latest ones are [Multicultural Odysseys](#) and [Politics in the Vernacular](#).

Group: Political Philosophy

212 members

87 messages

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About

This topic is not mainly about any one author or other topic.

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Touchstones

Works

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1 – 11 of 11

	Politics in the Vernacular: Nationalism, Multiculturalism, and Citizenship	Will Kymlicka	2001	democracy, political theory, immigration, multiculturalism	★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆	Oct 25, 2010	
	Politics of Piety: The Islamic Revival and the Feminist Subject	Saba Mahmood	2005	feminist theory, feminism, political theory, multiculturalism	☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆	Aug 20, 2012	
	Constitutional Patriotism	Jan-Werner Muller	2007	political theory, multiculturalism, european union, germany	☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆	Oct 31, 2010	
	Rethinking Multiculturalism: Cultural Diversity and Political Theory	Bhikhu Parekh	2002	political theory, immigration, multiculturalism	★ ★ ☆ ☆ ☆	Sep 1, 2010	

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1 - 11 of 11

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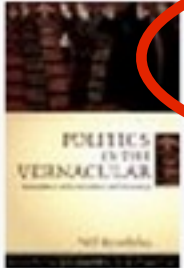



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1 - 11 of 11

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IR Test Collections

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- Can we use requests+suggestions to evaluate IR systems?
 - test collection has documents, topics, judgements
 - traditionally huge investment to produce

IR Test Collections

- Can we use requests+suggestions to evaluate IR systems?
 - test collection has documents, topics, judgements
 - traditionally huge investment to produce
- Suggestions differ from traditional relevance judgements
 - in terms of retrieval performance -> represent different **search task(s)**? (Koolen et al., CIKM 2012)
 - Members tend to suggest books they have read, are selective in suggesting and choosing (Koolen et al. CLEF 2013)
 - Book search is **explorative**, precision is not so important

Social Content for Retrieval

Heterogeneous Data

- Formal metadata: author, title, subject heading
 - relatively uniform (= same level detail)
 - some controlled, some not (e.g. title, author)
- Social metadata: user ratings, reviews, tags
 - skewed towards popular (Harry Potter effect)

Metadata Stats

Field	mean (median)	
	# types	# tokens
Book title	5 (4)	5 (5)
Author name	3 (2)	3 (2)
Library subjects	4 (3)	6 (3)
LT tags	13 (6)	91 (8)
Amazon reviews	170 (0)	426 (0)

Amazon/LibraryThing data set:

2.8 million book descriptions = library metadata +
Amazon reviews + LibraryThing tags

Evaluation

- Early finding:
 - UGC much more effective than the rest combined
- Retrieval models (DFR, LM, SDM) use term frequency distribution
 - Is **term repetition** important as relevance signal?
 - Do reviews have better **descriptive terms**?
 - Or is it the **popularity** effect?

Why Is UGC Effective?

- Test effectiveness of data types:
 - index each type with/without **term repetition**
 - retrieve with/without **popularity** prior (=number of ratings)
- Findings:
 - effectiveness of UGC from **popularity**, **descriptive terms**, **term repetition** (Koolen, ECIR 2014)
 - without **term repetition**, subject headings equals UGC
 - subject headings require different model?

Modelling Challenge

- Implicit interests: generic, specific, temporal?
- Explicit need/want: specific, multi-faceted, 'hard'
 - How to combine into one user/request model
- UGC and formal metadata: different evidence
 - How to model match between user and book

Social Content in the Search Process

Search Process

- Stages in the **search process** (Kuhltau, JASIS 1991, Vakkari, J.Doc 2001)
 - What are stages in book search process?
 - When do users use **formal metadata**?
 - When do users use **social content**?

Multistage Interfaces

Multistage Interfaces

?

No task has been specified

Search

Book-bag (1)

Business & Investing » Europe

Book Title	Rating
John Muir: From Scotland to the Sierra	★★★★★
Gilding the Market: Luxury and Fashion in Fourteenth-Century Italy (The Middle Ages Series)	★★★★★
European Business Customs & Manners: A Country-by-Country Guide to European Customs and Manners	★★★★★
The Efficient Secret: The Cabinet and the Development of Political Parties in Victorian England (Political Economy of Institutions and Decisions)	★★★★★
A Dictionary of Old Trades, Titles and Occupations	★★★★★
Wages, Welfare Costs and Inflation in Classical Athens	★★★★★
Dressing Modern Frenchwomen: Marketing Haute Couture, 1919-1939	★★★★★
London Markets	★★★★★
Europe: A Fearless Guide to International Communication and Behavior (Put Your Best Foot Forward, Vol. 1)	★★★★★
Blackwells 1879-1979: The History of a Family Firm	★★★★★
Living and Working in Italy: Staying in Italy-All You Need to Know (Living & Working in New Zealand)	★★★★★
Why Ireland Never Invaded America	★★★★★
The City of London: Volume 1: A World of Its Own 1815-1890	★★★★★
The European Union: Readings on the Theory and Practice of European Integration	★★★★★
Women in an Industrializing Society: England 1750 - 1880 (Historical Association Studies)	★★★★★
The Human Face of the Book Trade: Print Culture and Its Creators (Print Networks, 3)	★★★★★
Charlatans or Saviours?: Economists and the British Economy from	★★★★★
Money and the Rise of the Modern Papacy: Financing the Vatican, 1850-1950	★★★★★
The Financial System in Nineteenth-Century Britain (Victorian Archive Series)	★★★★★
German National Cinema (National Cinemas)	★★★★★
The Oligarchs: Wealth And Power In The New Russia	★★★★★
Living, Studying, and Working in Italy: Everything You Need To Know To Fulfill Your Dreams of Living Abroad	★★★★★
The Autobiography of Shibusawa Eiichi: From Peasant to Entrepreneur	★★★★★
On Her Their Lives Depend: Munitions Workers in the Great War	★★★★★
French Fur Traders and Voyageurs in the American West	★★★★★

