

***The Bourne Identity* by Robert Ludlum.**

1980. 535 pages.

FLUD in UofT Schools stacks

Thriller; adventure; espionage

A man is fished out of the sea with no memory of who he is, scars that suggest facial reassignment surgery, and a microfiche embedded in his leg. The microfiche is the first clue that leads the man—Jason Bourne— onto a journey of self-discovery of the most fundamental kind. With the world's deadliest assassin out to get him, Bourne's search for information is hindered at almost every turn. The clues to his identity are found in the places he visits— a Swiss bank, an apartment in Paris. Each new piece of information he receives sends him to pursue the next piece of the puzzle. This is a fast-paced, plot-driven first book of a long series about Bourne. The book differs substantially from the movie in characters, plot points, and action. Read *The Bourne Identity* to experience an action-filled mystery about missing and hard to find information.

***The Tango Singer* by Tomas Eloy Martinez.**

2006. 246 pages.

PQ7798.23 .A6973 C3613 2006 Robarts Stacks

Literary fiction

This is a scholarly and intellectual adventure, as we follow American PhD candidate Bruce Cadogan to Buenos Aires as he finishes his dissertation on Jorge Luis Borges' essays on tango. He becomes obsessed with tracking the elusive and unrecorded authentic tango singer named Julio Martel, who announces his shows, held in abandoned spots around the city, only through an underground network. With the help of a kiosk worker, and through conversations with Martel's lover, Bruce begins to map Martel's appearances and discovers a pattern that unlocks his understanding of the dramatic past of Buenos Aires. It is a slower-paced novel, as we watch Bruce begin to make sense of the information he accumulates about Martel, and, by extension, the magical, tumultuous past of Buenos Aires.

***The Invention of Hugo Cabret* By Brian Sel-**

znick. 2007. 533 pages.

PS3569.E35 I58 2007 at UofT Mississauga

Mystery; graphic novel; young adult; adventure

This novel in words and pictures is a fast-paced historical mystery. Twelve-year old orphan Hugo has been living in the Paris train station, obsessed with finishing his father's work of fixing an automaton, a robot with pen in hand, ready to write a message from his dead father, or so Hugo thinks. Hugo's search for a final message from his father proves disappointing, but leads him on a trail of epiphanies, experiences and encounters that will alter the young boy's life. His quest becomes intertwined with the lives of a toymaker and a young girl; they each have something valuable to the other, and their fates are closely connected. Through his observations of people, determination, and a trip to the library, Hugo pieces together the meaning behind the automaton and its connection to the people — new and old— in his life. The book is a lovely example of a formal quest for information, as various characters recognize gaps in their knowledge and actively seek to repair it.

**A Leisure
Reading Guide
for**

**INF2332:
Information
Behaviour**

*“I read for pleasure
and that is the
moment I learn the
most” - Margaret
Atwood*

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***Persuasion* by Jane Austen.** 1818. 249 pages.
PR4034 .P4 2004 in Robarts stacks
Romance; classic.

Eight years prior to the start of the novel, Anne Elliot was persuaded out of an engagement to a naval captain who had no prospects or ancestry. The novel opens when peacetime arrives and Captain Wentworth reappears in Anne's life. While Anne has remained faithful in her love for Wentworth, it is a series of accidental encounters and pieces of information that at first, deny Anne her happiness, but subsequently give her a second chance. Like the story of the ugly duckling, who did not know his true self until he was presented with a sense-making opportunity of contact with adult swans, Austen's characters are often altered by an overheard conversation, a hastily written letter, or other similarly small moments of illumination. Transformative moments such as these show that contact with information does not have to be formally sought out or derive from an information institution. Information encountered by chance, in the course of everyday life, can bring about sense making, self discovery, and meaningful decisions

***Lists: To-dos, Illustrated Inventories, Collected Thoughts, and Other Artists' Enumerations from the Collections of the Smithsonian Museum* by Liza Kirwin.** 2010. 205 pages.
N6505. K47 2010x Robarts stacks
Non-fiction.; lists; art.

