



Information and Media

Capote (film)
Culver City, CA: Sony Pictures Home Entertainment,
2006.

Media Commons **VideoDVD 751673**

In late November 1959, the shocking murder of a family in a small town in Kansas send ripples through the U.S.A. Truman Capote, the famed author of *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, is intrigued by the news reports and travels to Holcomb, Kansas to write the story of the murders and murderers. Through interviews with the residents in Holcomb and the prisoners, Capote explores the horrific details of that tragic night. The movie explores Capote's internal conflict as he writes his masterpiece work, *In Cold Blood*. Capote begins to empathize with the prisoner, Perry Smith, yet yearns for a closure to his book which can only be achieved through the execution of the murderers. People use information to tell stories and understand events. However, as more facts are uncovered, information can change one's understanding of truth and of oneself. Seeking and relating information, Capote reveals his humanity.

Nancy Drew: The Curse of the Blackmoor Manor (game)
Bellevue WA.: Her Interactive, 2004.

Faculty of Information **56109 Course Reserves**

Nancy Drew is called in to solve the mystery of the rapidly failing health of Linda Penvellyn. Ever since Linda married a British diplomat and moved into a 14th century mansion in England, her health has dwindled. Locals believe that the house is haunted, causing Linda's health problems. As Nancy Drew, you will investigate the manor and try to speak to Linda. But, be careful! You will come face to face with hidden dangers and your efforts will be thwarted by the housekeeper Mrs. Drake. You will have to look to the past for clues, use your research skills to find answers, and your ingenuity to solve the mystery. Escape in this fun and entertaining video game aimed for children. Collect clues and solve the mystery at Blackmoor Manor. Information is not always about learning, but also about relaxation and entertainment.



Changing Information

The Age of Missing Information by Bill McKibben
New York: Random House, 1992. 1st ed.
Robarts PN 1992.6 .M38 1992

Based on the theory that people today are better informed than previous generations, McKibben conducts a personal experiment in which he subjects himself to sensory overload in order to evaluate if these claims are correct. To do so, McKibben spends 24 hours bombarded with news casts, sitcoms, game shows, advertisements, televangelists programs, and episodes of the Brady Bunch. In contrast, he spends a day at the top of a quiet and peaceful mountain in the Adirondacks pondering about himself and the world around him. McKibben's writing is personal, witty, and unique. He insightfully explores our relationship with information. Although the book was written in 1992, McKibben's observations and are still relevant today. Furthermore, with the inclusion of new material discussing the affects of the Internet on our information use and behaviour, McKibben's writing will change the way you think about media.

The Information by James Gleick
New York: Pantheon Books, 2011.
Faculty of Information **020.9 G556I**

Information defines society. The way in which information is used, recorded, and disseminated impacts how it is understood and how it shapes a culture. Gleick explores the history of information from the invention of scripts and alphabets to the drums of Africa to information use today. Gleick's information story examines how information behaviour inevitably influences human consciousness. Gleick discusses key figures in history including Charles Babbage, the inventor of the first mechanical computer, Ada Byron, the first true programmer, and Claude Shannon, a pivotal information theorist. Gleick concludes by examining the so-called "Information Age." As individuals become information experts and seekers, there is an overwhelming feeling of drowning in information. Through a historical examination, Gleick seeks to understand how the past has determined our information practices and how our information practices will inevitably influence the future.

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Information Behaviour

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A Readers' Advisory Guide

Melissa McLeod
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Understanding the Past

Belle Moral by Ann-Marie MacDonald
Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON: Academy of the Shaw Festival
Toronto: Playwrights Canada Press, 2005.
Robarts **PS 8575 .D62 B45 2005**

Pearl MacIsaac, a scientist, explores her family secrets after the death of her father. Set in Scotland in 1899, this gothic comedy examines the tension between upholding one's morals and conforming to societal standards. The characters must decide if they will embrace the new ideas or keep them hidden in order to support the dominant ideals. *Belle Moral* intelligently critiques the societal rifts that emerge as new ideas, such as Darwin's theory of evolution, conflict with contemporary medical and philosophical beliefs. This beautifully written play explores the incongruities between romanticism and rationalism. MacDonald has crafted witty and insightful characters, who question gender roles and societal expectations. Satiric and cerebral, this book highlights that novel groundbreaking theories and ideas are not always welcomed. Information is not always sought and is even rejected sometimes if it challenges established beliefs.

