

BLOG BYTES



by Kristopher Zgorski

Latinos in Publishing (<https://latinxinpublishing.com/>) is a resource for all writers and readers, but especially those from Latinx cultures and those interested in uplifting Latinx voices. First and foremost the website features a very active blog with multiple posts on a variety of topics each week. Each month there is a post highlighting upcoming Latinx book releases. Regular #FollowFriday posts will introduce fans to voices in the Latinx space whom everyone should seek out. Other traditional posts include cover reveals, excerpts, and quality reviews aimed at uplifting the most powerful Latinx voices across many genres. The blog alone would make this a must-visit site, but there is so much more. There is a mentorship program, online panels and discussions, an invaluable list of Latinx agents, editors, designers, relevant conferences, available grants (along with links to the necessary information to apply), scholarship opportunities, and so much more. They even post a wide variety of job listings that will appeal to career-seekers interested in companies committed to diversity. All of this is handled by a team of book-industry professionals who are dedicated to the mission of uplifting Latinx voices. With active platforms on both Instagram and Twitter, *Latinos in Publishing* continues to expand its reach in multiple ways.

VJ Books (<https://www.vjbooks.com>) is a well-known online bookstore offering signed and collectible books by today's best-selling authors. Their listing in this column is mainly for their incredible resources for book collectors (<https://www.vjbooks.com/Learn-about-Collecting-Books-s/37.htm>). Under this link, readers will find tips on how to start collecting, articles explaining the significance of ARCs and uncorrected proofs (and why they can be valuable), discussions of tip-ins, remainders, price-clipping, and other industry terms that have important ramifications for book collectors. The Ask John feature answers questions from collectors about everything from whether it's okay to read their first editions to whether a book with binding errors is more valuable to questions about cleaning stains from older books and everything in between.

Native Land Digital (<https://native-land.ca/>) is a handy resource for discovering what Indigenous peoples were native to which areas around the world. As more and more of us are finding it important to acknowledge the past of the lands on which we reside, this map can help to highlight the known histories of land "ownership." As with any endeavor of this sort, it is not perfect, and as more information is uncovered, their maps are updated to reflect this information.

Are you planning to take a trip and want to read something geographically

relevant? Give *Trip Fiction* (<https://www.tripfiction.com/>) a try. With their handy search feature, you can type in your travel destination and receive a curated list of novels set there. The site references books from all genres; crime fiction is well-represented, and readers are sure to leave with a new idea for what book to throw into the suitcase. Members who register can also add books to the database, creating an ever-expanding travel resource that brings new meaning to the idea of the armchair traveler.

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