



Home Library

The Five-Foot Shelf adapted for EO: what will fit into five feet of shelf space to provide the essential home reference library? Think of the list as information sources every home executive should know well and you'll regret having wasted any second of good schooling.

1. Bible
2. Concordance
3. One Volume Commentary: *Bible Knowledge Commentary* edited by Walvoord, John; *Believer's Bible Commentary* by MacDonald, William; *Matthew Henry's Commentary* by Henry, Matthew.
4. Hymnbook: *Great Hymns of the Faith* ed. Peterson; *Hymns of Grace and Glory* ed. Pinkston, Joan
5. Creation Text: *Unlocking the Mysteries of Creation* by Peterson, David
6. Basic Reference Cookbook: *Joy of Cooking* by Rombauer, Marion
7. Basic Housekeeping Book: *Home Comforts* by Mendelssohn, Cheryl
8. Basic Health/Medical Guide: we just used whatever the health insurance provided as a guide; now mostly online information. If you never studied Anatomy and Physiology, start with *The Human Body: Fearfully and Wonderfully Made* by Wile, Jay L.)
9. Etiquette Book: routinely bring teaching-manners-to-children books home from the library; pick up a Miss Manners/Emily Post tome at a used book sale
10. World History Text: *Western Civilization* by Spielvogel, Jackson J. (expensive)
11. American History Text:
12. Consumer Math Text:
13. Basic Earth Science Text:
14. Basic Sewing Guide: *Reader's Digest Complete Guide to Sewing* (still available, though new editions available as well)
15. Basic Home Repair Guide: *Reader's Digest*, *Better Homes and Gardens*, and Home Depot always have new editions of helpful books
16. Poetry Book: *Favorite Poems Old and New* compiled by Ferris, Helen
17. *Pilgrim's Progress* by Bunyan, John
18. *Complete Works of Shakespeare*
19. *Tales from Shakespeare* by Lamb, Charles and Mary (a good book to read to young children to familiarize them with Shakespeare)
20. Music Appreciation Text: *The Enjoyment of Music* by Machlis, Forney

Another in a series of home oversight helps and forms from Priority Stewardship. See PriorityStewardship.com or contact prioritystewardship@gmail.com.

Ask yourself: what do I know about each of these topics? How can I inform myself about the scope of information included in such books if I don't have the books themselves to refer to? Can I readily access any of this information whenever I would need it by another means if I don't have the books?

Disclaimers: Every book needs previewing for your family. Determine how your family will handle naked bodies in art and medical information. Know how Scripture addresses moral dilemmas and use that framework to shape your family principles and discussions.

Self-censoring: removing pages, blacking out words, or using stickers to cover inappropriate material is an option for any parent for materials you own in your home. Generally, it is best to call body parts and functions by standard medical terms and deal with them as the facts of life they are.