

Books of All Sorts

Suggested use:

These are tables for adding some flavorful books to any library, study, or treasure hoard... I've expanded each in-line sub-table to d6, so once I get a cheat sheet made, I can throw a d20 and d6 together to generate a topic for a book in a single toss.

d20 The book's subject is...

1. Alchemy and potions (d6): 1. healing tonics; 2. metallurgy; 3. pyromancy; 4. poisoncraft; 5. potionmaking; 6. recipes.
2. Art and architecture (d6): 1. fortresses and palaces; 2. painting; 3. sketching; 4. sculpture; 5. stonemasonry; 6. temples and tombs.
3. Astronomy and astrology (d6): 1. comets; 2. constellations; 3. moon; 4. sun; 5. stars; 6. strange phenomena.
4. Beast lore (d6): 1. domestic beasts; 2. habits; 3. handling; 4. husbandry; 5. poisonous beasts; 6. regional bestiary.
5. Demonology (d6): 1. conjurings; 2. exorcisms; 3. fiendish bargains; 4. fiendish bestiary; 5. fiendish realms; 6. fiendish symbols.
6. Divination (d6): 1. anthropomancy; 2. crystal gazing; 3. oneiromancy; 4. palm reading; 5. tarot cards; 6. tea leaves.
7. Healing arts (d6): 1. alchemical remedies; 2. anatomy; 3. herbal remedies; 4. prayers; 5. rituals; 6. surgery.
8. Herb lore (d6): 1. healing herbs; 2. mushrooms; 3. poisons; 4. roots; 5. trees; 6. wildflowers.
9. History (d6): 1. ancient; 2. cultural; 3. economic; 4. military; 5. political; 6. regional.
10. Languages (d6): 1. ancient; 2. forbidden; 3. exotic; 4. grammar and punctuation; 5. translations; 6. traveler's phrases.
11. Literary fiction (d6): 1. adventure; 2. fairy tales, 3. folk tales, 4. murder mystery; 5. romance; 6. satire.
12. Mining and mineralogy (d6): 1. gems; 2. metals; 3. mining sties; 4. strategy; 5. rocks; 6. smithing.
13. Music and songs (d6): 1. heroic ballads; 2. love ballads; 3. bawdy tunes; 4. dirges and laments; 5. hymns; 6. musical theory.
14. Necromancy (d6): 1. animation; 2. corpses; 3. lichdom; 4. spirits and souls; 5. undead bestiary; 6. vampirism.
15. Plays (d6): 1. comedy; 2. drama; 3. history; 4. romance; 5. satire; 6. tragedy.
16. Poetry and music (d6): 1. ballads; 2. bawdy songs; 3. epic poetry; 4. hymns; 5. love poetry; 6. lyric poetry.
17. Prophecies and omens (d6): 1. apocalypse; 2. astronomical events; 3. birds; 4. dreams; 5. visions; 6. weather.
18. Theology (d6): 1. afterlife; 2. rituals and practices; 3. saints and martyrs; 5. sacred symbols; 6. sacred texts.
19. True magic (d6): 1. elementalism; 2. enchantment; 3. illusions; 4. summoning; 5. teleportation and travel; 6. warding.
20. Travel and trade (d6): 1. ancient ruins; 2. exotic travelogue; 3. economics and taxation; 4. foreign cultures; 5. regional landmarks and terrain; 6. trade routes.

d10 The book's condition is...

1. Worn and tattered.
2. Poor. An ink stain obscures a fair amount of the pages.
3. Accidentally damaged. Various water damage around the edges but readable.
4. Vandalized. It appears that a good dozen pages have been ripped out.
5. Deliberately damaged. Towards the middle there is a section hollowed out. In this hiding place, you find (d6): 1. a locket; 2. a knife; 3. a small hammer; 4. a small scroll; 5. a vial of mysterious liquid; 6. a ring.

6. Badly damaged. A lot of the ink has run through water damage and it is nearly illegible.
7. Ancient. The pages crumble as they turn.
8. Strange. The pages are blank?
9. Good, but used. There are handwritten notes in the margins of the pages.
10. Pristine. You can smell the ink drying.

d12 The book's cover is...

1. Missing. The pages are bound with string woven through holes near the spine.
2. Stained leather. Some sign of wear.
3. Wooden. The title is carved into the spine.
4. Paperback.
5. Animal hide. The fur is still on.
6. Stone. Iron rings hold it together.
7. Cast Iron. Hinges keep it bound.
8. Leather with gemstones embedded in it.
9. Leather with the title branded on it.
10. Leather with gilding on the spine.
11. Torn off. It's kept together by a leather belt.
12. Tree Bark. Dried vine binds it.

d10 The book is...

1. A standalone volume, the author's only published work.
2. A standalone volume, the author's only surviving work.
3. A standalone volume, written by a prolific but obscure author.
4. A standalone volume, written by a well-known author.
5. The sequel to a book by the same author.
6. A part of a series with 3-9 books.
7. A single volume of a larger work with 4-15 volumes.
8. An edition of a regularly published book with multiple authors.
9. A collection of works by the same author.
10. An anthology of works by several authors.