Book List for a Prepared Library

By: Ahab

Books are wonderful things. They capture knowledge and store it, ready for your use when you need it. Able to enlighten, entertain, and illustrate different points of view. While CD-ROMs have become popular for storing vital information, especially preparedness information, the book still can not be topped. Books don't require power to use, and while the storage is bulky, so much more information is out there in book form, creating a good survival library is relatively fun and easy.

Below is an organized (ok… semi-organized) list of the books I count as part of my survival library. I broke the list down into several large categories, and will spend a moment or two talking about each category as an intro to that portion of the list.

My library is always growing. In compiling this list I saw 'holes' in my coverage, and I would welcome any and all feedback on this list and things you would recommend I get to add to it. Also, with your own library, I would recommend covering all areas with books, even areas where you consider yourself an expert. Down the road it may not be you needing a book, it may be your spouse or child.

The listings in each category will show the TITLE, AUTHOR, ISBN NUMBER, and CATEGORY. I am listing the categories alphabetically, not in any particular 'order of importance'. I view all of these books as important in their own way. To find a book, you can just copy the ISBN number and paste it in at amazon.com on their search engine.

CATEGORY 1: Automotive

This category should have repair manuals for your current vehicles, and general automotive books to get you through most repairs and maintenance of vehicles. Currently my list here is very inadequate. One, I no longer own the particular vehicle listed, and two, I don't have general repair books. While I may know my way around basic automotive repair, there are plenty of people in my family that don't, and one day I may need them to do something on there own while I work on something else.

Haynes Repair Manual, Chevy and GMC Pickups 88-00	1-56392-426-9	Automotive

CATEGORY 2: Fiction

Survival fiction can play an important role by illustrating various disasters and how the people in the book deal with the situation they are put in. Some books in this category were written as a survival guide with a thin layer of story on top of it to hold it all together (see Patriots). Some stories illustrate the stress that will befall people, and the problems that can arise from personality conflict in high stress environments. Bottom line, I feel each of these books has something to offer besides the basic entertainment of the story itself. This is not a complete list of survival fiction, just what I feel is a ‘greatest hits’ of my own collection. There is doubtless something to learn from any book of this genre.

Alas, Babylon	Frank, Pat	0-553-20586-2	Nuclear War	The "Granddaddy" of survival stories, outdated but a classic
Earth Abides	Stewart, George	0-449-21301-3	Virus	A chronicle of 50+ years after a virus wipes out mankind.
Lucifer's Hammer	Niven, Larry	0-345-42139-6	Meteor	Excellent on every level, touches on many topics and is a fantastic read
Mother of Storms	Barnes, John	0-812-53345-3	Global Warming	Futuristic story of rampant hurricanes, seems more likely after this past year.
On the Beach	Shute, Nevil	0-345-31148-5	Nuclear War	Heartbreaking story of the death of humanity, how people deal

				with disaster
Patriots, Surviving the Coming Collapse	Rawles, James Wesley	1-56834-155-X	Economic Collapse	My copy has 3 colors of highlighter in it. A how-to guide with a story brushed over.
Swan Song	McCammon, Robert	0-671-74103-9	Nuclear War	Fantasy/SciFi but a realistic backdrop of a nuclear ravaged america.
The Coming Global Superstorm	Bell, Art	0-671-04190-8	Global Warming	See the movie "Day After Tomorrow"? Here is the book.
The Last Ship	Brinkley, William	0-345-35982-8	Nuclear War	A tough read but worth it, detailed character/stress problems
The New Madrid Run	Reisig, Michael	0-9651240-1-0	Pole Shift	A pole shift causes weather disaster, a "bug out" story on boats
War Day	Striber, Whitley	0-446-32630-5	Nuclear War	A journal of a tour of the USA after limited nuclear war

CATEGORY 3: Food

This category can be filled with cookbooks, but the primary books here deal with food storage, using bulk stored foods, foraging and gardening. Canning should also be included here. We do not have the books on it yet, but I have listed a book that we will be getting ASAP.

Cold Smoking and Salt-Curing Meat, Fish	Livingston, A. D.	1-55821-442-4
Cookin with Beans and Rice	Layton, Peggy	none
Cookin with Dried Eggs	Layton, Peggy	1-893519-03-1
Cookin with Home Storage	Layton, Peggy	1-893-519-01-5
Cookin with Processed Milk	Layton, Peggy	1-813519-02-3
Root Cellaring	Bubel, Mike	0-88266-740-8
The Amazing Wheat Book	Moulton, LeArta	0-935596-13-5
The Canning, Freezing, Curing, Smoking of Meat, Fish and Game	Eastman, Wilbur	0-88266-045-4
The Sprouting Book	Wigmore, Ann	0-89529-

		246-7
Too Many Tomatos, Beans….	Myers, Laura	0-06-09857-5
Edible Wild Plants	Elias, Thomas	0-442-22200-9
Field Guide to Edible Wild Plants	Angier, Bradford	0-8117-2018-7

Here is the canning book to start with:

Ball Blue Book of Preserving	Alltrista Consumer Products	972753702

Category 4: Homestead

It turned out I'd lumped nearly half the books into Homestead, so I have broken the category down.

