



Hello, Friends!

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July 2020 - Organizing your bookshelf

Have you ever entered a room and looked at people's bookshelves... and immediately felt at peace?

Well, since you likely have a bookshelf at home, why not spend a few hours tackling it and getting it to a peaceful place?

Here are eight helpful tips to help you put your books "all in a row" —

1. Remove all items and place them into categories on the floor. Some dusting will likely be required on those bare shelves;
2. You can effortlessly change the look of your bookcase by incorporating a few items, such as mixing in some plants and frames. I know some people also categorize their book collections by color and others separate them by themes, such as drama, fiction, non-fiction, romance, autobiography, etc.;
3. This sounds simple, but experts suggest that you put your heavy books on the bottom shelves so your shelves don't bow or sag. You can add some character to your shelves by placing some of the books horizontally;
4. Buy a few magazine organizers. I found some inexpensive ones at IKEA that I included in our "Detroit's Messiest" contest in January of 2019. I've included a picture.
5. Look at your book collection and ask yourself, "How many of these do I realistically want to keep?" You may have been a major reader before, but maybe life has changed and you don't have as much extra time to read now;
6. For the volumes you decide not to keep, why not donate books to your local library, or consider donating cookbooks to a local shelter or classroom?
7. Maybe you can sell that special book collection you no longer need to another book collector. You can check eBay or Amazon and see if your collection is worth anything. You may want to list them closer to Christmas if they have value. Your "don't-wants" may make a wonderful Christmas gift for someone else;
8. Finally, add a basket or two to corral the loose cords and remotes that always are mixed into our daily lives.

Remember to take photos before you start your book project, and then snap a few at the end, too. Then, compare the two photos. I expect you'll agree things look neater and better to you after your book arranging is done.

And, if you may have a friend who is a top-notch home decorator, send them the photos, too, asking for some feedback. Your next book-arranging update will go much faster, since you've already made your first improvements.

Good luck and have some fun organizing and decorating and hope you and your family are still staying safe and healthy.

Your local professional organizer,
Betty Huotari

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