

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 that have entered the public domain or have expired copyrights. 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 some 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:

Press	Imprint(s)
Cambridge University Press	
Columbia University Press	
Cornell University Press	Cornell East Asia Series

Press	Imprint(s)
	ILR Press
	Three Hills
Duke University Press	
Harvard University Press	Belknap

Johns Hopkins University Press	
MIT Press	
New York University Press	
Oxford University Press	Blackstone Press
	Clarendon Press

Princeton University Press	
Sanford University Press	Redwood Press
University of California Press	
University of Chicago Press	
Yale University Press	

Reliable university presses in our geographic region include:

Press	Imprint(s)
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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	Bison Books
	Jewish Publication Society

Press	Imprint(s)
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	Potomac Books
University of New Mexico Press	
University of North Texas Press	
University of Oklahoma Press	
University of Texas Press	
University Press of Colorado	Utah State University Press
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 writing 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 and imprints include:

Press	Imprint(s)
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Abingdon Press	
Allen & Unwin	
Alma Books	Alma Classics
	Overture Publishing
Archetype Publications	
Baker Publishing Group	Baker Academic
	Baker Books
	Bethany House
	Brazos Press
	Chosen
	Revell
Banner of Truth	
Barbour Publishing	
Bloomsbury Publishing	A & C Black
	Bloomsbury Academic
	Bloomsbury USA
	I.B. Tauris
	Walker & Company
Boydell & Brewer	Camden House
	D. S. Brewer
Broadstreet Publishing	
Charisma House	
Crossway	
Graywolf Press	
HarperCollins	Amistad Press
	Ecco Press
	Harper
	Mariner Books
	Thomas Nelson
	William Morrow
	Zondervan
Hachette Book Group	Back Bay Books
	Basic Books

Press	Imprint(s)
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	Center Street
	Da Capo Press
	FaithWords
	Grand Central Publishing
	Hachette Books
	Little, Brown & Company
	Perseus Books
	PublicAffairs
Worthy	
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt	
Ibex Publishing	
InterVarsity Press	
John Wiley & Sons	Wiley-Blackwell
Library of America	
	Farrar, Straus and Giroux
	Griffin
	Henry Holt and Company
	Hill & Wang
	North Point Press
	Picador
	St. Martin's Press
	Tom Doherty Associates
Moody Publishers	
New Directions Publishing	
New Press	
Palgrave Macmillan	
Penguin Random House	Alfred A. Knopf
	Anchor Books
	Ballantine Books

	Bantam Books
	Berkley Publishing/New American Library
	Convergent
	Crown Books
	Delacorte Press
	Del Re Books
	Doubleday
	Everyman's Library
	Image
	Modern Library
	Multnomah
	OneWorld
	Penguin
	Putnam
	Random House
	Three Rivers Press
	Viking Press
	Vintage Books
WaterBrook	
Prentice Hall	
Routledge/Taylor & Francis	

Rowan & Littlefield	
Simon & Schuster	Atria Books
	Free Press
	Howard Books
	Pocket Books
	Scribner
Washington Square Press	
Skyhorse Publishing	Regnery Publishing
Stackpole Books	
Verso Books	
Westminster John Knox Press	
William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company	
Wipf and Stock	Cascade Books
	Front Porch Republic
	Pickwick Publications
W. W. Norton & Co.	Liveright

Reliable independent “boutique” presses in the state of Kansas include:

Press
Anamcara Press
Ascend Books
Brash Books
Flint Hills Publishing

Press
Imperium Publishing
Kbook Publishing
Mennonite Press
Sunflower University Press