Category 4A: Homestead / Compilations

These books cover a large variety of topics centered around the self-sufficient household.

Backwoods Home Anthology 1 to 10		www.backwoodshome.com 'nuff said.
Big Book of Country Living	Seton, Ernest	1-58574-032-2
The Encyclopaedia of Country Living	Emery, Carla	0-912365-95-1
The Foxfire Book	Wiggington, Eliot	0-385-07353-4
The Foxfire Book 02	Wiggington, Eliot	0-385-02267-0
The Foxfire Book 03	Wiggington, Eliot	0-385-02272-7

The Foxfire Book 04	Wiggington, Eliot	0-385-12087-7
The Foxfire Book 05	Wiggington, Eliot	0-385-14308-7
The Foxfire Book 06	Wiggington, Eliot	0-385-15272-8
The Foxfire Book 07	Gillespie, Paul	0-385-15244-2
The Foxfire Book 08	Wiggington, Eliot	0-385-17741-0
The Foxfire Book 09	Wiggington, Eliot	0-385-17744-5
The Foxfire Book 10	Reynolds, George	0-385-42276-8
The Foxfire Book 11	Collins, Kaye	0-385-49461-0
The Independent Home	Potts, Michael	0-930031-65-2
When Technology Fails	Stein, Matthew	1-57416-046-X

Category 4B: Homestead / Construction

These books illustrate how to build and maintain buildings, barns, shelters, fences, bridges, etc. In a long-term survival situation, additional room may be needed for people, livestock or equipment.

Barns and Outbuildings	Tripp, Nathaniel (ed)	1-58574-118-3	
Building Small Barns and Sheds	Burch, Monte	0-88266-245-7	
Country Plumbing	Hartigan, Gerry	0-911469-02-8	Septic system maintenance
Fences, Gates and Bridges	Martin, George	0-911469-08-7	

How to Build a Junkyard Still	Brown, Michael	none	Ok, so a guilty pleasure was included here and there…
Nuclear War Survival Skills	Kearny, Cresson	0-942487-01-X	Listed here due to comprehensive shelter construction
Radiation Safety in Shelters	FEMA	none	Copy of this goes with book above
Shelters, Shacks and Shanties	Beard, D. C.	1-55821-952-8	
The Home Water Supply	Campbell, Stu	0-88266-324-0	Getting and storing water
The Homestead Builder	Dwyer, C. P.	1-55821-728-2	
The Septic System Owners Manual	Kahn, Lloyd	0-936070-20-X	
Village and Country Residences	Reed, S. B.	1-58574-008-X	Old homes didn't have HVAC, it matters when you build.

Category 4C: Homestead / Crafts and Skills

These skill books not only show how to make useful items, but items that could have barter value as well.

Mountainman Crafts and Skills	Montgomery, David	1-58574-066-7	
Native American Crafts and Skills	Montgomery, David	1-58574-070-5	
Old Ways of Working Wood	Bealer, Alex	0-7858-0710-1	
Tan Your Hide!	Hobson, Phyllis	0-88266-101-9	Tanning, not disciplining your child.
The Candlemakers Companion	Oppenheimer, Betty	0-88266-994-X	
The Soapmakers Companion	Cavitch, Susan	0-88266-965-6	

Category 4D: Homestead / Farming

Farming, and gardening are subjects that are written about at length, but there is no teacher like actual experience. Most of these books are on farm machines, etc. from the 1800's that make farming easier without modern power requirements.

Farm Appliances	Martin, George	1-55821-888-2
Farm Blacksmithing	Drew, J. M.	1-58574-

		097-7	
Farm Conveniences	anonymous	1-55821-727-4	
Farm Machinery	Davidson, Brownlee	1-55821-951-X	
Farm Motors	Davidson, Brownlee	1-58574-007-1	
Five Acres and Independence	Kains, M. G.	0-486-20974-1	Good guide on small scale farming
Handy Farm Devices	Cobleigh, Rolfe	1-55821-432-1	

Category 4E: Homestead / Home Life

Ah, the catch-all of the catch-all section. These books are of various topics, but the general theme here is "inside the home" subjects.

