

A Guide to UFO Research

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Abstract—The very natural query of the interested intellectual: what should I read to understand the status of the UFO Phenomenon?, has no simple answer. This review article briefly examines the characteristics of the "UFO Problem" and relates those characteristics to the problem of ignorance in the academic community. An "inside look" at the appropriate library for the "working UFOlogist" is then explored.

The UFO Research Problem

When a serious person decides foolishly to throw all of his or her extra time into finding out about UFOs, there begins an intellectual avalanche of connections and demands which is, essentially, endless. This field is forever rich, but that richness betrays a multidisciplinary which defies any amount of training. This subject is, in fact, the most multidisciplinary one that this author has ever experienced (and that includes degrees and teaching in areas like History of Science and Technology, Science-Technology - and - Society, and Environmental Studies).

The naive academic shuffles onto the queer streets of UFOlogy with the confidence that the world makes sense, order will be quickly restored, and logic will suffice. What our intrepid ivory-tower dweller finds are chaotic beehives of reports which sting the intuition into felt perceptions of partial order, but which resist simplification under any useful scheme. Who are these people? What are they like? What motivates them? Are they normal? Abnormal? Supranormal? What stimulated these "stories"? Have they been going on for a long time? Are there patterns in this stuff? Easy to explain patterns? Repeatable patterns? What caused the photos? The traces? The field effects? The radiation effects? Is any of this related to government activities? Military technologies? Extraterrestrials? The Paranormal? Could it even be?

There are many more questions than these. These are just the first "general" waves of the avalanche which attack you (if you have any intellectual honesty). I have made an incomplete matrix of the disciplinary demands upon the serious UFOlogist in Figure 1. Its purpose is not completeness or absolute interconnected accuracy. It is just to illustrate a point: there can be no properly trained UFOlogist. Anyone external to the field should take all pronouncement about UFOs from individuals with a grain of salt. The more absolutist those pronouncements are the more they should be buried in sodium chloride. And as for a "quick reading list" to suddenly become deeply knowledgeable in

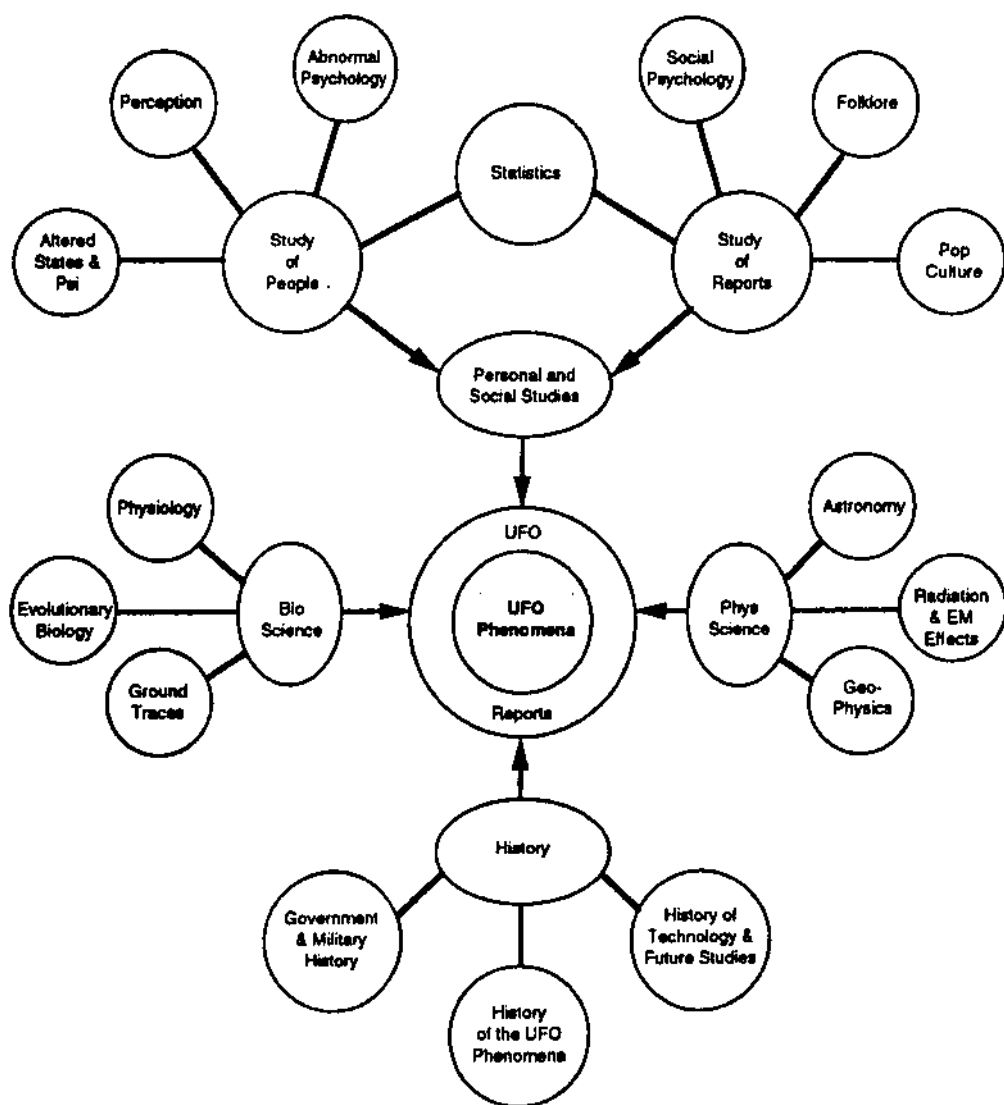


Fig. 1

the "problem": (as Alexander the Great may have been told) there is no royal road to UFOlogy.