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Multistage Interfaces

Your Task

No task has been specified

?

Search History

?

Browse

Search

Book-bag (1)

Europe

Search

Filter by Topics

Europe

2686

Business & Investing

2686

History

2404

Economics

1442

Nonfiction

1297

England

1199

World

1058

Popular Economics

1011

Social Sciences

986

Economic History

671

Filter by User tags

History

943

Non-fiction

615

Economics

348

Europe

248

Wishlist

238

Economic History

217

Britain

122

Politics


118

18th century

106

20th Century

104



John Muir: From Scotland to the Sierra

by Frederick Turner

Description

Publication

No reviews

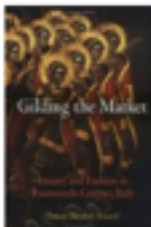
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Product Description

This biography of John Muir explores the life of this traveller, inventor, botanist, writer and pioneering conservationist. While others dreamed of escaping into the wilderness beyond the range and comforts of civilization, few actually lived the dream as Muir did. He initiated the concept of national parks in the United States. The book recounts the story of a Scot who became an American hero, a man who in his singular way, rediscovered America. Frederick Turner is the author of "Geronimo" and "Beyond Geography: The Western Spirit Against the Wilderness".

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Gilding the Market: Luxury and Fashion in Fourteenth-Century Italy (The Middle Ages Series)

by Susan Mosher Stuard

Description

Publication

No reviews


15 Tags

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Product Description

In the fourteenth century, garish ornaments, bright colors, gilt, and military effects helped usher in the age of fashion in Italy. Over a short span of years important matters began to turn on the cut of a sleeve. Fashion influenced consumption and provided a stimulus that drove demand for goods and turned wealthy townspeople into enthusiastic consumers. Making wise decisions about the alarmingly expensive goods that composed a fashionable wardrobe became a matter of pressing concern, especially when the market caught on and became awash in cheaper editions of luxury wares.

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European Business Customs & Manners: A Country-by-Country Guide to European Customs and Manners

by Mary Murray Bosrock

★★★★★

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Your Books ?



The Steepwood Scandals Volume 7 (Mr Rushford's Honour AND An Unlikely Suitor)
by Meg Alexander, Nicola Cornick

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Going to the Castle (Modern Romance)★★★★★

The Nanny and the Sheikh (Romance) (Romance)★★★★☆

Jewel Of The Night And A Penniless Prospect★★★★★

Forget About It★★★★★

Christmas Spirit★★★★★

At the Spaniard's Pleasure (Modern Romance)★★★☆☆

A Perfect Father (Medical Romance)★★★★★

The Italian's Convenient Wife (Modern Romance)★★★★★

At the Greek Boss's Bidding (Modern Romance) (Modern Romance)★★★★★

A Regency Invitation (Mills & Boon Special Releases)★★★★★

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User Studies

- Users prefer UGC over **formal metadata** (Koolen et al., CIKM 2012),
 - especially when looking for books to **read for fun** (Koolen et al. CLEF 2015)
- Reviews are used when user is focused on specific topics
 - but especially for exploring the collection!

Social Content for Literary Studies

Wild Idea: Reviews and Literary Canonisation?

- Online book requests and discussions are goldmine for digital literary studies
 - impact of text on readers
 - impact of interaction on popularity/canonisation
- Future plans:
 - build longitudinal corpus of online book discussions
 - mine reviews for book/author aspects

Relevance to ILLC

- ILLC has well-established reputation in related areas of IR:
 - Complex search tasks, structured IR, web & social search, cultural heritage Retrieval and recommendation (Kamps, Huurdeman, Kumpulainen, Dehghani)
- Other connections to LaCo research:
 - Literary quality, digital humanities, (Bod, van Cranenburgh, Koolen)
 - Modelling aspect, sentiment, discourse in reviews (Titov)

Thank You!

- Questions?
- More information
 - website: <http://social-book-search.humanities.uva.nl/>
 - mailing list: social-book-search@googlegroups.com