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Welcome to the June 2007 issue of Problem --> Solution. Our mission is to organize people's lives and this e-mail newsletter is just one of the ways we do that. (For more information on our organizing and relocation services, visit www.crossitoffyourlist.com.) New to our newsletter? Welcome and please contribute your questions and tips.

Are you a book person? Do you have piles of them everywhere? Does just going to the bookstore give you a thrill? Do you have as many unread books as ones you have read? Do you have the best intentions to read them but are interested in so many different things at so many different times? Do you have a shelf of "sometime in this lifetime" books? Boxes in storage with college books and the ones you just can't give away?

Being a book lover is great, of course, but at some point you will probably run out of space for them. That's why, once in a while, you need to take stock. Summer's a great time to see what you have and what you can let go of. I wonder if we need to keep books at all? You can download all kinds of books. Does the computer replace them? Will it ever?

OK-OK-No no no! There is nothing better than curling up with a good book in front of a fire or on the beach. Or spreading them out around you on the floor - looking at lots at the same time - what inspiration in those pages! Can technology replace that?

In this month's issue of Problem --> Solution we offer some ideas for organizing your books.

1 Purge them
 The first step is sort and purge! Look around your home. If your books are piling up next to the bed, couch and coffee table, it's time to purge. "Book people" buy a lot of books every year and keeping them all may not always be an option. If you are a serious reader (or book buyer), purge your books once a year. Let go of the trashy novels, books you bought out of desperation at the airport or the ones you know you'll never read again. Travel books change every year so you don't need to keep those. And kids outgrow books as they get older.

Now take that big pile of discards and move them out! Have your friends come and take what they would like. Donate them to a local library, senior center or thrift shop. Maybe the school has an upcoming book sale/fundraiser coming up - or maybe you should coordinate one for them. Another option is

The Tip Board

From LS in Indianapolis: *Do you have ideas for how to protect and keep my personal journals?*



As they are personal you probably don't want them very accessible. Find some interesting boxes that you can store somewhere, either on a shelf or high in a closet where no one goes. Could be leather, plastic,



selling them. You can easily list your used books on amazon.com or freecycle.com and make a little money back. Think of all the space you'll have for new ones! (See Resource #1 and [this NY Times article with more ideas for giving books away.](#))

2

Organize them

Now that you have only the books you love and want, how do you find that one you need when you need it? The next step is to decide how to categorize them. A common choice is by type: art books, biographies, novels, history, etc.

You may also choose to do it alphabetically by author. Let it be known we have also been asked to organize books by color...if you are so inclined. It looks great on the shelves but don't expect to find anything. And forget the Dewey Decimal System -- it's so "old school."

Want to keep track of what you have online? (See Resource #2)

3

Where to put them

Books in the library, books in the bedroom, books in the bathroom, the hallway, the dining room table!! Where to put them all?

If you are lucky enough to have a library, that's the easy choice. Then think about where you are most likely to use them. It may seem obvious but: cookbooks go in or near the kitchen, kids' books in their rooms or the family or playroom. Reference books (anyone still use a dictionary?) go in the office or near the computer or desk. Novels? Check out the electronic version. (See Resource #3)

That's it for the June Problem -->Solution. If you need help, please call us toll free at 888-XOFFLIST or (212) 725-0122. We'll send an organizer right over to help you get started.

Happy Organizing!
Linda Rothschild
Chief Executive Organizer

"A house without books is like a room without windows."
~Heinrich Mann

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cardboard. Unless you have been writing for years and want to really preserve them, then use archival boxes and paper.

(See: www.gaylord.com)

RESOURCES

Resource 1

[Interesting book shelving](#)

Resource 2

Catalog them online with:

www.librarything.com

or

www.delicious-monster.com

(for Macs)

Resource 3

[Electronic book reader](#)

YOUR TIP HERE

We love a good tag sale and summer is high season. If you have precious items from tag sales gone by or maybe stuff that someone else collected, it could very well be time to send it back out into the universe.

So throw open the garage doors, make a big pitcher of lemonade (or sangria), and organize a group tag sale.

We'd love to hear your stories.

If you have a tip, reply to this message and we may just include it in our next issue. Share your organizing successes!



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