Baking Soda, 1001 uses	Lansky, Vicki	0-916773-42-6	I didn’t know about 995 of these.
Henley's 20th Century Book of 10,000 Formulas	Hiscox, Gardner (ed)	0-87781-028-1	Old book of formulas for household projects and repair

Henley's Formulas for Home	Hiscox, Gardner (ed)	0-517-293072	Same book as above, different ISBN
How to do just about Everything	Rosen, Courtney	0-7432-1110-3	At home fix-it / repair and create book. Mostly modern topics
How to Figure It	Hurr, Darrell	0-393-31924-5	Good book on ‘practical’ math for the home
How to Hide Anything	Connor, Michael	0-87364-289-9	Fun book on creating hiding places in and around home
Make it Last	Proulx, Earl	0-87593-296-3	Home item repair
Practical Problem Solver	Proulx, Earl	0-89909-375-2	Great compilation of home and farm fixes
The Big Book of Revenge	Hayduke, George	0-8065-2141-4	Included for entertainment purposes only
The Cokesbury Game Book	Depew, Arthur	none	An old book of games

			from the 1940's. They work when the power doesn't.
The Hagglers Handbook	Koren, Leonard	0-393-30920-7	A basics guide in haggling / negotiating
The Morrow Guide to Knots	Bigon, Mario	0-688-01226-4	Good knot tying guide

Category 5: Mechanical

This category has modern how-to guides as well as a few books on ancient mechanical inventions. Those books are helpful because they illustrate mechanical principles that can be applied to modern needs, especially when the electricity has gone off, maybe for good.

A History of Mechanical Inventions	Usher, Abbott	0-486-25593-X	Nice diagrams
Advanced Home Wiring	Black and Decker	0-86573-719-3	I have a plumbing book as well, good guides for everyday work.
Emergency Survival Communications	Ingram, David	0-916661-05-9	Compilation of radios and their usage, good

			beginners guide
Engineering in the Ancient World	Landels, J. G.	0-520-04127-5	Mechanical devices from romans and greeks, again nice diagrams
HAM Radio FAQ	Alvareztorres, Al	0-87259-826-8	One of several books I got from ARRL.com (working on my licence)
New Fix-it Yourself Manual	Readers Digest	0-89577-871-8	Modern home how-to fix guide
Understanding Basic Electronics	Wolfgang, Larry	0-87259-398-3	Good beginners guide to electronics and basic repair
Welding Basics	Ruth, Karen	1-58923-139-2	Good guide for beginners

Category 6: Medical

No library is complete without medical books. Even if Hawkeye Pierce is in your Team, he may be the one that gets hurt, and with most medical emergencies you only have one chance to save somebody. Make sure you have the knowledge on hand to do it right.

Ditch Medicine	Coffee, Hugh	0-87364-717-3	The essential book for survival medicine
Emergency Care, 9th Edition	Limmer	0-13-015792-9	From my college Advanced First Aid class, a great reference
Emergency War Surgery	NATO Handbook	0-87947-410-6	
First Aid and Emergency Care Handbook	Thygerson, Alton	0-86720-071-5	
Heart and Hands a Midwife's Guide	Davis, Elizabeth	0-89087-838-2	If anybody on your team can get pregnant, get this book.
Hypothermia, Frostbite and Cold Injuries	Wilkerson, James	0-89886-024-5	
Medical Chemistry and Toxicology	Holland,	none	Book from

	James		the 1900's, interesting sections on poison diagnosis.
Medicine for Backcountry	Tilton, Buck	1-57034-002-1	
Medicine for Mountaineering	Wilkerson, James	0-89886-331-7	Good sections on moving the injured in difficult locations
Tactical Emergency Care	DeLorenzo, Robert	0-8359-5325-4	
Veterinary Guide for Animal Owners	Spaulding, C.E.	0-87596-404-4	
Where there is no Dentist	Dickson, Murray	0-942364-05-8	
Where there is no Doctor	Werner, David	0-942364-15-5	
Where there is no Vet	Forse, Bill	0-333-58899-1	
Wounds and Lacerations	Trott, Alexander	0-8016-5154-9	

Category 7: Non-Fiction

These books deal with true stories of survival. Not only entertaining and inspiring, but filled with real solutions to life-threatening problems these people encountered. Again, these are some of my ‘greatest hits’ from my collection. There are many, many books in this genre.

Adrift, 76 Days at Sea	Callahan, Steven	0-345-41015-7	One man alone in a leaky life raft for over two months.
Alive	Read, Piers	0-06-077866-0	Better than the movie, shows the power of the group
Four Against the Wilderness	Worton, Elmo	0-9632056-1-7	An adult and 3 children stranded in Alaska
Into Thin Air	Krakauer, John	0-385-49478-5	Story of the "Everest Disaster"
Man Against Nature	Neider, Charles	0-8154-1040-9	Good collection of short stories
North to the Night	Simon, Alvah	0-767-90446-X	Great story of a man who understands "buy once, cry once"

Category 8: Old Books

Old books are great for several reasons. One, they are fun to find, and it’s cool owning a book over 100 years old. Used bookstores are great and you will generally save a lot of money shopping at one. The books also deal with a time when electricity was not a norm, and these reference books make do with equipment that would more than likely be still available in a post-SHTF situation. I have listed some of my old books here as examples of what is out there to be found. In every case, I have never spent more than $10 for one of these books.