A few further words about the multidisciplinary matrix before going on with another serious problem vis-a-vis "reading about UFOs". We highly trained intellects, all proud of our mental abilities and acquired knowledge, have tended not to behave very well in the face of this daunting array of demands. Some individuals, having barely paddled their toes in these strange waters, have actually had colossal enough egos to write "authoritatively" on the subject (Irving Langmuir and certain astronomers come immediately to mind). Such individuals have immediately (though no one knows on what grounds) shrunk the matrix into one or two narrow disciplinary areas, and then applied wholesale ignorance of detail to cram the phenomena into some pseudoscientific simplistic hypothesis. These forms of "Universal Theories" are almost always

ridiculous (as far as explaining anything profound about the phenomena) to anyone who has spend serious time in the field. They are also almost always consciously described as debunking the "extraterrestrial hypothesis", and they almost always sound reasonable to the UFOlogically ignorant inhabiting the corridors of academia.

A similar form of inadequate reductionism comes from the other end of the enthusiasm scale. Some UFO proponents (whether in the field extensively or not) react to the complexity by creating a theoretical tar-pit of such osmotic omnipotence that it can absorb anything that falls into it. (Certain "New Age" and Parallel Realities speculators come to mind.) Also, however, there are extraterrestrial theorists who make the ETs so powerful and inscrutable that there are no restrictions on their behavior or technology. This doesn't mean that such concepts are necessarily false, just that they are intellectually dangerous and untestable, and should be voiced with reservation and humility. Long-term involvement in the field is no protection against this latter form of reductionism: in fact it often seems to encourage it. This is only human. We want to see the "Truth". If we have expended so much lifetime in its pursuit, perhaps we even need to see it. In my twenty years of fairly intense interest in this subject, I have rarely found individuals who have continually managed to keep their balance. I have found no "debunkers" who have even attempted to do so. This sadly bodes ill for one looking for good books to read.

The Universal Theory is almost surely doomed before it is even birthed. As you immerse yourself in the richness of the history and the reports, it becomes almost obvious that you are dealing with many sorts of causal agents. The demands of the matrix are probably (in part) a reflection of the multiplicity of causes. Is there some important new social psychology buried in there? Probably. Is there some important new personal psychology buried in there? Probably. Military-government activity? Geophysics? Meteorology? Probably, probably, and probably. And is there some extra-terrestriality (or other equally astonishing reality) buried in there? I say: probably ... maybe "both". People anxious for a simplistic world (whether romantic or mundane) seem driven to devise a reductionist concept. It has never worked. Such views persist at embarrassing costs to the details of the case histories.

"UFOs" (or their reports) seem likely to have many causes, even though nearly all of us seem drawn to only one. We seem unable to think in several other ways which cause us endless troubles as well. I will mention two. Surprisingly, the typical academic seems as incapable of thinking in historical perspectives as our oft-accused students. Our minds seem to become continually locked into what we're experiencing right at this moment, and neither the weight of the history of the phenomenon nor the "arrows" or lessons of our larger history (of arrogances and successes) seem to play their proper roles in producing measured and wise thinking on any of these matters. A good historian is necessary to make a good futurist. And a good historical matrix is the cool solid foundation from which creativity and wisdom may spring. Have we instead become the impatient children that we decry in our educational writ-

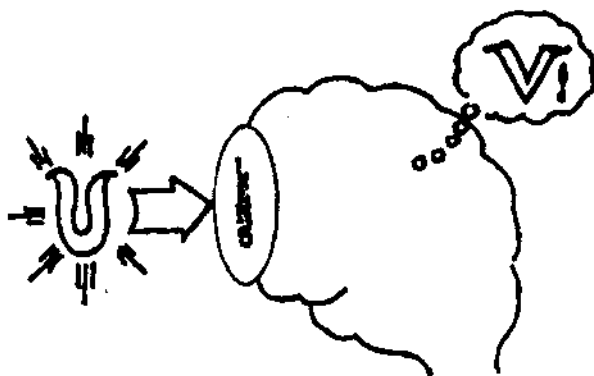


Fig. 2

ings? Are we the Intellectual Hot-and-Now generation? The greater the heat, the greater the increase in entropy, I believe.

A second, more understandable, blind-spot involves "intelligence". This intelligence is the type of thinking in the shadow-world of agents and people concerned with military and national security. This was a major blind-spot for me with my naive country boy's ways of thinking that people and events were generally what they seemed. Scientific training accentuated that "what you see is what you get" simple mindedness. History training fooled me into believing that there is always a clear "paper trail", and the clever scholar can rather quickly uncover it. This was true despite my cynical understanding that the histories are written by the victors, and that the messy intuitions and serendipities of "science" are always polished and straightened before they reach the journals. The depths of the misdirections and distortions of the shadow-world of national security intelligence have only incompletely penetrated my sheltered brain. But I believe that I know this much at least: the first priority in the interaction between two potentially hostile organizations is not science nor any "normal" form of overtness, it is security. Research is entirely subverted to security concerns. And no one "lands on anyone's White House Lawn". The foolishness of some of our academic statements about "proper UFO behavior" have been the cause of much derisive giggling by former intelligence officers that I have chanced to be around while one or the other of us (the UFOlogists) has voiced naive opinions. And, when it comes to the upper echelons, don't kid yourself: there is nothing oxymoronic about military intelligence.

This UFO business, as you see, is incredibly complex. It is an intellectual vortex which can easily addict you, draw you in, and still tell you very little about the fundamentals which lie below. It may be a Black Hole which has no bottom, and which defies all academic "laws of nature" inside its event horizon. Part of its impenetrability is its dependence upon people, and that is the last point that I want to make before moving on to the library.

