Something to add sparkle to your Monday afternoon. Grab one of these interesting new titles from our library today.

**Bernard Durin: Beetles and other insects**

From Library Journal: “In a world awash in Flickr and Pinterest images, French artist Durin’s (1940–88) detailed watercolors stand out, dazzling the viewer with their beauty. His paintings—colorful, scientifically accurate portraits of insects enlarged several hundred percent against white backgrounds—make it easy to forget that these illustrations are larger than life or that Durin painted them from dead things impaled on pins and filed in drawers, lent to him by etymologists at the Museum of Natural History in Paris.”

**North Korea: anonymous country**

From Barnes and Noble: “North Korea certainly wouldn't come first on a general list of dream destinations. Nevertheless, the country exudes an eerie fascination. It’s a mystery, an anonymous country isolated from the rest of the world. With two friends, German photojournalist Julia Leeb made a journey to better understand the country and its people. The result is a spectacular illustrated volume that offers a riveting look at its architecture, culture, and society.”

**Training for speed, agility, & quickness**

From Barnes and Noble: “Today’s athletes are bigger, stronger, faster, and more agile than ever before. Exhibiting a combination of power, speed, and quickness, they’ve raised the bar on performance, competition, and training. *Training for Speed, Agility, and Quickness* is the complete workout guide you need in order to perform a step ahead of the competition.”

**Basquiat and the bayou**

From Barnes and Noble: “This collection of paintings by the celebrated artist Jean-Michel Basquiat focuses on the deep psychological and spiritual terrain of the American South. Born in Brooklyn to a Haitian father and Puerto-Rican mother,
Jean-Michel Basquiat was deeply interested in Afro-Atlantic culture and he drew upon his heritage in many of his highly acclaimed paintings.”

The Haight: love, rock, and revolution

From Publishers Weekly: “This gorgeous collection of photographs (most of them black and white), by one of the pioneers of rock photography, documents the epicenter of the countercultural revolution: San Francisco’s Haight District in the mid to late 1960s. Images of protesters and everyday residents of the Haight mingle with candid shots of cultural icons such as Allen Ginsberg and Bob Dylan conversing in the alley behind the City Lights bookstore, or the Grateful Dead performing at Trips Festival... This is a truly remarkable effort sure to resonate among culture hounds and music fans alike.”

Election 2014: why the Republicans swept the midterms

From Barnes and Noble: “Election 2014 strips down conflicting and biased political narratives to present an accessible account of how and why Republicans triumphed so decisively. Kilgore crunches electoral data and evaluates such structural factors as the economy, presidential approval ratings, and voter turnout patterns. Ultimately, this bracing analysis sheds light on the election’s implications for the future direction of American politics.”

Mass incarceration on trial

From Publishers Weekly: “UC Berkeley criminologist Simon (Governing Through Crime) offers an eloquent critique of the American prison system and uses several Supreme Court cases to examine the development of new jurisprudence that might end mass incarceration... He argues that making prisons more humane and effective requires a “dignity cascade,” which will enshrine a basic notion of bodily integrity and decency in the edifice of law. Though the Eighth Amendment is often narrowly interpreted to prohibit only the most intentional torture, interpreting it to protect dignity would allow us to understand mass incarceration as inherently “cruel and unusual” because of the conditions it fosters. Simon’s accessible and powerful book deserves widespread attention.”
**The death penalty: a worldwide perspective**

From Barnes and Noble: “The fifth edition of this highly praised study charts and explains the progress that continues to be made towards the goal of worldwide abolition of the death penalty. The majority of nations have now abolished the death penalty and the number of executions has dropped in almost all countries where abolition has not yet taken place. Emphasizing the impact of international human rights principles and evidence of abuse, the authors examine how this has fueled challenges to the death penalty and they analyze and appraise the likely obstacles, political and cultural, to further abolition.”

**Thomas Cromwell: the untold story of Henry VIII’s most faithful servant**

From Library Journal: “Borman (Elizabeth's Women) pens a new biography that falls squarely in the reestimation camp, but while the author is on the side of Cromwell's sympathizers, she resists the urge to shy away completely from his more ruthless deeds. The dedication to her subject is apparent, as she delves into every aspect of Cromwell's life and career—his early days in Italy, his political beginnings under Cardinal Wolsey, and his meteoric rise and fall at Henry VIII's court—in an attempt to uncover the person behind the public facade. Unfortunately, concrete evidence for Cromwell's thoughts is somewhat sparse, necessitating some guesswork on Borman's part and an excellent portrait of Cromwell the statesman, but a murky one of Cromwell the man.”

**Breaking out of beginner’s Spanish**

From Barnes and Noble: “Writing with humor, common sense, and a minimum of jargon, Joseph J. Keenan covers everything from pronunciation, verb usage, and common grammatical mistakes to the subtleties of addressing other people, ”trickster” words that look alike in both languages, inadvertent obscenities, and intentional swearing. He guides readers through the set phrases and idiomatic expressions that pepper the native speaker’s conversation and provides a valuable introduction to the most widely used Spanish slang.”

**Children of Afghanistan**

From Barnes and Noble: “The first comprehensive look at youth living in a country attempting to rebuild itself after three decades of civil conflict, *Children of Afghanistan* relies on the research and fieldwork of twenty-one experts to cover an incredible range of topics. Focusing on the full scope of childhood, from birth through young adulthood, this edited volume examines a myriad of issues: early childhood socialization in war and peace; education, literacy, vocational...
training, and apprenticeship; refugee life; mental and physical health, including disabilities and nutrition; children's songs, folktales, and art; sports and play; orphans; life on the streets; child labor and children as family breadwinners; child soldiers and militarization; sexual exploitation; growing up in prison; marriage; family violence; and other issues vital to understanding, empowerment, and transformation.”

**Paying for college without going broke**

From Barnes and Noble: “*Paying for College Without Going Broke* includes a foreword by Bill Clinton as well as in-depth line-by-line strategies for filling out 2015-2016 aid forms, including the required federal FAFSA form.”

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“[Librarians] are subversive. You think they're just sitting there at the desk, all quiet and everything. They're like plotting the revolution, man. I wouldn't mess with them.” —*Michael Moore*