Forgotten Garden by Kate Morton
New York: Washington Square Press, 2010.
U of T Schools **F Mor**

This captivating novel guides the reader across oceans and generations in order to unearth the mysterious arrival of one little girl in Australia in 1913. Nell, abandoned and alone, arrives in Australia with nothing but a suitcase. On her 21st birthday, Nell sets out to find the truth about her past by journeying to England. Using the only clue she has, an old book of dark fairytales, Nell uncovers more questions than answers. She comes home with the intent to return, but never does as she ends up raising her granddaughter, Cassandra. It is only after Nell's death that Cassandra learns about her grandmother's secret search for answers. Relying on the clues gathered by Nell, Cassandra travels to England to discover the truth. Powerfully told, *Forgotten Garden* explores how people will go to great lengths to seek information in order to understand themselves.

People of the Book by Geraldine Brooks
New York, NY; Toronto: Viking, 2008.
Faculty of Information **823. 914 B 873P**

As time passes, how do historic artifacts survive and what stories do they tell? *People of the Book* is a unique and captivating tale that traces the survival of an exceptional illuminated Hebrew manuscript through the years of turmoil, when books are routinely destroyed because they challenge the dominant beliefs. Hanna Heath, a rare-book expert from Australia, has been hired to preserve this rare manuscript. In doing so, she discovers little artifacts which tell the book's story of survival. Each clue guides the reader to a piece of the book's history, in which people take great risks to preserve this precious spiritual and informational artifact. The exquisite historical descriptions and the emotional journey will passionately guide readers from the present to the book's origins in the 15th century. Information is destroyed and preserved by those in power; information is a powerful tool. Inspired by a true story, *People of the Book* explores the role of information in daily life and the lengths to which people will go to protect it.

Roots by Alex Haley
Garden City, NY, Doubleday, 1976.
Robarts **E 185.97 .H24 A33**

Roots is an exquisitely told and well-researched story that passionately portrays the story of one African-American family's history. The narrative traces their stories from their origins in Africa to slavery in the USA, and ultimately culminating with the author's own generation in the 1970s. Haley follows the Kunte Kinte's family line over seven generations. Through graphic and saddening experiences, Haley passionately tells how the stories of Kinte's strength and determination gave the family the courage to survive. Haley vividly reveals the horror of slavery while exploring the importance of family and tradition. The characters are masterfully crafted encouraging the reader to empathize and relate to them on a basic human level. This novel has faced a great deal of criticism because of the unsettling depictions of the treatment of African Americans while also being challenged for its nonfiction classification. *Roots* depicts how information can be used to challenge societal norms.



Interpreting the Clues

The Farm Show by Theatre Passe Muraille and Paul Thompson
Toronto: Coach House Press, 1976.
Robarts **PS 8589 .H43F3**

In 1972, a group of actors went to live and work in a farming community in Ontario. Noted as one of the landmark plays in Canadian theatre history, this production shows the potential of grassroots theatre. By living, working, and socializing with locals, the actors create a play based on their observations and experiences. This play is like no other; there are no costumes, lights, or set. In fact, the play does not even have a formalized plot. Instead, *The Farm Show* tells the tales of the people from the perspectives of the actors. The actors beautifully construct a story inspired by their interactions with the local citizens in order to document the lives of the farmers and show the importance of everyday contexts as a resource for understanding people. The human experience emerges as a rich information source.

Hound of the Baskerville by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
London: Penguin, 2001.
Robarts **PR4622 .H6 2001**

Sir Charles Baskerville, a prominent Devonshire citizen, is inexplicably found dead in the moorlands surrounded by nothing but giant hound paw prints. It is believed he died of a heart attack, but locals blame the Baskerville curse. Legend has it that a legendary phantom dog has haunted the family for generations since Sir Hugo attempted to capture the beautiful daughter of a yeoman, which results in her death. Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson are called in to solve the murder and protect the Baskerville family from the curse. This thrilling and horrifying novel quickly captivates the reader. Death, folklore, and mystery guide the readers on a quest to solve Baskerville's mysterious death. No piece of information is too small in leading Holmes and Watson in their investigation. Through the use of deduction and knowledge, they are able to unravel the mystery.