Anyone interested in "Anomalous Reports" of any kind realizes that the initial research problem is the accuracy of the relationship between the descrip-

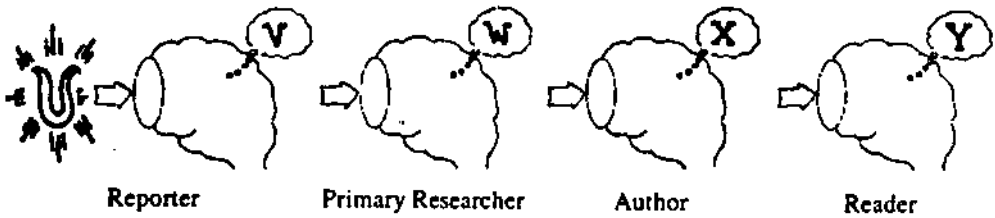


Fig. 3

tors in the report and the actual stimulus for the report. None of us, either in UFOlogy or elsewhere, are so naive as to assume that reports transmit to us the precise characteristics of the external reality experienced by the reporter (if in fact there was any external reality at all). Every reporter has an "interpretive lens" through which experiences pass on their way to those associational areas of consciousness which attempt to integrate them with that already known. This "lens" includes the physical and social environments in which we find ourselves, plus our own perceptual and mental idiosyncrasies (temporary or chronic). Our lens may profoundly or insignificantly distort the experience, but it is almost a certainty that some change occurs between the event and its report.

There are ways in which we attempt to deal with these problems of "subjectivity", as we all know. But a simple point for the reader-of-books may be worth making. "Events" don't only occur to the reporters of anomalies. When those reporters report, this is an "event" for the primary researcher listening to the report. That researcher must deal with his or her own "lens" and write that report up accordingly with some added distortion. UFO catalogers and synthesizers gather these reports using their own distorting lenses, and perhaps, write the books which you will read. Note that you, too, have your own lens. (Figure 3).

The "great UFO books" that you will read contain materials probably thrice-distorted. But doesn't that happen in all fields of academic study, and we seem to survive? Perhaps. But in academia there is some form of truly interacting, critiquing, and challenging community. It doesn't work very efficiently, but in some fields at least it seems to ultimately sift wheat from chaff. There has been no such stable UFO intellectual community. There are few proper fora, and until recently there were none at all. There are arguments a plenty, but they occur independently of any proper mode of lasting evaluation. There are signs that this is changing as we speak with the emergence of the SSE, the Journal of UFO Studies, and groupings of "Invisible Collegians" coming out of the closet stimulated by the so-called "Abduction" phenomenon. The point of the lenses is that their existence, critically unchecked by a larger community, makes the UFO reader's job harder yet.

The UFO Research Library

A typical history of a serious UFO researcher begins with the reading of some stimulating book (for an astonishing number of us old timers it was the

same book: Captain Edward J. Ruppelt's *The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects*. For youngsters it might be something by Hynek or the early Vallee, or (horrendously) Whitley Streiber's *Communion*). These were read naively but with the intuition that there was something important here. As one submerges more deeply, the clearest thought which arises is that one must cease reading these sorts of books (at least exclusively) and get closer to the raw data. Even heroes have their lenses and their limitations.

The serious UFOlogist's research library, thereby, maximizes closeness to the data. Since UFOs, UFOnuts, and UFO pieces are not readily available, "closeness to the data" means primary case investigation reports (both written and aural). Secondly, it means direct extractions from the primary reports to be used in catalog and pattern-finding forms of compilations. Thirdly, it consists of declassified and FOIA'd documents (largely from the U. S. military and "civilian" intelligence agencies). Fourthly, it is the direct test-data available from so-called "second-level" case research (ex. physical and chemical lab analyses, psychometric examination of CEIII witnesses, medical records et al.). The processing of this information takes a serious commitment on the part of the reader, and so is unlikely to interest an individual looking for "a few good books".

My personal files contain the primary case documents for only about 200 cases. There are also probably fifty or so audio tapes interviews with primary witnesses. This is a puny primary data base compared with the real long-term case researchers in the field. Some of them own or have ready access to the USAF Project Bluebook microfilms containing all available project investigative documents from 1947 - 1969 (13,000 sightings). Casual readers would be unlikely to run into the opportunity to read such document files even if they wished to. The closest that such a reader can get to such information is to read either an in-depth study of a specific case (compiled by a primary case researcher) or a "data-collection". Some examples of the "classic case study" are:

1. Jennie Zeidman's *A Helicopter-UFO Encounter Over Ohio*;
2. Norman Cruttwell's *Flying Saucers Over Papua*;
3. Isabel Davis and Ted Bloecher's *Close Encounter at Kelly*;
4. Kevin Randle and Don Schmitt's *UFO Crash at Roswell*;
5. Raymond Fowler's *The Allagash Affair*.

Occasionally there are books aimed at the popular market which are still reasonably accurate and close to the data (John Fuller's *The Interrupted Journey* and *The Exeter Incident* are two). Other superb studies like Walter Webb's *The Buff Ledge Incident* languish in unpublished manuscript form. If one could read French, and had the opportunity available, the acquiring of the Gegan case series (especially vis-a-vis Trans-en-Provence) would afford a further data closeness from reputable researchers. The Center for UFO Studies is currently beginning to mine its tremendous store of primary documents to pro-

duce packets on historical classic cases for interested researchers. Those available will include Betty and Barney Hill, Kenneth Arnold, Captain E. J. Smith, Levelland, and the Portage County Police Chase. Certain historical audio tapes will also be made available, and, of course, any interested party could always research the complete files in Chicago.

