

The BASIC SKILLS collections

Available at Milton Keynes Central, Bletchley and Wolverton Libraries only unless otherwise stated.

Community & specialist publishers

AVANTI BOOKS

- Avanti are the major supplier and distributor of basic skills materials in the UK (practically everything here was obtained through them). They also publish a range of simply produced 8 page illustrated texts for beginner adult readers.

BRISTOL COMMUNITY EDUCATION SERVICE

- The 'Black leaders in the freedom struggle' series of readers by Marie Stuart includes Martin Luther King and Mary Seacole among others; not for beginners.

BROWN AND BROWN

- Unassuming well laid out 32 or 40 page readers, some with exercises. One set of titles involves seeing various incidents from the point of view of a range of participants.

CROYDON ENGLISH LANGUAGE SCHEME BOOK GROUP

- The 'Our lives' series of five books describing in their own words the experiences of five immigrants to the UK.

EXEGESIS BOOK CLUB

- A continuation of the Bristol Beginners Reading series. A series of very simple readers based around their lives produced by basic skills students.

GATEHOUSE BOOKS

- One of the early fruits of the early Adult Literacy movement, from Hulme in Manchester, they proudly say, "Gatehouse is a unique publisher. Our writers are adults who are developing their basic reading and writing skills. Their ideas and experiences make fascinating material for any reader, but are particularly relevant for adults working on their reading and writing skills. The writing strikes a chord – a shared experience of struggling against many odds. The format of the books is clear and uncluttered. The language is familiar and the text is often line-broken, so that each line ends at a natural pause."

KING ST. READERS (The North Shropshire College)

- A series of simple readers set in King Street.

NEW ISLAND BOOKS (The Open Door Series)

- The Open Door series of short novels by leading Irish writers including Roddy Doyle and Marian Keyes. "Ideal for improving your reading skills while at the same time enjoying all the benefits of a good story," says the Avanti catalogue To quote from their publicity : "The brainchild of bestselling author Patricia Scanlan, these books were originally commissioned to meet the needs of adults learning to read or improve their literacy skills. They have also become hugely popular with a general audience." Hopefully the future of Basic Skills publishing.

NEW LEAF PUBLISHING (*available at Bletchley, Milton Keynes Central, Newport Pagnell, Olney, Stony Stratford, Westcroft, Woburn Sands and Wolverton Libraries*)

- All beginner readers

Kath Wilcock – Leaving Home
Harold Henry Williams – The Bin Men
Angela Roscoe – In The Doghouse
Sheila Ryan – The Sandals
Chris Curley – The Cardigans
Marjorie Wells – at the Supermarket
Julie Openshaw – Memories of Nana
Thomas Campbell – My Mother
Charmaine Marrochia – The Kit Kat

- All Cool Books

John Tuff – It all started as a joke
Paul Lloyd – Driven ambition
K.C. - I. D.Parade

And

Georgina Conway – My New World
Margaret Taylor – My Life With Joe
Charles Carrington – The Body Builder

NEW READERS PRESS (US: Laubach Literacy International)

- Jack Sloan – a set of Western stories.
- Sully Gomez Mysteries – simple private eye stories.
- Writers Voices series – selections from well known titles from American writers like Maya Angelou and Stephen King.

USA : READERS HOUSE (US: Literary Volunteers of NYC)

- Our World – selections from non-fiction modern classics.
- New Writers Voices – writings from graduates of the literacy programme including some anthologies.

SPIKE PRESS

- Sally McKeon's set of books is aimed at adults who are beginner readers. All her books have large print and black and white illustrations. The stories on average consist of 30-75 words per page. Including the 'Survivors', 'Small ads' and 'First steps in crime' series.

Series from Mainstream educational publishers

CAMBRIDGE ENGLISH READERS (Cambridge UP) : “original new series of original fiction, specially written for learners of English.”

HEINEMANN ELT Guided Readers – original and simplified stories ranging from starter to intermediate level.

LIVEWIRE (Hodder & Stoughton in association with The Basic Skills Agency)

- Livewire Classics – abridged versions of classic (mostly nineteenth century) short stories eg. Charles Dickens’ ‘A Christmas Carol’, Mark Twain’s ‘The celebrated jumping frog’.
- Livewire Chillers – specially written “thrilling stories full of suspense”.
- Livewire Real Lives – ancient and modern, from Joan of Arc and Sitting Bull to Muhammad Ali and Britney Spears.
- Livewire Investigates – all sorts of things from volcanoes to basketball, from the Black Death to bungee jumping.

OXFORD BOOKWORMS (Oxford UP)

- Oxford Bookworms Factfile – graded series starting with a 400 word vocabulary covering a wide range of topics.
- Oxford Bookworms Library – “enjoyable reading in English at six language stages ... [offering] ... a wide range of fiction, both classic and modern.”

PENGUIN READERS : simplified texts designed to provide a step-by-step approach to the joys of reading for pleasure. From beginner (300 word vocabulary) to Upper intermediate (2300 words).

SPIRALS (Stanley Thornes) and NEW SPIRALS (Nelson Thornes) : popular long established series of short (no longer than 50 pages) original stories for reluctant readers.

Milton Keynes Libraries



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