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Humor Lust: Recommended Reading for Every Library Humor Need

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by Barbara Butler

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Oregon Institute of Marine Biology University of Oregon As Nancy Pearl writes in *Book Lust*, "Humor, like beauty, is in the eye of the beholder." Hopefully one or more of these will catch your eye.

When nothing less than the pure humor of a comic book will do:

- Interlibrary Loan Sharks and Seedy ROMs
- Dewey Decimal System Defeats Truman
- Unshelved, Volume 1 (Online too but it is great to have a whole year's worth of them in your hands!)
- What Would Dewey Do (More from the Unshelved folks)
- You Can Tell Your Kid Will Grow Up to Be a Librarian When ...

When you want a collection of amusing anecdotes and stories:

- A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the School Library
- Happy Bookers

For lighthearted satirical observations of librarians, try any of the *Manley* books:

- The Manley Art of Librarianship
- The Truth About Catalogers
- The Truth About Reference Librarians
- Uncensored Thoughts
- Unintellectual Freedoms
- Unprofessional Behavior
- Unsolicited Advice

Slightly more sarcastic, and edgy, but wonderfully wicked:

- Revolting Librarians
- Revolting Librarians Redux
- Biblia's Guide to Warrior Librarianship

Other amusing possibilities:

- Anatomy of a Literary Hoax (A practical joke a librarian would love!)
- BIB/TRIV: Profundities, Banalities and Trivialities in Libraryland (For those interested in the image of librarians this is truly the equivalent of Trivial Pursuit.)
- Library in a Book: Seven Books in One (As a fan of the Griffin and Sabine correspondence I look forward to seeing this item some day. If ILL doesn't work out, a trip to Reed Special Collections is in order.)

"Humor is the great thing, the saving thing, after all. The minute it crops up, all our irritations and resentments slip away, and a sunny spirit takes their place."

Mark Twain