The second more-or-less readily available data-sources are the primary "collections". Some of these are:

1. Mark Rodeghier's *UFO Reports Involving Vehicle Interference*;
2. Ted Phillips' *Physical Traces Associated with UFO Sightings*;
3. Dick Hall's *The UFO Evidence*;
4. Ted Bloecher's *Report on the UFO Wave of 1947*;
5. A splendid set of compilations by the Australian researchers Keith Basterfield and William Chalker.

Other data bases exist in various forms, of course. The extensive CUFOS case catalog "UFOCAT" is currently on computer disk and available to researchers. The Ted Bloecher-David Webb catalog of humanoid cases, HUM-CAT, is close to being so. Other data bases involving EM effects, physical traces, airplane encounters, paranormal involvements, even Big Foot have been gathered and published in paper or small monograph form.

Declassified and FOIA'd documents now abound and provide a real eye-opener for the naive academic assuming that only non-serious individuals spend any time on this topic. The Blue Book microfilm of twenty-two years and 13,000 cases has been mentioned. FOIA'd materials occur in the hundreds of pages from the USAF, FBI and the CIA. For those genuinely interested, many of these have been made available by the FUND for UFO Research, and by other organizations (ex. CUFOS) and individuals. A particularly rich source of mystery are the materials concerning the Green Fireballs phenomenon of 1949-51 or so. These documents were collected and made available by William Moore. If one wished to read "a real book" on the materials, one which does a fairly objective job of presenting some of them is Barry Greenwood and Larry Fawcett's *Clear Intent*. Keeping up to date on these government releases requires reading the periodical, *Just Cause*.

The last category of "primary data" mentioned involved the second-level or depth research on cases or with witnesses. This is almost never available in any way other than serious research articles. These articles require the researcher to own or have ready access to a variety of periodicals or similar sources. Such articles appear in Symposia proceedings (esp. the two run by CUFOS, but also scattered in MUFON proceedings among a mixed-bag of serious and embarrassing presentations), the *Journal of UFO Studies*, some issues of the *British Flying Saucer Review*, GEPAN materials, the European journals UPIAR and *Cuadernos*, and a wide scatter or appearances elsewhere. New developments, such as TREAT and the MIT conference on Abductions, produce collections of higher quality writing, but as yet rarely containing primary data. These sorts

of resources, mentioned above, form the working core of the serious researcher's library. There are other elements of nearly equal importance, and slowly we will approach the materials the non-UFOlogist actually wants to read (whether they will do them any real good or not).

Every field of any maturity has at least a few standard works which support the learning and locating process. UFOlogy has a few. Far and away the most important single supporting resource in UFOlogy is George Eberhart's colossal two-volume bibliographic effort: *UFOs and the Extraterrestrial Contact Movement*. Covering all areas of UFO-related material and all types of media, it is endlessly useful to the scholar. There are two well-done standard encyclopedias for the field: Margaret Sachs' *The UFO Encyclopedia* and Ronald Story's *The Encyclopedia of UFOs*. Both of these works are structured mainly in the short informative newsclipping style of encyclopedic list-and-learn-a-little philosophy. Sachs' book is entirely in this mode. Story's employs many different writers and tends to have longer commentaries. Both are well-researched and worth owning. A third encyclopedia in multi-volumes is being produced piecemeal at this moment: Jerry Clark's *UFO Encyclopedia* slated for three volumes. Two have appeared as of 1992: *UFOs in the 1980s* and *The Emergence of a Phenomenon*. The third volume will fall in the intervening time period. Clark's writing takes advantage of his great literary skills and long-time involvement in the field. The entries tend to be idiosyncratic to his interests, but his interests have been so wide as to allow good coverage anyway. The pieces tend to be in the manner of historical research essays stacked together with biographical notes in an encyclopedic alphabetical array. Clark is an excellent historical researcher and the encyclopedia will become a UFO classic.

The standard history of the field is David Jacobs' *The UFO Controversy in America*, one of the few books on our subject published by a scholarly press.. It is the fruit of Dr. Jacobs' Ph.D. thesis and the research depth and excellence shows it. It is now being, and will someday be even more so, supplemented by a rather different sort of "history": a many-volumed year-by-year collation of UFO events by Loren Gross. Digging heroically into the minutiae of press coverages, government documents, and whatever else is findable, Gross is slowly producing a documentary retelling of the phenomenon. *UFOs: A History* has laboriously worked its way into the mid-50's with over a dozen volumes passing the assembly line. A last "support work" type of volume which deserves mentioning is the "How to Do UFO Research" book. There are many investigator manuals which have been offered, but the classic remains Allan Hendry's *The UFO Handbook*. A second very useful aid is Richard Haines' *Observing UFOs*.

These constitute the major working elements of the UFOlogical research library: primary data documents, primary government documents, data-collections, depth research publications, and important support resources. Almost none of this rates high in readability by the layman. These materials are but-

tressed in the library by several other forms of literature of more or less value: UFO journals of the magazine or newsletter variety, writings by intelligent persons (whether overly knowledgeable about what they're writing about or not), general UFO books, miscellaneous "strange stuff", and materials from non-UFO fields which are applicable to elements of the subject. Let's pick around at these topics and see if we can find anything worth our time.

