



THE OREGON  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY  
FOUNDED 1898

## Out-of-Print Books

### HOW TO BUY AN OUT-OF-PRINT BOOK

- Find a good local second-hand book dealer who is willing and able to search for out-of-print books. Your yellow pages will have listings.
- Tell the dealer what you are looking for. Some research as to exact title, author, publisher, and year of publication or reprinting will improve your chances for success.

Book dealers are part of a national or international network, whose members send each other “want” and “available” lists. It is part of a dealer's business to peruse these lists. When and if your requested title is offered on a list, the dealer will contact you and tell you the price (which will include a profit margin for the dealer) and condition of the book. You may then accept or reject the offer. If you accept, be aware that the book may be subject to prior sale and that the condition is relative, e.g. a stained or frayed copy of an otherwise impossible to find book may be a good find.

The process may take a few days to a year or more. A 40% success rate is considered good in many circles of the out-of-print business. Dealers can sometimes give you an estimate of the chances for success.

Two excellent local sources for out-of-print books are Powell's (1005 W. Burnside; 503-228-4651; [www.powells.com](http://www.powells.com)) and Great Northwest Bookstore (1234 SW Stark; 503-223-8098; [www.greatnorthwestbooks.com](http://www.greatnorthwestbooks.com)). Both are within walking distance of the Historical Society.

The Antiquarian Booksellers' Association of America ([www.aba.org](http://www.aba.org)) is the premier professional rare and out-of-print book service in the country.

There are also several online sites devoted to out-of-print books, including Advanced Book Exchange ([www.abebooks.com](http://www.abebooks.com)), Alibris ([www.alibris.com](http://www.alibris.com)), Amazon ([www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)), Bookfinder ([www.bookfinder.com](http://www.bookfinder.com)), Book Look ([booklook.com](http://booklook.com)), and BookSearch ([www.booksearch.com](http://www.booksearch.com)).

