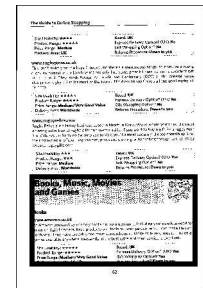


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Books, Music, Movies and Games

Books

www.amazon.co.uk

At Amazon you can buy not only books but so much more, including your new Kenwood food mixer or digital camera, baby products and tools for your garden, which can make life rather confusing. They have probably the most comprehensive range of books, music, movies and games available anywhere, frequently at the best price and their service is excellent.

Site Usability: ★★★★★
Product Range: ★★★★★
Price Range: **Medium/Very Good Value**
Delivery Area: **Worldwide**

Based: **UK**
Express Delivery Option? (UK) **Yes**
Gift Wrapping Option? **Yes**
Returns Procedure? **Down to you**

www.abebooks.co.uk

This is the worldwide marketplace for rare, second-hand and out-of-print books. You just need to know the title or the author and if it's available it'll be found immediately. You can then narrow your search to see only first editions, or signed copies, among other options. For special gifts this would be an excellent website as you can choose from a selection of real collectors' items, alternatively you can simply track down that book you lost some years ago and always wanted to read again.

Site Usability: ★★★★★
Product Range: ★★★★★
Price Range: **Luxury/Medium**
Delivery Area: **Worldwide**

Based: **UK**
Express Delivery Option? (UK) **No**
Gift Wrapping Option? **No**
Returns Procedure? **Down to you**

www.bookbrain.co.uk

These are two excellent places where you can compare book prices and see who has the book you're looking for in stock to send out immediately. They're both very easy to use. They're not really for buying ordinary paperbacks, although you can use them for that if you want to but when you've found a special hardback that you want to give as a gift next week and you're being quoted 4-6 weeks delivery, you may be able to find another bookshop who has it ready to send out. At the same time you can also compare the prices from all the bookstores.

www.blackwell.co.uk

If you prefer a less busy book website then pay a visit to Blackwell's of Oxford, established in 1879 and an online store for over ten years. What you'll find here is a really excellent and more personal service with a clear path through to the various departments: Fiction, Leisure and Lifestyle, Science, Humanities, Arts, Medical, Business Finance and Law. There are some good discounts to be found and shipping is free to the UK on orders over £20.

Site Usability: ★★★★★
Product Range: ★★★★★
Price Range: **Luxury/Medium**
Delivery Area: **Worldwide**

Based: **UK**
Express Delivery Option? (UK) **Yes**
Gift Wrapping Option? **No**
Returns Procedure? **Down to you**

www.bookgiant.com

Next time you're looking for a new book take a quick look at bookgiant.com. They don't have anything like the range of some other bookstores but what they do have are very good offers, with special editions (usually small hardbacks) of brand new titles at up to 60% off the normal price. Postage and packing are free if you order three items or more, otherwise it's just £1 and you need to register to order (so they can send you regular updates and keep your details to make your next order even quicker).

Site Usability: ★★★★★
Product Range: ★★★
Price Range: **Very Good Value**
Delivery Area: **Worldwide**

Based: **UK**
Express Delivery Option? (UK) **No**
Gift Wrapping Option? **No**
Returns Procedure? **Down to you**

www.borders.co.uk

Here you can sign up for Borders Email, which means that you'll be the first to find out about their in-store promotions, take part in their competitions, find out about events near you and join their new Book Group. If you want to order a book online you can just click straight through to their partner website at www.amazon.co.uk.

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Site Usability: ★★★★★
Product Range: ★★★★★
Price Range: Medium/Very Good Value
Delivery Area: Worldwide through amazon.co.uk

Based: UK
Express Delivery Option? (UK) Yes
Gift Wrapping Option? Yes
Returns Procedure? Free

www.compman.co.uk

This site started off as a computer books website and has moved into general educational books and fiction. So you can buy the latest John Grisham alongside Selected Papers on Particle Image Velocimetry: help! The site is very clearly laid out and you can see exactly what's in stock or on limited availability. Some of the discounts are very good. Standard delivery is 1-2 days and is free on orders over a small amount which varies.