History is very important in this field, and because of that it is important for the researcher to maintain a healthy storage of older journals and newsletters to refer to. These journals are prophylactic against the errors of reading the polished final versions of the later books. They remind us that many classic situations were not anywhere near so clear when one gets closer to their time. Distance is important. So is proximity. The intellectually honest researcher oscillates between them to find the points of focus. To allow the proximity certain journal-newsletters of the "classical era" seem more important than others: *Flying Saucer Review* is obvious; so are the *APRO Bulletin*, NICAP's the *UFO Investigator*, and many smaller newsletters by the researchers CSI (Los Angeles), CSI (New York), Leonard Stringfield, Lee Munsick, and several non-US publications such as *UFO Critical Bulletin* (Brazil), *Australian Flying Saucer Magazine*, *Flying Saucers* (New Zealand). Of course if you read languages other than English there are more. As one moves out of the 1950's and 60's, these journals offer less "historical perspective" obviously. They become more numerous and available and one needs to decide on where to spend one's money. There have been excellent journals in Britain and Australia over the years, but most American researchers subscribe to one or both of the prominent U. S. productions. They are, as Dennis Stacy (editor of the *MUFON Journal*) has observed, the "magazine" of the field (The *International UFO Reporter* of CUFOS) and the "newspaper" (The *MUFON Journal* of the Mutual UFO Network). *IUR* tends to be more selective, scholarly, and critical. *MJ* tends to be more adventurous, populist, and entertaining. The journals accurately reflect the roles of their organizations as pursued by their leaderships. Now there is finally a true academic journal, the *Journal of UFO Studies*, dedicated solely to scholarly writing. It is an annual in its fourth volume.

Writings by intelligent persons: well there has been a surprising lot of that. By far not all of it makes any sense, despite the intelligence behind it. This is because as we have seen, intelligence is no proof of knowledge nor open-mindedness. These "intelligent writings" come in the forms of books, article collections, and loose articles. In the latter category are many useful things but impossible to list usefully here. The key authors to locate would be persons such as Allen Hynek, Frank Salisbury, and James McDonald. McDonald is especially significant in this form since his writings are not available in books. Abductions research has spawned several isolated articles worth noting: Leo Sprinkle's "Hypnotic Time Regression Procedures in the Investigation of UFO Experiences", Terence Dickinson's "The Zeta Reticuli Incident" (vis-a-vis the Hill Star-Map controversy), Bloecher, Clamar, and Hopkins' "Summary Re-

port on the Psychological Testing of Nine Individuals Reporting UFO Abduction Experiences", Alvin Lawson's "Perinatal Imagery in UFO Abduction Reports", and John Mack's "The Abduction Syndrome: A Preliminary Report". An unending chain of other such materials could be listed. I'll stop with one further: Ron Westrum's "Social Intelligence about Anomalies: the Case of UFOs". These writings, when useful, tend to be by seriously committed people trying to push forward the research process. When not useful (as with Irving Langmuir's "Pathological Science"), they tend to be by arrogant egos attempting to stop it.

Intelligent "article" writing in collected forms has also happened and is worth keeping on the UFO library shelf. Symposia Proceedings are the common venue for this, and five examples are particularly worth listing:

1. *The Symposium on Unidentified Flying Objects* (1968) held before the U. S. House of Representatives (one of the more readily available ways of reading the thoughts of James McDonald; Hynek, Sagan, Robert Hall, Harder, and Baker were the main speakers);
2. *UFOs- A Scientific Debate* (1972), the Sagan-Page edited papers of the 1969 AAAS convention symposium. Prominent participants included Hynek, Menzel, McDonald, Hartman, Baker, Roach and others;
3. *Proceedings of the 1976 CUFOS Conference* with 35 speakers (including several non-U. S.);
4. *Proceedings of the First International UFO Congress*; twenty-one entries from the meeting sponsored in 1977 by FATE magazine (despite the attitude toward anomalies typified by the sponsor, the great majority of the presentations were properly academic);
5. *The Spectrum of UFO Research*, the 1988 compilation of the papers from the second CUFOS conference of 1981 containing several classic papers in the field.

Two further symposia proceedings are appearing as this is written, and will be worth reading: the TREAT II proceedings from the abductions research meeting at Virginia Polytechnic Institute, and the Abductions Study Conference held at MIT. The former has just appeared (late 1992) and includes nineteen offerings (including John Wilson, Kenneth Ring, and Eddie Bullard). The latter will appear (probably) in 1993 and (again probably) contain works by Mack, Jacobs, David Gotlib, Budd Hopkins, Michael Papagiannis, Mark Rodeghier, Paul Horowitz, David Pritchard et al.

Collections exist for other reasons as well as memorializing conferences, and editors have collected works by their colleagues for our benefit in UFOlogy several times. Here are five of those "times" which remain worthwhile:

1. *The Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects*, Daniel Gillmor, editor. This is the practically unreadable but historically vital report of the notorious Condon Project. For the cognoscente it is highly intriguing, but it should be read by no one in isolation. David Saunders' and R.

- Roger Harkins' *UFOs? Yes!* is an appropriate antidote to the misrepresentations (even more so are the internal project files, a few of which are deposited at CUFOS);
2. *UFO Phenomena and the Behavioral Scientist*, Richard Haines, editor. A very intelligent group of articles by people like Westrum, Sprinkle, Phillis Fox, and Michael Persinger.
 3. *The Humanoids*, Charles Bowen (editor). This and the following two entries are more mixed as regards to scholarship, but contain useful essays.
 4. *UFOs 1947-1987*, Hilary Evans and John Spencer, editors. A modern tour-de-force of the field from an international perspective. This international perspective is vitally important for U. S. researchers in danger of becoming too mired in peculiarities of American pop culture;
 5. *Phenomenon*, John Spencer and Hilary Evans, editors. Similar sort of book as #4. It is almost as if Spencer and Evans had a bunch of essays and topics left over, flipped their names, and edited a second book.

A new collection due to emerge soon, will be a collection of exceptional multiple abduction cases, edited by Dick Haines.

