



YBP/L&H Select Profiling Definitions

1. **Basic-Essential.** An important book, and one accessible to all readers on a college or university campus. A work of scholarship that will receive widespread attention within its field and may be read in other fields too. Non-scholarly works such as journalism, memoir, travel, or essays may be categorized here when written by leading authors or are otherwise of exceptional quality and likely to receive prominent notice in review media such as the *New York Times Book Review* or the *Times Literary Supplement*. Works of literature by well-known authors will also fall within this category. Standard or significant new reference works would fall here as well. Works of any kind by significant authors, whose books libraries will need to buy on name alone, will often fall here. A necessary purchase for any library collecting the subject, whether supporting undergraduate, graduate, or professional programs.
2. **Research-Essential.** An important scholarly, technical, or professional book, accessible to many upper-level undergraduates and to most graduate students. Subsequent works of science or scholarship in the field will need to refer to these books. High-quality reference or practical works in narrowly defined, but not esoteric, subject areas may also categorize here. A necessary purchase for any library supporting intensive undergraduate research, or graduate or professional degrees in the subject.
3. **Basic-Recommended.** A scholarly or non-scholarly work accessible to all academic readers and useful to any library collecting in the subject, but not likely to receive the wide notice of an “essential” book. The book’s subject may be one where a great many other books are available, or may be about a subject not heavily studied on most campuses. The book might be written by an author without established reputation, or might be brought out by a secondary publisher. Most literary works will categorize here. Most reference works will categorize here. A desirable purchase for any library collecting the subject, whether supporting undergraduate, graduate, or professional programs.
4. **Research-Recommended.** A scholarly, technical, or professional book accessible to most graduate students and to some undergraduates. Useful to any graduate or professional program, but not likely to receive the scholarly attention of an “essential” book. The book’s subject may be one where a great many other books are available, or may be about a subject not heavily studied on most campuses. The book might be written by an author without established reputation, or might be brought out by a secondary publisher. Books derived from dissertations or conferences, and collections of scholarly articles, will often categorize here. A desirable purchase for any library collecting the subject, whether supporting intensive undergraduate research, or graduate or professional programs.

5. **Specialized.** A scholarly, technical, or professional book accessible or useful *only* to experts in the field, due to difficult or highly esoteric subject matter. A desirable purchase only for libraries supporting advanced research or large professional programs. A necessary purchase only for libraries attempting to approach a comprehensive subject collection.
6. **Supplementary.** Two types of books which most libraries will buy selectively. 1) A book of high quality or note, but written for a lay (non-academic) readership. Examples would be some fiction written by well-known genre authors, non-scholarly books with outstanding illustrations, or guidebooks, textbooks, cookbooks, or travel books of extremely wide appeal or of high quality. Also, highly topical popular books may categorize here. An optional purchase for any library supporting leisure reading or supplementing an academic collection with lay material. 2) An academic book with limited potential readership due to narrow scope or to modest authority.
7. **Not a Select Title.** A marginal purchase for most academic libraries. The subject may be ephemeral, the approach non-academic, or the quality relatively low. Many textbooks, “Popular” level books, guidebooks, and other books intended for a lay readership will categorize here. These books will be of interest primarily to libraries supporting recreational reading, introductory coursework, or special collections; or to libraries wanting to document popular culture. Most academic libraries can be highly selective.