The Life of Books: Written Language Past and Present

One of the goals of PC’s C.H.A.P. (Cultural Historical Awareness Program) for 2015-2016 is to encourage the PC community to explore the annual theme by attending C.H.A.P. programs and learning about the topic. “The Life of Books: Written Language Past and Present” is this year’s focus.

Possible Topics Related to Books and Writing:
- Anthropology: cultures with and without books or writing
- Art of book making, illustrating
- Bibliophiles, bibliotaphs, bibliotherapy, bibliophobes, biblioklepts, bibliophages, bibliomaniacs, bibliotaphy, bibliogony, bibliocasts, bibliognosts, bibliopes
- Bilingual education, language immersion
- Books and written words relevant to significant historical events or times
- Bookstores and libraries: past, present, future
- Censorship: banned, burned, challenged books
- Children’s books
- Classics/Western Canon
- Culture/Subcultures and language
- Digital/electronic/interactive books
- Documents: Hammurabi’s Code, Magna Carta, Declaration of Independence, U.S. Constitution, Gettysburg Address, “I Have a Dream” (MLK, Jr.), The Ninety-Five Theses, Rosetta Stone
- Evolution of written languages (grammar, cursive, robotic/algorithmic, etc.)
- Future of books or written language in the digital/electronic age
- Gender factors in books and reading
- Generation 1.5
- Getting books published or publishing in print and electronic media
- Graffiti, tattoos, other forms of written language
- Graphic books: comic books, graphic novels, nonfiction graphic books
- Infographics
- Learning a language from infancy, later in life
- Learning to read: children, adults, children or adults with learning disabilities
- Libraries (past, present, future) - public, school, and college libraries
- Library of Congress
- Linguistics
- Literacy and illiteracy
- Media bias (newspapers, magazines, journals)
- Net Gen/Millennials and reading and writing
- Muckrakers, whistleblowers, Pentagon Papers
- Printing’s history of the written word
- Propaganda and “spin doctors”
- Psychology or physiology of human brain reading and writing print
- Psychology or physiology of human brain reading or inputting computer/digital information
- Publishing print materials (newspapers, magazines, journals)
- Purpose of books or written language: inform, persuade, entertain, pleasure, record, etc.
- Socio-economic factors in book readership
- Social media or the digital era – its impact on written language
- Tabloids, Yellow Journalism, pulp fiction
- Textbook content
- Writing: hieroglyphs, cuneiform, clay, papyrus, scrolls, paper, etc.
Sampling of books in the special collection “Life of Books” – see the computer catalog for other titles*

100 Banned Books (Ref.)
120 Banned Books: Censorship Histories... (Ref.)
A Guide to the United States Constitution
A History of Reading
A Vindication of the Rights of Woman
America’s Library
An Anthology of Graphic Fiction, Cartoons, and True Stories
An Essay on the Principle of Population
An Introduction to Book History
Are Books Becoming Extinct? (Ref.)
Arrival
Banned Books: 2014 Edition (Ref.)
Battle of the Books: Literary Censorship...
Best American Infographics, The
BiblioTech: Why Libraries Matter... Age of Google
Bone
Book Lust... (Ref.)
Book on the Bookshelf, The
Books that Changed the World
Books: A Living History
Capital: A Critique of Political Economy
Comics and Sequential Art
Creating Literacy-Rich Preschools and Kindergarten
Creating Room to Read
Creative Pop-Up: A History and Project Book
Critical Insights: The American Comic Book (also online)
Critical Survey of Graphic Novels (Ref.)

Digital Divide, The
English Language Learners
Every Book Its Reader: The Power of the Printed Word to Stir the World
Fahrenheit 451
Graffiti World: Street Art from Five Continents (Ref.)
Great Books
Gutenberg Elegies, The
How Reading Changed My Life
How to Read and Why
“I Watched a Wild Hog Eat My Baby!”
Joy of Reading, The
Jungle, The
Layman’s Parallel Bible, The
Let’s End Our Literacy Crisis
Library: An Unquiet History
Literature Lover’s Book of Lists (Ref.)
Lost Art of Reading, The
Magna Carta in 20 Places
Making Comics: Storytelling Secrets of Comics, Manga, and Graphic Novels
Mass Media (Ref.)
Meaning of the Glorious Qur’an, The
Men of Tomorrow: Geeks, Gangsters...Birth of the Comic Book
Millennials, The
Obscene in the Extreme
On Writing
Open This Little Book (children’s collection)
Origin of Species and the Descent of Man
Pentagon Papers, The

Pleasures of Reading in an Age of Distraction, The
Press Effect, The
Prince, The
Proust and the Squid: The Story and Science of the Reading Brain
Reading Matters: Five Centuries of Discovering Books
Shallows, The
Silent Spring
Slow Reading in a Hurried Age
So We Read On: How the Great Gatsby Came To Be and...
Studied Ignorance: How Curricular Censorship...
Uncle Tom’s Cabin
Understanding Comics
Walden, Civil Disobedience and Other Writings
Watchmen
Wealth of Nations, The
What a Book Can Do: The Publication and Reception of Silent Spring
What Johnny Shouldn’t Read
What We See When We Read
Whole Five Feet, The
Why I Read
Why I Write: Political Language Is Designed....
Why Read Moby Dick?
Writing on the Wall: Social Media...The 1st 2,000 Years

October 9, 2015

*Books can be checked out unless noted as Ref. (reference)