Site Usability: ★★★★★
Product Range: ★★★
Price Range: Medium
Delivery Area: Worldwide

Based: UK
Express Delivery Option? (UK) Yes
Gift Wrapping Option? No
Returns Procedure? Down to you

www.hatchards.co.uk

Hatchards, booksellers since 1797, is the oldest surviving bookshop in London and is now based in its luxurious quarters at 187 Piccadilly, right next door to Fortnum and Mason. Not only do they offer a very good choice of titles in hardback and paperback, from fiction, children's books, art and architecture, biography, food and wine, gardening, history and humour but they also specialise in signed and special editions and what they call VIPs (Very Important Publications); their recommendations for the season.

Site Usability: ★★★★★
Product Range: ★★★★★
Price Range: Luxury/Medium
Delivery Area: Worldwide

Based: UK
Express Delivery Option? (UK) Yes
Gift Wrapping Option? No
Returns Procedure? Down to you

www.jonkers.co.uk

Jonkers specialise in modern first editions, fine illustrated books, classic children's fiction and 19th century literature. So if you have a goddaughter who might appreciate a first edition of Michael Bond's Paddington Goes to Town you'll find it here, plus AA Milne, Enid Blyton, Lewis Carroll and many more. Because some of these books are very expensive and precious (up into the £1,000s) you can't order online but need to phone them using their Freephone number.

Site Usability: ★★★★★
Product Range: ★★★
Price Range: Luxury
Delivery Area: Worldwide

Based: UK
Express Delivery Option? (UK) No
Gift Wrapping Option? No
Returns Procedure? Down to you

www.thebookplace.com

If you want a new bookshop to look at you could have a browse on this very clear site, which offers an extremely wide range and shows availability as soon as you search for your book.

They also have a good selection of signed copies which would make excellent gifts and you can read the weekly press reviews on the latest releases. Postage is £2.75 per single book order plus £0.50 for each additional book and they also offer worldwide shipping and express delivery.

Site Usability: ★★★★★
Product Range: ★★★★★
Price Range: Medium
Delivery Area: Worldwide

Based: UK
Express Delivery Option? (UK) Yes
Gift Wrapping Option? Yes
Returns Procedure? Down to you

www.waterstones.com

Waterstone's website is extremely clear and easy to use and a lot less cluttered than many of the online bookstores. You can browse categories from the home page menu which includes areas such as Business, Finance and Law, Computing, Education and Comics and Graphic Novels alongside the more usual Fiction, Children's Books, Food and Drink and Sport. Delivery is free on orders over £15 within the UK and they offer surface or courier services for international orders.

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Site Usability: ★★★★★
Product Range: ★★★★★
Price Range: **Medium**
Delivery Area: **Worldwide**

Based: **UK**
Express Delivery Option? (UK) **Yes**
Gift Wrapping Option? **Yes**
Returns Procedure? **Down to you**

www.whsmith.co.uk

On WHSmith's easy-on-the-eye website you can buy books (often at very good discounts), all the latest DVDs, music and computer games plus a small selection from their stationery ranges. There's also a wide range of gift ideas, including original historic newspapers and commemorative sporting books and you can subscribe at a discount to all your favourite magazines. The difference here from a lot of book/music/games websites is that it's clear and simple to get round but also has an excellent choice.

Site Usability: ★★★★★
Product Range: ★★★★★
Price Range: **Medium**
Delivery Area: **UK**

Based: **UK**
Express Delivery Option? (UK) **No**
Gift Wrapping Option? **No**
Returns Procedure? **Down to you**

Music, Movies and Games

www.best-cd-price.co.uk

Know the CD you want to buy but want to make sure you get the best price? Use this price comparison website, which not only shows where you'll find the best deal but includes the postage details as well so you absolutely know where you are. This website is almost unbelievably quick to use and you can use it for DVDs and games as well. As an example, if you do a search on Take That, Beautiful World, you'll be given eleven places where you can buy it online, with prices from £8.79 to £12.60. Quite a difference, I'm sure you'll agree.

www.cdwow.com

You'll find some of the best prices around here and again this site covers all mediums from CDs and DVDs to computer games. Because their prices are so good it would be worth purchasing gift vouchers here as you can be sure that the recipient will get a good deal, whatever they choose to spend them on. They offer free delivery worldwide for all items and regular special offers.

