
Subject: Re: Wasting Time with Books

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Sun, 25 Mar 2007 14:59:52 GMT

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David Fanning writes:

- > What I would like to have is a page where famous
- > people in the IDL community (I.e, anyone who has
- > ever posted an article on this newsgroup) lists their
- > top five favorite books (on ANY subject), along with
- > a short note, if they like, about the books.

OK, this is too damn hard. I can't even do it. :-(

Give me no more than 5 books in categories of your own choosing. Some examples of categories that have been coming in so far: Five Best Technical Books, Five Best Novels, Five Books I Would Take to a Desert Island, Five Best Science Books, etc. One or two sentences of description to tell us why you liked that book.

If I get a few more entries, I can publish the page so you can see what people are doing. That might stimulate your thinking. I spent a pleasant 45 minutes wandering around the house last night, looking at books in my own library, scribbling possibilities. And I'm already compiling a list of books to pick up on my next trip to the library!

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: Wasting Time with Books

Posted by [Andrew Cool](#) on Mon, 26 Mar 2007 00:52:01 GMT

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On Mar 25, 11:59 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

> David Fanning writes:

>> What I would like to have is a page where famous
>> people in the IDL community (I.e, anyone who has
>> ever posted an article on this newsgroup) lists their
>> top five favorite books (on ANY subject), along with
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> OK, this is too damn hard. I can't even do it. :-(
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> Give me no more than 5 books in categories of
> your own choosing. Some examples of categories
> that have been coming in so far: Five Best Technical
> Books, Five Best Novels, Five Books I Would Take
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> One or two sentences of description to tell us why
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> wandering around the house last night, looking at books
> in my own library, scribbling possibilities. And I'm already
> compiling a list of books to pick up on my next trip to
> the library!
>
> Cheers,
>
> David

David,

In 1976 I was 19 years old.

The only books I was really interested in started with "Play" and ended with "Boy."

Although I do remember meeting the first great passion of my Life on Feb 26th 1976, at about 7:45 p.m., at approximately lat -34.917943. lon 138.601350

Now that, I could write a book about... ;-)

Andrew

Subject: Re: Wasting Time with Books

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 26 Mar 2007 02:01:03 GMT

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Andrew Cool writes:

> The only books I was really interested in started with "Play" and
> ended with "Boy."

Uh, ok, let me see if I can find a definition of "book"
around here somewhere for you, Andrew. In the meantime, maybe
you could start a new category: Top Five Books (or Whatever)
You Hoped Your Mother Didn't Know About.

I'm pretty sure that list would be the most popular
one of all! ;-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

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Subject: Re: Wasting Time with Books

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 26 Mar 2007 02:33:47 GMT

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Andrew Cool writes:

> The only books I was really interested in started with "Play" and
> ended with "Boy."

And, anyway, what is a 19 year old Aussie male doing
reading skin magazines when you can be down at the beach
ogling the real thing!?

> Although I do remember meeting the first great passion of my Life on
> Feb 26th 1976,
> at about 7:45 p.m., at approximately lat -34.917943. lon 138.601350

Oh, oh. Did I mention my 19 year old son is coming to
Australia for a semester? (I may have overdone my enthusiasm
for Bondi Beach, now that I think about it.) Just don't be
telling him these kinds of stories if you run into him, ok,
Andrew? I want him thinking about colorful birds, not
colorful women. :-(

Cheers,

David

P.S. He is going to be at Macquarie University, outside Sydney. IDL classes in Australia are going to be remarkably cheap for the next six months or so, if you are interested. :-)

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

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Subject: Re: Wasting Time with Books

Posted by [Andrew Cool](#) on Mon, 26 Mar 2007 09:38:07 GMT

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On Mar 26, 11:33 am, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

> Andrew Cool writes:

>> The only books I was really interested in started with "Play" and
>> ended with "Boy."

>

> And, anyway, what is a 19 year old Aussie male doing
> reading skin magazines when you can be down at the beach
> ogling the real thing!?

>

>> Although I do remember meeting the first great passion of my Life on

>> Feb 26th 1976,

>> at about 7:45 p.m., at approximately lat -34.917943. lon 138.601350

>

> Oh, oh. Did I mention my 19 year old son is coming to
> Australia for a semester? (I may have overdone my enthusiasm
> for Bondi Beach, now that I think about it.) Just don't be
> telling him these kinds of stories if you run into him, ok,
> Andrew? I want him thinking about colorful birds, not
> colorful women. :-(

>

> Cheers,

>

> David

Ah, just remember that Sydney pumps its raw sewerage into the sea off Bondi Beach.

Sealife isn't the only thing he'll find floating in the water... ;-)

Andrew

Subject: Re: Wasting Time with Books

Posted by [stin.wang](#) on Tue, 27 Mar 2007 09:22:22 GMT

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On Mar 25, 5:42 am, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

> Folks,
>
> Tired of writing IDL programs? Need something to do at
> work that *looks* like work, but isn't? Then you've
> come to the right place!
>
> I was cleaning though one of my drawers the other day
> and came upon a list of books I had read in 1976. Very
> illuminating. (Well, for me, anyway. I'm not sure about you.)
> In any case, I've decided to keep a list for 2007, too,
> so I can compare it to 30 years ago.
>
> But, of course, now I can do it in a public way so that
> those of you who care about books can make suggestions
> about what I should be reading. Consider this an experiment
> to see what in the world the nerds actual read when they
> aren't writing IDL programs. :-)
>
> I've put the 2007 list here:
>
> http://www.dfanning.com/reading/coyote_reading.html
>
> And the 1976 list here:
>
> http://www.dfanning.com/reading/list_1976.html
>
> What I would like to have is a page where famous
> people in the IDL community (I.e, anyone who has
> ever posted an article on this newsgroup) lists their
> top five favorite books (on ANY subject), along with
> a short note, if they like, about the books. I think
> it would be extremely interesting to see the result.
> You can publish anonymously if you like, but I would
> prefer that you give me permission to publish your
> name along with your list. (No contact information,
> however.) Send me your list!
>
> Cheers,
>
> David
>
> --
> David Fanning, Ph.D.
> Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

> Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming:<http://www.dfanning.com/>
> Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

I'm born in 1977, i had never thought david born so early.
by the way ,you read so many books this year. i can show you a list of
mine this year ,but i'm not sure which one is my faverate.
because i live in china, most of book i read is written in chinese, i
must say it's hard to find a good book about idl. i can buy two books
about idl in market.

i must say these books are poorly helpful, expecially the last one ,
but i can't find other book in china.

other books i read recently are something about Visual base
2005(because i was ask to develop a MIS), and some linux books.
owo, i also read some novels or biographies , like zhuangzi, a
famous ideologist in ancient times.

Subject: Re: Wasting Time with Books
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 30 Mar 2007 18:49:57 GMT
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stin.wang@gmail.com writes:

> I'm born in 1977, i had never thought david born so early.

I think you are confusing me with Coyote, who acts like
an adolescent most of the time. Have you seen his book list?
Shameful!

> i can show you a list of
> mine this year ,but i'm not sure which one is my faverate.
> because i live in china, most of book i read is written in chinese

Alas, I can't read your book list (written in Chinese
characters, probably). But I'm trying hard to figure
out how to get my Tao Te Ching book by Lao Tsu on
a list. Especially now that I am taking Tai Chi
lessons. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