Lists is an insightful collection of ephemera from famous artists of the 20th Century. From postcards, visual inventories, price lists, book lists, paintings sold and other daily artifacts and itemizations, *Lists* gives reader's a look at how even extraordinary people engage with, collect, and shape, mundane collections of information. The collection showcases the intersection between the extraordinary and the mundane in these artists' lives. *Lists* is, in effect a snapshot of information behaviour, the many ways that people seek, utilize, and organize information.

***Sign of Four* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.** 1913. 286 pages.
PR4622 .S5 1913 in Robarts stacks
Detective; mystery; classic.

Of Sherlock Holmes, that master detective, Dr. John Watson says that he "considers that a man's brain originally is like a little empty attic.... It is of the highest importance, therefore, not to have useless facts elbowing out the useful ones." It certainly cannot be argued that Holmes has cluttered his attic! His specialized knowledge store comes at the expense of common knowledge. *Sign of Four* is not about watching Holmes stock his attic, but rather his application of knowledge to solve the puzzle. This plot-driven and suspenseful mystery shows Holmes putting together the missing pieces of the case, using his own knowledge, and his ability to "read" his surroundings. This is an example of how the search for information does not have to go through formal, institutional channels, but rather can be found in the users' everyday environments. Reliance on informal sources of information in

***Howards End is on the Landing* by Susan Hill.**
2009. 234 pages.
PR6058. I45 Z47 2009 Robarts stacks
Memoir.

After searching for an elusive title in her vast personal library and chancing upon instead many other books, Hill decides to spend one year reading only those books which she already owns, revisiting her favourites from childhood as well as adulthood, adding personal commentary and ranking the titles as she goes. Hill writes that "If the books I have read have helped to form me, then... I am the unique sum of the books I have read. I am my literary DNA." Hill's journey puts her back into contact with the books, conversations, and libraries that have helped to shape her literary and personal life. Hill's personal narrative showcases the sense-making efforts people will undertake when faced with an information need. In this case, Hill revisits important books from her past and organizes her sense of self around these encounters. See Also: *Ex Libris* by Anne Fadiman, and *A History of Reading* by Alberto Maguel.

***Homeland*. Season one.** 2011.

Check your local public library
Thriller; espionage

This Showtime television show is a psychological thriller. Carrie is a CIA agent in Homeland Security, convinced that returning hero Sgt. Nicholas Brody, a prisoner for years and long thought to be dead, has been turned into an al Qaeda operative. The show follows Carrie as she deceitfully monitors Brody. Carrie is bipolar, something she hides from her bosses but which becomes more evident as she becomes increasingly manic about her search for, and organization of, the information she comes across, reaching a head near the end of the first season, where, off her medication, she spends a night colour-coding a decade's worth of information about the movements of one man, trying to land upon a pattern that seems invisible to everyone else. Carrie's relentless search for information, and her unique methods of organizing it, are an extreme example of information behaviour.

***The People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks.** 2008.
372 pages.
PR9619.3 .B7153 P46 2008X Robarts stacks
Historical fiction; mystery

Hanna, a rare book expert, has been offered the job of the analysis and conservation of the priceless Sarajevo *Haggadah*, rescued during the Bosnian war. Hanna discovers a series of tiny artifacts in its bindings – an insect wing, wine stains, salt crystals, a white hair. Each serves as a gateway into critical moments of the book's past. Hanna investigates each of these artifacts, consulting with colleagues, experts, and family members to fill in the gaps of her own knowledge. The *Haggadah* is inscribed with the history of the Jewish people in Europe, but it is up to Hanna to decode the clues found within the book. Hanna spends much of her time playing detective and researcher as she analyzes the physicality of the *Haggadah*. She demonstrates the classic moments of information behaviour in her search—which takes her around the world—to understand the book. The information she uncovers deeply affects her personally; at the end, she is irrevocably altered through her contact with the book and its history.