Site Usability: ★★★★★
Product Range: ★★★★★
Price Range: **Medium/Very Good Value**
Delivery Area: **Worldwide**

Based: **UK**
Express Delivery Option? (UK) **No**
Gift Wrapping Option? **No**
Returns Procedure? **Down to you**

www.game.co.uk

Whether you have an Xbox 360, Wii, PSP, Nintendo DS Lite (or whatever the latest gaming station is), you'll find a huge range of games here for all of them plus the consoles themselves and accessories. I have to be careful here as things will no doubt have moved on by the time you're reading this so check out this site to find out what's new and hot. They also offer a reward points system - a very good idea as loyalty to game sites is thin on the ground due to the amount of competition.

Site Usability: ★★★★★
Product Range: ★★★★★
Price Range: **Medium/Very Good Value**
Delivery Area: **Worldwide**

Based: **UK**
Express Delivery Option? (UK) **Yes for UK**
Gift Wrapping Option? **No**
Returns Procedure? **Down to you**

www.hmv.co.uk

The HMV shops on Oxford Street and within Selfridges are usually the first places that my kids want to hit on a trip to London and I quite understand why, because no matter if you're looking for chart CDs or DVDs or something a bit harder to find, they're bound to have it. Up till now their online store has not matched their offline presence but that's all now changed. The website is super easy to navigate and there's an excellent choice. As they're a retailer you're almost bound to know, you may well want to buy here.

Site Usability: ★★★★★
Product Range: ★★★★★
Price Range: **Medium/Very Good Value**
Delivery Area: **Worldwide**

Express Delivery Option? (UK) **Yes and Worldwide Express**
Gift Wrapping Option? **Yes**
Returns Procedure? **Down to you**

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Based: UK

www.uk.gamestracker.com

However much you may dislike those extremely noisy (and too often violent) computer games, you won't want your precious ones spending more of their not-so-hard-earned pocket money than they need to. If you want to get them the latest game for Christmas or they want to choose one themselves then send them to Games Tracker, where you/they can compare the prices with all the retailers for any specific game and get the deal of the moment.

Site Usability: ★★★★★
Product Range: ★★★★★
Price Range: **Medium/Very Good Value**
Delivery Area: **Worldwide**

Based: UK
Express Delivery Option? (UK) **No**
Gift Wrapping Option? **No**
Returns Procedure? **Down to you**

www.play.com

Music, movies, games and books all at very good prices with delivery included are available from this Channel Islands-based website. They offer a huge range of films on DVD, CDs and games for all systems plus special offers such as two DVDs for £12, 30% off specific boxed sets and 40% off a wide choice of current releases. Because delivery is included you can order individual items as often as you want to rather than having to group orders together to save on postage.

Site Usability: ★★★★★
Product Range: ★★★★★
Price Range: **Medium/Very Good Value**
Delivery Area: **Worldwide**

Based: Channel Islands
Express Delivery Option? (UK) **No**
Gift Wrapping Option? **No**
Returns Procedure? **Down to you**

www.sendit.com

The difference here as this is yet another website offering games consoles, games, DVDs and computer peripherals and software is the service. Not only do they offer a courier service within the UK to make sure your order arrives when you need it, free UK delivery and speedy worldwide delivery but also gift certificates and gift wrapping on most items with which they can include your personal message and you can even choose your wrapping paper.

Site Usability: ★★★★★
Product Range: ★★★★★
Price Range: **Medium/Very Good Value**
Delivery Area: **Worldwide**

Based: Northern Ireland
Express Delivery Option? (UK) **Yes**
Gift Wrapping Option? **Yes**
Returns Procedure? **Down to you**

www.virginmegastores.co.uk

On their sleek gunmetal grey website Virgin make it easy for you to order all the latest releases and pre-order the next 'must-have' CDs, DVDs and games. They don't, as most music websites do, always give you the full and discounted price information and they may not be the cheapest but if you compare prices you'll find they're not the top end either. The benefit here is that all the information is very clear and that UK delivery is free of charge.

Site Usability: ★★★★★
Product Range: ★★★★★
Price Range: **Medium/Very Good Value**
Delivery Area: **UK and ROI**

Based: UK
Express Delivery Option? (UK) **No**
Gift Wrapping Option? **No**
Returns Procedure? **Down to you**

