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# Report on Bookish Habits

## Including a Summary of Responses to The Habitorium's *Survey of Bookish Habits*

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Prepared July 17, 2020

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About The Habitorium

Appendix A: The Survey of Bookish Habits

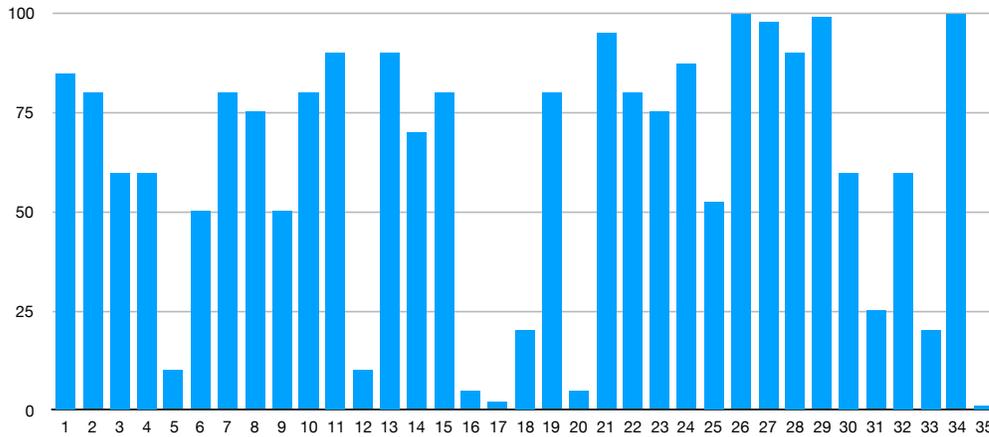
Appendix B: Survey of Bookish Habits Watercolors Price List



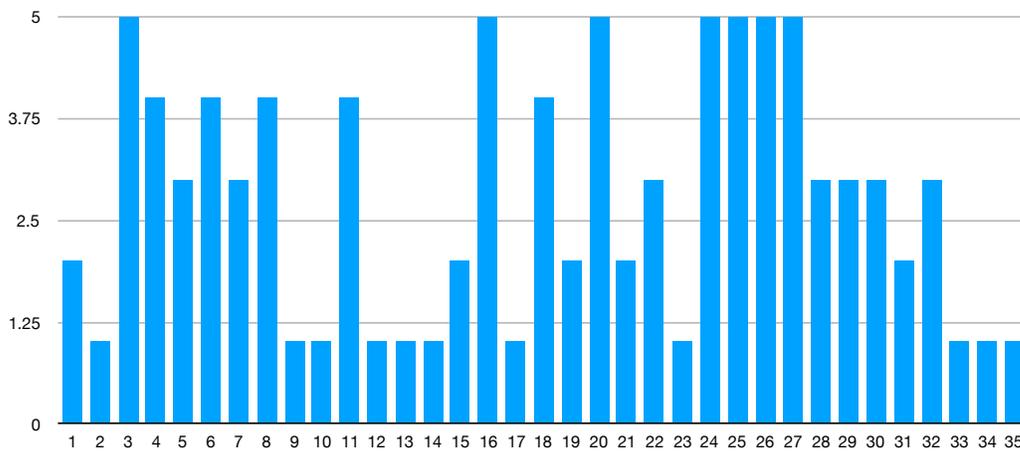
35 Responses to The Survey of Bookish Habits(2020)



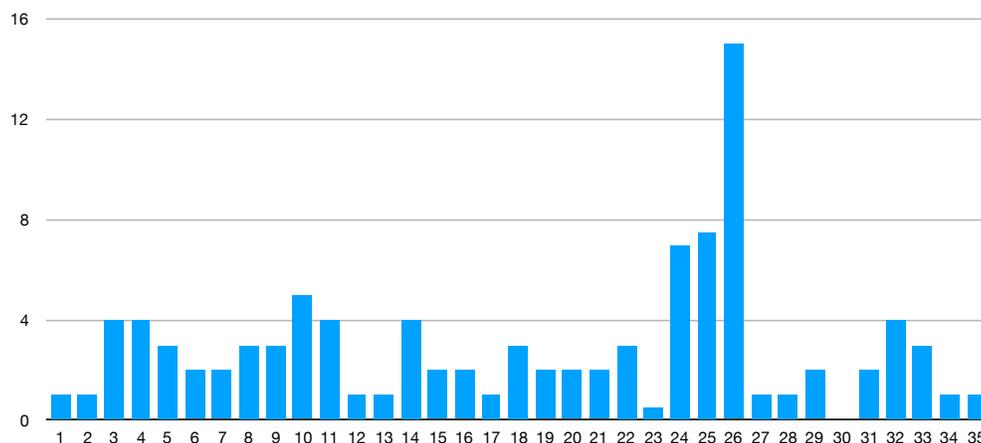
The majority of respondents keep their books after reading them. There were generally three ways people handled a book after reading it: keep, donate, or give it away. .



