







# Personal Library Tools Comparison

## Social Software for Readers' Advisory

| Feature                                    |  |    |   |
|--|---|---|--|
| <b>Primary focus</b>                       | Social network  | Deep collections; can have organization account as well as personal account   | Visual display   |
| <b>Ownership</b>                           | Privately owned   | Private owner with an MLIS + ABE Books (which was bought by Amazon)   | Amazon   |
| <b>Source of data</b>                      | Amazon  | Amazon, WorldCat and libraries  | Amazon   |
| <b>Cost of service</b>                     | Free  | First 200 books free; \$25 for lifetime unlimited membership  | Free   |
| <b>Ads</b>                                 | On far right of book pages  | No ads but links between Amazon and other book vendors  | Everywhere on the edges  |
| <b>“Shelves” available</b>                 | Read, Currently Reading, To Read and also Wishlist*, Bookswap*                    | Known as “Set Collections” instead of “Shelves”, options are Your Library, Wishlist, Currently Reading, To Read, Read But Unowned, Favorites and the option to create and name your own collections | One shelf where you may toggle between I Plan to Read, I’m Reading, I’ve Read and also Favorites*, Own*, Wish List* - you can select how you’d like these to display |
| <b>Add reviews &amp; ratings</b>           | Yes; 5 star system  | Yes; 5 star system; with permission will give your reviews to commercial and non-commercial entities  | Yes; 5 star system   |
| <b>Book Swapping</b>                       | Yes   | Yes   | No   |
| <b>Find friends</b>                        | Yes   | Yes   | Yes  |
| <b>Find groups</b>                         | Yes   | Yes   | Yes  |
| <b>Import lists</b>                        | Yes; from spreadsheet or Amazon wish list   | Yes, from spreadsheet, Amazon wish list and more  | Yes  |
| <b>Export lists</b>                        | No  | Yes, as spreadsheet   | Yes, as spreadsheet  |
| <b>Tagging</b> (natural language keywords) | Yes   | Yes   | Yes  |
| <b>Cataloging</b> (download book data)     | Yes   | Yes   | Yes  |
| <b>Customer support</b>                    | Blog, FAQ, forums and e-mail  | Blog, HelpThing Wiki; newsletter; Contact Us page includes e-mail/Twitter and snail mail  | Blog, FAQ and forums – no way to contact them directly   |
|  |   |   |  |

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| <b>Data display</b>                            | Adjustable from 10 to 200 book covers at a time; must have Librarian Status to add book covers   | Adjustable from 5 to 200 book covers at a time; can add book cover if one doesn't download automatically; can change display data format with templates   | Adjustable from 5 to 36 book covers at a time; cannot add book covers               |
| <b>Apps, widgets and feeds</b>                 | Bebo, Blog, Facebook, MySpace, Twitter plus Windows Live, FriendFeed and Yahoo   | Blog, Facebook; can add titles via smart phone  | Blog widget, Facebook as Visual Book Shelf but does not "push" to Facebook          |
| <b>API (application programming interface)</b> | Encourages API development   | Encourages API development  | No  |
| <b>Extras</b>                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• can get Librarian Status so you can edit cataloging data<br/><a href="http://www.goodreads.com/help/librarian">http://www.goodreads.com/help/librarian</a></li> <li>• can win giveaways (ARCs)</li> <li>• ebooks tab</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sign up for free books as an Early Reviewer</li> <li>• purchase CueCat scanner to quickly enter books by ISBN</li> <li>• earn badges for what you contribute Local page includes libraries and bookstores in your community</li> <li>• list your other SM profiles</li> <li>• view your statistics/memes</li> <li>• how can you resist a tab named Zeitgeist?</li> </ul> |   |
| <b>Feature</b>                                 |    |   |  |