

Read all about it

There is no shortage of English-language bookstores in Shanghai — you just need to know where to look, **Yang Yijun** reports.

Haven't got the patience to wait for the latest bestseller to arrive from Amazon.com? A bit nervous about purchasing pirated books from dodgy hawkers and DVD shops? Don't worry. There are plenty of bookstores in Shanghai selling the best and most recent authentic English-language books.

1. Shanghai Foreign Languages Bookstore

This bookstore boasts the largest collection of English-language books in the city.

It is also the best place to go if you have an interest in studying Chinese. On the first floor you can find various Chinese textbooks and dictionaries, along with a big selection of travel guides.

The fourth floor of the bookstore harbors a good selection of both popular and classic books in foreign languages, most of which are in English. The latest magazines and newspapers are also available.

Address: 390 Fuzhou Road

Tel: 021-6322-3200

Opening hours: 9:30 am-7 pm

Transportation: Metro line 1, 2, 8, 10

2. Chaterhouse Booktrader

Located among high-end fashion boutiques, Chaterhouse is a quiet place ideal for perusing. It has a comprehensive collection of books, including fiction, non-fiction, travel, history, art, health, business, children's literature and magazines.

Chaterhouse displays the books alphabetically according to the surname of the author, which makes it very convenient to look for books.

If you can't find what you want, the bookstore lets you order from the world's biggest publishing houses, including Macmillan, HarperCollins, Random House and Penguin.

You can also find fine art postcards and many photographic and illustrated books on Shanghai, which make great gifts, keepsakes or souvenirs.

Address: Shop B1-K, Shanghai Times Square, 93 Huaihai Road M

Tel: 021-6391-8237

Opening hours: 10 am-10 pm

Transportation: Metro line 1

3. Garden Books

Located in a beautiful old villa with a garden, Garden Books is a wonderful place to shop for your favorite books. It also has an attached café (an adjunct very common in Western countries), where you can relax with a book while enjoying coffee, Italian ice cream or sandwiches.

This two-storey bookstore provides an extensive selection of English-language books for all ages. The children's section stocks thousands of books, while a play area with easels and colored pencils lets the kids get creative.

Address: 325 Changle Road, near Shaanxi Road S

Tel: 021-5404-8729

Opening hours: 10 am-10 pm

Transportation: Metro line 1, 10

4. Old China Hand Reading Room (Hanyuan Shu)

The bookstore and quasi-library is located on charming Shaoxing Road in the former French Concession. The street is also home to several publishing houses.

Founded in 1996 by photographer Deke Erh and notable Shanghai historian Tess Johnston, the Old China

Hand Reading Room has plenty of books about China, especially Chinese history.

The store also provides coffee and other snacks in a quiet atmosphere replete with ambient music — a reader's paradise indeed.

Address: 27 Shaoxing Road, near Shaanxi Road S

Tel: 021-6473-2526

Opening hours: 10 am-midnight

Transportation: Metro line 9

5. Point-to-Life (Dianjinshi)

Point-to-Life features art, design and lifestyle books. The store, decorated in green and white, has a fresh feel about it, which exemplifies its creative spirit. As the store name indicates, inspiration usually starts from a "point" — be it a unique design or awakening in life.

The store has a wide collection of the most popular and influential magazines and books covering landscape design, design theory, commercial interior design and fashion design. It is also the exclusive agency for a variety of foreign magazines.

Address: Bridge 8, 25 Jianguo Road M, near Sinan Road

Tel: 021-6137-9300

Opening hours: 10 am-9:30 pm

Transportation: Metro line 9

6. Cans Book

Cans Book is located in M50, the city's first, largest and most impressive artist's hub — full of galleries and art studios. The bookstore, which contains a café, has an extensive selection of design, art and architecture books. What's more, the stock expands every week. You can also place an order if you can't find your desired book.

Address: Building 3, 50 Moganshan Road

Tel: 021-6276-3226

Opening hours: 9:30 am-6:30 pm

Transportation: Metro line 1, 3 and 4

7. Shanghai Book Trader Used Books Bookstore

English-language books in Shanghai can be expensive, but not always. The Shanghai Book Trader Used Books Bookstore has second-hand books at a wallet-friendly price.

Though a bit shabby, the bookstore does have a large selection of English-language books including fiction, children's books and magazines. Most books cost around 20 yuan, and more importantly, they are in good condition.

Address: 30 Shanxi Road S, near Fuzhou Road

Tel: 021-6360-7713

Opening hours: 9 am-7:30 pm

Transportation: Metro line 1, 2, 8 and 10

8. The Bookstore of Shanghai International Studies University

Located just next to the university, the bookstore is a students' favorite. The store not only has English-language materials for students, but also plenty of literary classics. The prices are relatively low as most of the bookstore's customers are students. The store also has a collection of textbooks in various foreign languages.

Address: 570 Dalian Road W

Tel: 021-6531-6517

Opening hours: 9:30 am-6 pm

Transportation: Metro line 3