Question number five: “Of the books you own, what percentage of them have you read?” Adjustments were made to round up in instances when given a range, ie. 75-80%.



Question number two: “On a scale of 1 to 5, with five describing the most likely... How likely are you to read the same book more than once?” Adjustments were made to round down in instances where answers were beyond ‘5’ and up when given a range ie. 4-5.



Question number 1: “On average, how many books do you read in one month?”

Adjustments were made to round up in instances where answers were given a range ie. 4-5.

### Notable Respondents, Surprises and Outliers

One person found it difficult to quantify the number of books she read per month. She reads many fragments of books for work, all month long. One response to question two of The Survey of Bookish Habits was greatly reduced to fit on the scale of 1 to 5. The original answer was 500,000. Two book fairies replied to The Survey of Bookish Habits. The benevolence of their project is remarkable: they hide books in public places. Two people without printers, re-wrote The Survey of Bookish Habits word for word, by hand; one wrote in cursive. Only one person sought assistance in returning long-borrowed books. One person claimed to have no idiosyncratic bookish habits. There were two self-described hoarders among the respondents.

### Selected Idiosyncratic Bookish Habits

- Sometimes I read in my sauna.
- If I get an old book with a former owner’s name, I will sign in the same way, using pen and ink.
  - Refusing to use audio or digital books.
  - I always used to have a book with me in case I have to use it. I bring many books when I travel. Sometimes, most of the time, I don’t get to read them.
    - I won’t read a book with a jacket on - OR - I must read while under a blanket.
    - A poem or two or five before bed.

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- Sometimes, when a character makes a turn that I didn't expect, I stop reading the book. I like to think about the character's behavior or the unexpected plot twist to determine how I could have predicted the twist before it happened. I will often go back through the book to look for obvious hints that I might have missed.

- I collect first editions of my favorite children's books and of first hand accounts of the Irish Uprising of 1916

- I name my plants after my favorite literary heroines.

### **Suggested Further Actions**

Like the other surveys devised by The Habitorium, The Survey of Bookish Habits is a living document. The Habitorium continue to share the survey far and wide. Consider asking three friends to take the survey, do it together apart. Document your conversations, answer the questions and send your contribution to City Books. Invite three friends to ZOOM with you, or meet in person if its convenient. Print out a copy of the survey and complete it together, as you discuss your various habits. The Habitorium invites you to share a short summary of your exchange, as an addendum to your responses.

### **About The Habitorium**

The Survey of Bookish Habits is the 7th survey prepared by The Habitorium which was founded in 2013. A research project in search of an archive, The Habitorium was devised by Jo Novelli-Blasko as fodder for her watercolor and writing practices. Consider commissioning a survey from The Habitorium, or a painting. Start a conversation today, about habits that interest you and why. Learn more at [thehabitorium.com](http://thehabitorium.com).

# Survey of Bookish Habits

Please complete this survey as fully as possible. When you need more space for responding, please write on the back of the survey. Thank you for your interest in and support of The Habitorium.

1. On average, how many books do you read in one month? \_\_\_\_\_

On a scale of 1 to 5, with five describing the most likely...

2. How likely are you to read the same book more than once? \_\_\_\_\_

3. How likely are you to read all the pages of a book? \_\_\_\_\_

4. List the genre of books you enjoy reading. Or list the authors whose work you read most frequently. Better yet, organize your list into a cloud.

5. Of the books you own, what percentage have you read? \_\_\_\_\_

6. Reading books in moving vehicles: Yes No

7. Describe where your books are, within your living and work spaces?

8. How do you handle your books and why? Do you write or draw in them? Tear them apart? Use bookmarks? Dogears? Please elaborate.

9. Do you personalize the books in your library? How? Do you use a stamp, book-plates, inscribe your name or initials, something else?

10. What do you do with a book that you've read? Pass it on, keep it on your shelf, donate it, sell it, something else? And WHY?

11. Answer the following question by selecting all circumstances in agreement with your proclivities: "My books are for \_\_\_\_\_."

Work	Leisure	Learning	Someone Else
Relaxation	Translation	Research	Pleasure

12. How many books are on your shelves that belong to other people? How long have you held them in your possession? Would you like help returning them?