On to "general UFO books"... here, finally, is the category wherein interested outsiders expect to find their salvation to the problem of UFO ignorance. As we have seen, the common problem of dependency on the individual author is especially acute in the field of UFOlogy, so that anything I recommend here must be viewed in that light. There are, however, a limited set of such books which might suffice enlighten the reader if read as a group with full crap detectors up and working.

The Top Ten: (in alphabetical order)

1. Bullard, T. E. *Abductions: The Measure of a Mystery* (the deepest collection and analysis of CEIV's available);
2. Hopkins, Budd *Missing Time* (wherein the pattern of the modern abduction scenario was first [partially] revealed. If one has time which is not missing, one should also read the follow-up, *Intruders*);
3. Hynek, J. Allen *The UFO Experience: a Scientific Inquiry* (the defining volume of scientific UFO research);
4. Jacobs, David *Secret Life* (the attempt to micro-describe the pattern of CEIV activities as originally sketched out by Budd Hopkins);
5. Keyhoe, Donald *The Flying Saucers are Real*, and *Flying Saucers from Outer Space* (the best book sources to recapture the atmosphere of the 1950's UFO community);
6. Menzel, Donald *Flying Saucers*, and (Menzel and Boyd) *The World of Flying Saucers* (the most scholarly of the skeptical books, yet the easiest to see through);
7. Michel, Aime *The Truth About Flying Saucers* and *Flying Saucers and the Straight Line Mystery* (the best for internationalizing your consciousness about early UFOlogy);

8. Persinger, Michael and G. LaFreniere *Space Time Transients and Unusual Events* (from which comes all the hullabaloo about the Tectonic Stress Theory and electromagnetic field effects on the observer). To maintain full awareness of Dr. Persinger's evolving thought and research, one should monitor his ongoing series of papers in *Perceptual and Motor Skills*.
9. Ruppelt, Edward *The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects* (the eternally fascinating inside view of the USAF secret project);
10. Vallee, Jacques *The Anatomy of a Phenomenon* and *Challenge to Science, the UFO Enigma* (the lasting contribution of the early Vallee, which with Hynek's volume brought many academics into the field).

Note that several other highly suggested works have been previously mentioned in this review (perhaps most importantly for the "book reader", Jacobs' History). After one has assimilated the above, here are another dozen:

- 1a. Adamski, George (and Desmond Leslie) *Flying Saucers have Landed* (although obviously a hoax, no one claiming to understand UFOlogy should be ignorant of Adamski's tale and message, and how he ruled Flying Saucerdom in the '50's and '60's);
- 2a. Barker, Gray *They Knew Too Much About Flying Saucers* (the real beginnings of the conspiratorial-paranoia element in UFO work written around a real but still-unexplained early incident);
- 3a. Hall, Richard *Uninvited Guests* (a good modern review of the field);
- 4a. Jung, C. G. *Flying Saucers* (the origins of the UFOs as Archetypes of human hopes and fears theory);
- 5a. Klass, Philip *UFOs Identified* and *UFOs Explained* (the first two of Klass' books are probably sufficient to get the flavor of his mental approach to cases, and to judge the validity of the debunker view point. Some would say that *UFO Abductions, A Dangerous Game* should be included as well, but I disagree. To comment upon abductions research one should be knowledgeable either in case research or in some relevant established field – probably both. This author is neither. CEIV research has been best critiqued by responsible members within the UFO community itself);
- 6a. Lorenzon, Coral *The Great Flying Saucer Hoax* (the best book to appreciate the work and views of APRO and its worldwide civilian network);
- 7a. McCampbell, James *UFOlogy* (a professional engineer takes a technical look at the phenomena);
- 8a. Maney, Charles and Richard Hall *The Challenge of Unidentified Flying Objects* (intelligent early work by a physicist and a NICAP insider);
- 9a. Randles, Jenny *UFO Reality* and (with Peter Warrington) *Science and UFOs* (the best two works by the prolific British expert);
- 10a. Ring, Kenneth *The Omega Project* (wherein Sociologist Ring tests the hypothesis that experiencers of certain spectacularly anomalous phenomena may have measurable mental traits in common);

- 11a. Steiger, Brad *Project Blue Book* (although it pains me to even write the name down of such a "who cares about truth?" writer, this is the exception to the rule of no confidence. Here is a reasonable, descriptive review of the USAF Project);
- 12a. Vallee, Jacques *Messengers of Deception* and *Passport to Magonia* (the two "middle years" works which encouraged much of the speculation vis-a-vis conspiratorial paranoia and New Age Parallel Reality opinions, respectively... two emotional elements of UFOlogy still very much with us today).

Such is a short list idiosyncratically but not arbitrarily picked, which, if read, would make one much more knowledgeable but not necessarily wiser about what has gone on in UFOlogy. Some of these writers, through their lenses, try to bring you closer to the data. At this, in my opinion, Hynek and the early Vallee are the best. Some of these writers do not at all look closely at the primary data. They are off hoaxing, gossiping, speculating or debunking. However, to obtain a rich enough understanding of the data, one needs to be wise to the "Sociology" and lens discolorations which have surrounded it.

"Strange Stuff": UFOlogy is like flypaper for the bizarre. Weirdness accretes almost instantly to mainline UFO research and causes endless problems in public relations with the academic community. The typical serious UFOlogist attempts to strip the field of all other extraordinary claims in the hopes of leading a more peaceful intellectual life. "Multiplying one's anomalies" multiplies one's troubles with one's peers. Because the removal of "other" strangeness proceeds on emotional grounds, it may or may not be proper; i.e. it may not be "other" at all. Nevertheless more UFOlogists than not relegate several forms of strangeness to the unadvertised "grey-basket", at least in public.

