

## Introduction

This is the forty-sixth half-yearly report on average prices of British academic books using data supplied by Blackwell from their primary subject coverage database. It is the fifteenth following the changes in procedures at Blackwell, described in *Average prices of British academic books January to June 2001*.

The overall categories included remain unchanged, and the tables in this report are all calculated on the new index bases. For this reason, individual figures may differ slightly from those published in previous reports.

The new index bases are:

- Half yearly figures based on January to June 1999 = 100
- Calendar year figures based on January to December 1999 = 100
- Academic year figures based on July 1999 to June 2000 = 100

**NB** In the tables of figures the letter (T) after a category indicates that this is the total of all the subcategories above it. A note of (NT) means this is not the total of the above subcategories, but also includes other smaller subcategories not listed in the table.

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## Definitions

### The Data Base

The books included are the selection from all British books published that are included in Blackwell UK Country of Origin Approval Program. These new titles have been chosen by Blackwell as being of interest to librarians in colleges, universities and other institutions operating at a tertiary level of education. The categories in this report should not, therefore, be confused with the categories of “scientific, technical and medical” and “academic and professional” in *The Bookseller* half-yearly analyses of average prices. *The Bookseller* index is based on the Whitaker database, which is a bibliographic database derived from the ISBNs of all those titles submitted to and accepted by them. Their coverage is therefore very broad, includes many titles below tertiary level and includes an appreciable number of titles which originate from non-British publishers. It is, therefore, not helpful to librarians to compare the LISU and *Bookseller* average prices directly with each other as they use different bases for different purposes. As can be seen from the commentary, the results are very different. The LISU reports are expressly designed to assist academic and research librarians in their acquisition of scholarly books at tertiary level and above.

The academic book prices and associated indexes in this report are produced from data supplied by Blackwell, and reflect their coverage of books supplied through their New English Book Selection (NEBS) services, now called the New Titles Department. These services are addressed to academic libraries world wide.

The following three questions and answers will, it is hoped, deal with most questions which may arise about the coverage of the data base.

- 1. What is British?** Books originally published anywhere in the British Isles. Note that the Republic of Ireland is included in this definition. Books manufactured in the British Isles are normally covered by this definition, but not necessarily so.
- 2. What is a book?** The obvious definition applies and includes some mixed media material where the book is the dominant element - e.g. books and microfiche together. Some pamphlet material is included but very little. Loose-leaf and spiral-bound material is generally excluded by Blackwell because of its susceptibility to damage in transit rather than any other consideration. Paperback and hardback formats are both included.
- 3. What is academic?** Academic books are those of interest to the academic libraries: these are institutions of higher learning. Books addressed to secondary school students or below are not covered. Included are textbooks of interest to both undergraduates and advanced students and good quality books, which are primarily intended for the general reader.

The following are excluded:- reprints (not new editions) and paperback reprints of hardbacks still in print, children's books, contemporary fiction by new authors, do-it-yourself books and manuals, books for collectors unless they have some more general interest, catering, gardening, leisure, sheet music, religious books of a devotional character, periodicals and pamphlets of less than 50 pages.

Certain publishers or groups and universities are given only limited coverage, notably HMSO and departments of universities that publish their own material. No publications of corporations outside the conventional publishing industry are included. Publications of quasi governmental bodies are normally excluded.

## Coverage of the Book Categories

Some indication of the more detailed types of books within the current categories may help librarians using the index. In the following lists no attempt has been made to give every primary subject covered by Blackwell but it is hoped that those selected will give an adequate explanation.

### General Works

include societies, meetings, museums, exhibitions, general reference works.

### Fine Arts

include primitive, national, regional, modern, contemporary, by type or subject, by media, history, antiques.

### Architecture

includes landscape architecture and urban planning.

### Performing Arts

(except music) cover theatre, dance, cinema, radio.

### Literary Texts

excludes novels and collections of short stories (fiction) and juvenile books, but poetry and plays are among the categories included.

### Literary Criticism

includes literary biographies.

### Law

includes international law.

### Library Science

includes bibliography, publishing and book selling.

### Mass Communications

includes communication theory, popular culture, media of communication, public opinion and propaganda.

### All Social Sciences

covers the five sections specified plus general social sciences and research methods.

### Military Science

includes naval warfare.

### Sports and Recreation

also includes non-athletic games and international games.

### Applied Interdisciplinary Social Studies

covers a wide range of social problem areas including urbanism, population, poverty, housing, race relations, women, youth, age, leisure, drugs and alcohol.

### General Science

includes the philosophy and history of science.

### All Biological Sciences

covers the four sections specified plus areas such as evolution, genetics, ecology, cytology, bacteriology and virology.

### Earth Sciences

includes mineralogy, petrology, geology, palaeontology, oceanography and meteorology.

### Interdisciplinary Technical Fields

includes cybernetics, theory of organisations, operations research and simulation methods.

### Technology

excludes trades and crafts. In addition to the five categories given the general category includes marine engineering, aeroplane and space technology, mining and nuclear engineering.

### Food and Domestic Science

includes food technology and institutional management.

### Non-clinical Medicine

includes public health and hospitals.

### All Medicine

covers the five sections specified plus such areas as neurology, ENT, obstetrics, paediatrics, geriatrics and anaesthesiology.

### Agriculture and Forestry

includes farm management and horticulture.

### Natural Resources and Conservation

includes energy, land, wildlife and marine resources.

## Introduction

This is the forty-fifth report on the average prices of USA academic books using data supplied by Blackwell from their primary subject coverage database. The first two reports were published by CLAIM (the Centre for Library and Information Management), and when this was replaced by LISU in 1987 the series was re-numbered. This report is thus no. 43 in the LISU series. This series has been re-indexed in line with the UK series – please see the appendix in *Average Prices of British Academic Books January to June 2001* for details.

The new index bases are:

- Half yearly figures based on January to June 1999 = 100
- Calendar year figures based on January to December 1999 = 100
- Academic year figures based on July 1999 to June 2000 = 100

All prices in this report are in US\$. Relevant exchange rates are given on page 14. It is commonly estimated that the typical British academic library will purchase twice as many books from the UK as from the USA. This 2:1 proportion has been used to arrive at a composite index for the *LISU Annual Library Statistics*, and the *Lampost*.

**NB** In the tables of figures the letter (T) after a category indicates that this is the *total* of all the subcategories above it. A note of (NT) means this is *not the total* of the above subcategories, but includes other smaller subcategories not listed separately in the table.

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