13. What do you consider to be your most idiosyncratic bookish habit?



*All But Dissertation Cloud*  
Jo Novelli-Blasko (2019)

Thank you for contributing to  
The Habitorium's research.

Please mail your completed survey to:

The Habitorium  
c/o City Books  
908 Galveston Ave.  
Pittsburgh PA 15233

...AND, if you share your name and street  
address, The Habitorium will return the favor  
with some snail mail in your direction.

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**The Survey of Bookish Habits: Watercolors by Jo Novelli-Blasko**  
**Price List**

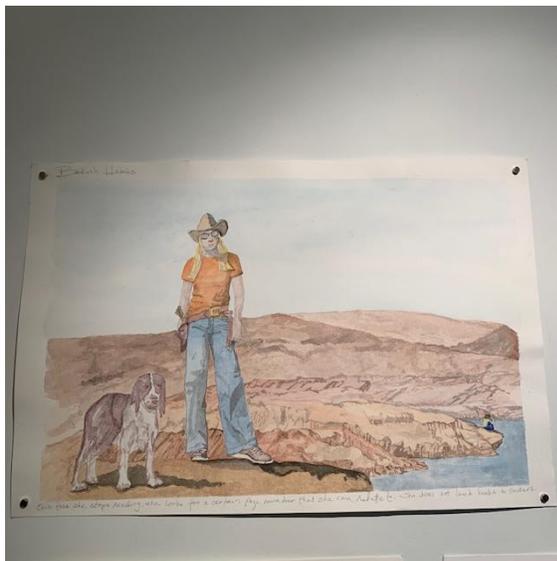


“His books are for Democracy, Liberation and Empathy. He always reads all the pages of a book and reads 7.5 books a month.”

Watercolor on paper

15" x 22"

\$90 (SOLD)



“Each time she stops reading, she looks for a certain page number that she can relate to. She does not lend books to smokers.”

Watercolor on paper

12" x 18"

\$60



"She occasionally underlines in pencil. She reads an average of 15 books a month and always reads every page."

Watercolor on paper

11" x 14"

\$60



"One of her favorite story books is a forest. She tears her books into sections to make them easier to read. She has read 10% of the books she owns."

Watercolor on paper

16" x 13.5"

\$60



“She is a book fairy who does not reread books. She never borrows box because she is a slow reader.”  
Watercolor on paper  
9” x 22”  
\$90



“She treats books with reverence, like they were sacred objects.”  
Watercolor on paper  
8.5” x 16  
\$60

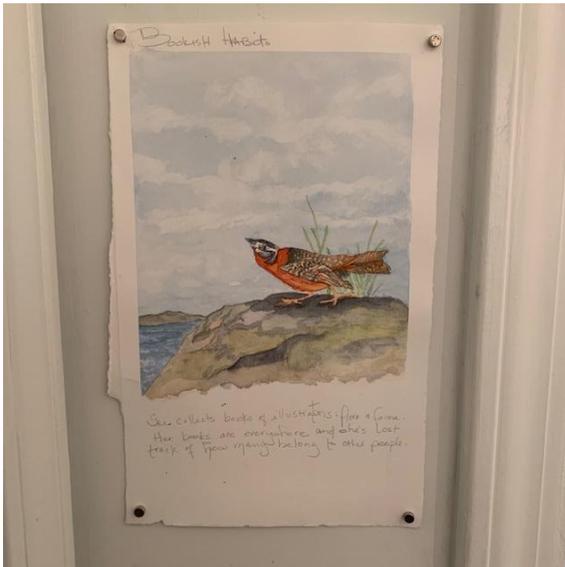


“She is a book fairy who uses book plates, sometimes, always returns borrowed books, and has read 20% of the books she owns.”

Watercolor on paper

15" x 22"

\$90



“She collects books of illustrations: flora and fauna. Her books are everywhere and she’s lost track of how many belong to other people.”

Watercolor on paper

7" x 11"

\$40



“He admires the print quality of books, never writes in them and tries to keep them neat. He generally organizes his books by title, not author.”

Watercolor on paper

15" x 22"

\$90



“He only personalizes his guides and manuals. Dog ears are a bad habit of his. He enjoys books about the history of gunsmithing.”

Watercolor on paper

21.5" x 22"

\$120



"He reads in moving vehicles. His father taught him better than to write in books."

Watercolor on paper

14.5" x 11"

\$60



"She is careful with her books, and keeps the ones she likes, and usually reads two at a time."

Watercolor on paper

15" x 10"

\$60

City Books (IAMB Gallery)

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Pittsburgh, PA 15233

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