The contents of the excised "grey basket" include among other things: cattle mutilations, crop circles, Bigfoot, the Face on Mars, Ancient Astronauts, Mothman, Blessed Virgin Mary apparitions, the Bermuda Triangle, Atlantis, Tunguska, Leylines, Hollow Earth, Angels/Demons, Messianic messages, Channeling, Reincarnations on other planets, Perpetual Motion machines, Psychotronics and Tesla machines, Dowsing, and the tenets of the Nevada School of Total Paranoia (this latter label will suffice to designate a loosely associated "school" of "thinkers" (?) who believe in a long-consummated dirty deal between the government and the UFOnuts, which has gone horribly wrong and has involved Kennedy assassinations, world-wide drug control, AIDS invention, and the using of *homo sapiens* as the main ingredient in the Extraterrestrial cook book). Some of these excisions are obviously proper; some may not be. All are defensive in nature.

The point of this as regards the UFO research library is that all these things have been written about and often in connection with UFOs. If only to protect oneself, the UFOlogist needs to be aware of the best thinking on the subjects. Life is short; time is in demand, and it is a rare person who has the freedom or inclination to become smart on all these issues. When we decide to not make

the effort, we should probably just shut up about them – even the seemingly craziest. However it is in many of these areas that the popular journals (*IUR* and *MUFON J.*) do their best services. Occasionally a rational individual will decide to review and critique one of these alleged UFO connections, and the rest of us can become a little smarter. Occasionally an article even appears in *CSICOP's Skeptical Inquirer*, which I monitor continually in hopes of locating the odd sensible thing which appears there.

The other point that should be made is that few serious UFOlogists believe that there is any good data for UFO connections to any of the above-named concepts (if, indeed, there is any good data for them simply on their own.) It may surprise you that major UFO researchers know that cattle mutes and crop circles exist, but are 90+% convinced that UFOs have nothing to do with them. "We" have no belief in the mysteriousness of the Bermuda Triangle, and are aware that the Tunguska Event was a carbonaceous comet. The Face on Mars is, as of now, just an interesting figure on a NASA picture, which should be explored without prejudice in the future. Ancient astronauts made none of the great buildings of our high cultures of the past; whether they inspired any of our legends is interesting but unsupported speculation. Atlantis didn't exist as an ancient hi-tech golden world, and we weren't there in past lives. Dowsing may or may not find water and broken electrical connections, but its relationship to UFOs seems to be zero. And Jesus and the Buddha surely do not live on Venus.

UFOlogists continually have to protect themselves from bizarreness right across the "seriousness" spectrum. On the one end the *Weekly World News* may locate Elvis living with Allen Hynek on Pluto, but on the other Louis Farrakhan of the Nation of Islam tells his followers that he receives insight and the backing of UFO weapon power from UFO Motherships in near-Earth orbit. For your sanity I am not recommending that you read any of this stuff unless you are a professional folklorist, a student of cults, or a CIA-employee. Many of us in UFOlogy find our shelves cluttered with this material, because it is there, it is not just fun and games, and it often interferes with our work.

An exception arises when something becomes so big and so real that it is worth spending some time with it. This has been the case with the English Crop Circles. Although there is very poor documentation of circles being related to "flying objects", the resemblance of the simpler ones to alleged UFO landing traces dating back to the Australia "Tully nests" of the '60's, made the connection inevitable. To date (ex. the summer of 1992) crop circle "research" has either been disorganized and undisciplined, or it has been unpublished. Many claims are made, but little documentation or detective-work ever appears. The status of the phenomenon is simply: it exists and no one yet honestly knows who or what is doing it. All options from weird meteorology to weird Britishers and on to weird aliens are still open. Dr. Terence Meaden's *The Circles Effect and Its Mysteries* is amazingly already out-dated, but it at least seems intelligently researched. The best overview seems to be Ralph Noyes'

edited collection *The Crop Circle Enigma*, which allows various views to try to make their cases. A cottage industry of Crop Circle journals has appeared, but whether any of them are particularly trustworthy it is too soon to say. Where is the proper presentation of data? Where are the proper publications of alleged lab tests? The situation almost appears to be mired in the sort of rollicking amateurism that is afraid to really probe into something which would spoil the fun. Until someone gets serious, the UFOlogist merely looks at the pretty pictures and, after smiling at the artistry, sets the whole business aside in the grey basket.

Materials from non-UFO fields: UFOlogy is always bumping into other areas of knowledge and forcing its intelligentsia to learn something about them. My major personal task in the community has been to serve as a sort of "general science educator" for busy researchers who haven't the time to absorb all that stuff themselves. These subjects often turn out to be of lasting influence on UFO thinking, whether by skeptics or proponents. Certain basic points of information regarding Cosmology, Astronomy, Planetology, and the whole of Biological Evolution come up regularly, usually with enough ignorance added in by the speaker to create embarrassment or disgust in the mind of any listener in-the-know. The whole literature of SETI and the "Drake Equation Debate" has thereby insinuated itself into the business of UFOlogy whether anyone wanted it there or not. The research UFOlogist could use some depth familiarity with the material and have it ready on the shelves. Ongoing journals are not much use here, unless you are a fanatic and wealthy enough to subscribe to *ICARUS*. Short of that the *Journal of the British Interplanetary Society* would be nice. Most scholars would settle for a few of the best references in the field. A selection would be:

1. Ashpole, Edward *The Search For Extraterrestrial Intelligence*;
2. Billingham, John (ed.) *Life in the Universe*;
3. Goldsmith, Donald and Tobias Owen *The Search For Life in the Universe*;
4. McDonough, Thomas *Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence*;
5. MacGowan, Roger and Frederick Ordway *Intelligence in the Universe*;
6. Ridpath, Ian *Worlds Beyond*;
7. Shklovskii, I. S. and Carl Sagan *Intelligent Life in the Universe*;
8. Shneour, E. A. and Eric Ottesen (eds) *Extraterrestrial Life*.

