

# **BARTON**

## **LIBRARY**

*Dare to Know*

### **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  
Stanford 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.