A Practical Book for Practical People	Drake, John	1895 edition
Agriculture for Beginners	Burkett,	1904

	Charles		edition
Audel's Carpenters and Builders Guide 2	Graham, Frank		1942 Pocket Reference Book
Audel's Plumbers and Steam Fitters Guide 3	Graham, Frank		1925 Pocket Reference Book
Fortunes in Formulas	Hiscox, Gardner (ed)		1944 edition of Henley's Book
Modern Treatment and Formulary	Mullen, Edward		1936 Medical Reference
Outdoor Life Cyclopaedia	Outdoor Life Magazine		1942 edition
The Universal Self-Instructor	anonymous	0-87806-007-3	1970 reprint of 1883 book
The Way Things Work		0-000-91315-4	translated from german, library of congress number 67-27972
War-Time Guide Book	Popular Science Monthly		1942 book to help with war

			time living and conserving

Category 9: Outdoors

Books on hunting and trapping, hiking tips and outdoor survival. There are countless books about the outdoors and how to safely interact with it. Here are some examples.

Camping and Wilderness Survival	Towrell, Paul	1-896713-00-9	
Complete Outdoors Encyclopaedia	Sparano, Vin	0-312-26722-3	
Everyday Wisdom, 1001 tips for Hikers	Berger, Karen	0-89886-523-9	Compiled from Hiking Magazine
Primitive Technology	Wescott, David	0-87905-911-7	
Primitive Wilderness Skills	McPherson, John	0-89745-984-9	
Ragnar's Ten Best Traps	Benson, Ragnar	0-87364-328-3	
Spring Gobbler Fever	Hanback, Michael	0-87341-423-3	Good intro to turkey hunting
Tom Brown's Field Guide to Living with the Earth	Brown, Tom	0-425-09147-3	Tom Brown's books are excellent, highly

Tom Brown's Field Guide to Nature Observation and Tracking	Brown, Tom	0-425-09966-0	recommend you get all three of these
Tom Brown's Field Guide to Wilderness Survival	Brown, Tom	0-425-10572-5	
Tracking Wounded Deer	Smith, Richard	0-9617407-7-9	Good tips on bringing the meat home

Category 10: Survival

These books are generally compilations on all subjects having to do with ‘survival’. A lot of this material is repetitive, but there are things to learn in each book.

101 Ways to Survive Y2K Crisis	Tomajczyk, A. J.	0-312-24591-2
Emergency Preparation and Survival Guide	Backwoods Home Magazine	0-9718445-2-6
Nuclear War Survival Skills	Kearny, Cresson	0-939002-02-7
Ragnar's Urban Survival	Benson, Ragnar	1-58160-059-3
Surviving with Style	Angier, Bradford	0-8117-1717-8
The Complete Book of Survival	Stahlberg, Ranier	1-56980-120-7

The Survival Retreat	Benson, Ragnar	0-87364-275-9
The Urban Survival Handbook	Wiesman, John	0-00-272164-3
Worst Case Scenario Survival Handbook	Piven, Joshua	0-8118-2555-8
The SAS Survival Handbook	Wiesman, John	0-00-217185-6
The US Armed Forces Survival Manual	Bowsell, John	0-8129-0956-9

Category 11: Weapons

This group should have repair manuals for every weapon you plan on using, reloading guides if you have the equipment, as well as tactical training books. Other books in this category deal with ‘no-no’ subjects like explosives and silencers that might be handy down the road.

Combat	Cacutt, Len	1-55521-240-9
Disruptive Terrorism	Santoro, Victor	0-915179-17-2
How to Make Disposable Silencers	Flores, J.	0-918751-01-2
Improvised Munitions Handbook	anonymous	none
Infantry Scouting, Patrolling and Sniping	War Dept. FM 21-75	0-87947-262-X
Mini-14 Exotic Weapons System	anonymous	0-87364-527-8
Night Movements	Burnett, C.	0-915179-79-2
Shootout II	Lesce, Tony	0-87947-447-5
The Anarchist Cookbook	Powell, William	0-9623032-0-8
The Fighting Rifle	Taylor, Chuck	0-87364-297-X

Ragnar's Action Encyclopaedia	Benson, Ragnar	0-87364-801-3
Ragnar's Action Encyclopaedia Vol 2	Benson, Ragnar	0-87364-926-5

Well, this is the list as it stands today. If you've read this far, I hope you find the list useful, and I really would welcome any comments on books or areas you think I should add for my own library. In another article I'm going to talk about how you can organize all of this information so that when you need to reference something, you can find it easily.