



HLC Accreditation Evidence

Barton Library Presentation – Reliable Publishers

URL:

Office of Origin: Vice President of Instruction

Contact(s):

- Director of Library and Archives

Reliable Publishers

For the last few years, the book market has seen an increase in self-publishing, print-on-demand, and poor-quality reprints of works with expired copyrights or in the public domain. Palala Press, Kessinger Publishing, Literary Licensing LLC, Andesite Press, and Amazon's Kindle Direct Publishing (KDP) and CreateSpace are among the most ubiquitous. As a unit of an academic institution, the Barton Library has concerns regarding this trend.

In using the term "reliable," the Barton Library makes no judgment, pro or con, on the research, views, and conclusions of individual authors. Rather, the description pertains to those publishers who produce high-quality original and reprinted works that are consistent in their editing, proofreading, typesetting, paper and binding, indexing (if applicable), and (if non-fiction) use of end or foot notes and bibliography. Using these presses allows our patrons to cite a credible edition as a source, the probability of notes for further research, and attentive references to original pagination in the case of reprints. Additionally, in the case of non-fiction works, the scholarship of the author has been evaluated through the peer review process of a trustworthy university or commercial press; a step that may or may not occur in self-publishing.

The Barton Library will continue to seek original monographs and reprints offered by reliable university and commercial presses. Self-publishing remains rare among academics, but there are a number of self-published "how-to" works among our collection that, however useful, would not be considered scholarly. Their current and future inclusion will be judged on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the Library's Collection Development Plan.

University Presses

University presses typically possess the financial resources necessary to publish well-constructed books as discussed above. They utilize several steps in appraising prospective works, including positively responding to query letters from authors, in-house evaluations of manuscripts, peer reviews by outside readers, the recommendation of revisions, and, finally, approvals by faculty editorial boards. This multi-stage approach ensures published works meet recognized standards of quality and scholarship. While this is not an exhaustive list, top-ranked university presses include:

Cambridge University Press
Columbia University Press
Cornell University Press
Duke University Press
Harvard University Press
Johns Hopkins University Press
MIT Press

New York University Press
Oxford University Press
Princeton University Press
Sanford University Press
University of California Press
University of Chicago Press
Yale University Press

Reliable university presses in our geographic region include:

North Dakota State University Press
Texas A&M University Press
Texas Christian University Press

Texas Tech University Press
University of Missouri Press
University of Nebraska Press

University of New Mexico Press
University of North Texas Press
University of Oklahoma Press

University of Texas Press
University Press of Colorado
University Press of Kansas

Commercial Presses

The publishing processes of commercial presses regarding new works differs somewhat from their university counterparts. They normally do not accept unsolicited manuscripts. Instead, prospective authors submit their materials through a professional literary agent, who agrees to take the manuscript based on its potential marketability. The agent works on behalf of his client to get the work before an acquiring editor. Editorial boards or publishing committees make the final decision whether to approve the acquisition of a book. If the book is accepted, the author's rough draft will be delivered to a development editor for appraisal, then to external peer reviewers. Readers' reports and editors' recommendations for revisions are returned to the author, who subsequently submits the final draft. The publishers' long-term profitability requires a solid piece of literature and a readable interior layout achieved through professional standards. Additionally, an attractive cover will help to drive sales. Self-publishers and small publishing houses primarily engaged in print-on-demand reprints cannot guarantee this level of quality. While not a comprehensive list, reliable commercial presses include:

Alfred A. Knopf
Allen & Unwin
Basic Books
Blackwell
Bloomsbury Publishing
Crown Publishing Group
Da Capo Press
Doubleday
Everyman's Library
Farrar, Straus and Giroux
Free Press
Harper (Harper Collins, Harper & Row)
Henry Holt & Company
Hill & Wang
Graywolf Press
John Wiley & Sons
Library of America

Modern Library
New Press
Palgrave Macmillan
Penguin (Penguin Books, Penguin Classics)
Prentice Hall
Random House
Routledge/Taylor & Francis
Rowan & Littlefield
St. Martin's Press
Scribner
Simon & Schuster
Stackpole Books
Vintage
William Morrow Company
W. W. Norton & Co.