It would be impossible to list readings for all the fields relevant to UFOlogy, but such a list appears here for the SETI material since it has grown together so intimately with the UFO subject. My research requires much deeper references both for SETI and the individual areas of science verging on the parameters in the Drake Equation, and the argument over the Fermi Paradox. Other UFOlogists require supplementary library materials in other areas: hypnosis, parapsychology, psychiatry, human reproduction, genetics, geophysics, meteorology, plant biology... etc. etc. etc. Our inability to create a true academic-style

community with regular and ample fora for information exchange places great pressures on the individual to be a "Renaissance Man". The SSE and JUFOS and the emerging professional communities gathering about the abductions phenomenon may finally change all that.

The field of UFO research has continued to defy being brought into any reasonably-sized intellectual boundaries. As its mysteries resist solution, its boundaries move dynamically with every new claimed characteristic and every new external concept applied. Thus this library tour can never end. But it will end in the same way we finite humans put an end to any path of complex questioning... we arbitrarily draw a line and quit. Now.

Novice or veteran researchers wishing to accrue to themselves outstanding library and research materials should be aware of UFOlogy's finest book and documents source: Arcturus Book Service, 1443 S. E. Port St. Lucie Blvd. Port St. Lucie, FL 34952.

References for the UFO Research Library

Selected Case Documents and In-Depth Case Studies

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- Long, Greg. *Examining the earthlight theory: the Yakima UFO microcosm*. Chicago, IL. CUFOS, 1990.
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- Webb, Walter. The Dover demon, April 21 - 22, 1977. *APRO Case File Report*, September 13, 1977.
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- Wertzell, William. The Portage County sighting (Dale Spaur Case). *Final NICAP Case Summary*, April 8, 1967.
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This list was selected on two grounds: to illustrate "interesting" cases, and, more importantly, to point out the variety of types of "primary" case materials and their difference from the "typical UFO books" occupying collection shelves. The only "normal-appearing" books (Fuller, Randle-Schmitt, Hynek-Imbrogno, and, perhaps, Salisbury) were allowed on the list because they were written by authors close to the primary investigations, concern themselves with a precisely definable incident or set of incidents, and stay close to the less-polished primary investigative documents.

Selected Data-Collections

(Australian Catalogues)... the Australian researchers have done, perhaps, the best job of data-collection and publication of any country's group.

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. . . again, list selected so as to indicate desirability of data-closeness as a check against idiosyncratic interpretations of reported phenomena.

Selected U. S. Government Documents

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- Greenwood, Barry and Lawrence Fawcett. *Clear Intent*. Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey, Prentice Hall, 1984.
- Moore, William (editor). *The mystery of the green fireballs*. Prescott, Arizona, Moore, 1983.
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. . . other governments' documents can be interesting as well, most prominently the released Australian Air Documents, courtesy of researchers Edgar Jarrold and William Chalker; and the French government project GEPAN documents-studies, which are (unfortunately for linguistic ignoramus like myself) not in English.

Brief Listing of Important Journals. (English language, as usual).

- APRO Bulletin*. 1952 - 85.
- Flying Saucer Review*. 1955 - present.
- International UFO Reporter*. 1976 - present.
- Journal of UFO Studies*. 1981 - 3. n.s. 1989 - present.
- UFO Investigator (NICAP)*. 1957 - 80.
- And, if you have the means:
- Australian:*ACOS Bulletin*. 1975 - 79.
- Australian Flying Saucer Bulletin*. 1953 - 55.
- Journal Australian Center UFO Studies*. 1980 - present.
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- UFO Critical Bulletin*. 1957 - 8.
- Canadian:*Canadian UFO Report (Journal UFO)*. 1969 - 81.
- Swamp Gas Journal*. 1978 - present.
- Great Britain:*Journal of Transient Aerial Phenomena*. 1979 - present.
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- Other U.S.A.:*CSI Quarterly Bulletin*. 1952 - 54.
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- CRIFO Orbit*. 1954 - 57.
- Just Cause*. 1978 - 80; 1984 - present.
- MUFON Journal*. 1967 - present.
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- Space Review*. 1951 - 53.
- UFO Newsletter (Munsick)*. 1956 - 60.

. . . other journals offer occasional items of interest, or course (ex. *Second Look*, *Pursuit*, *Fortean Times*, *Zetetic Scholar*, *INFO Journal*, William Corliss' *Science Frontiers*, and many professional journals. One journal which should be quite valuable but, surprisingly, almost never has any well-researched or otherwise useful material, is the *Skeptical Inquirer*. I recommend its subscription for certain other topics, but the quality of the UFO pieces is usually not worth the time of any knowledgeable researcher).

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The Second Tier:

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- Shklovskii, I. S. and Carl Sagan. *Intelligent life in the universe*. San Francisco, Holden Day, 1966.
- Shneur, E. A. and Eric Ottesen. *Extraterrestrial life*. Washington, D. C., National Research Council, 1966.

. . . these materials give the overview of the "debate-discussion", but, as usual, miss the importance of the details. I have appended much more extensive bibliographies on these subjects to three of my papers: "Science and the Extraterrestrial Hypothesis in UFOlogy." *Journal of UFO Studies* n.s. 1, 67 - 102, 1989; "ETI and the Third Option: an exchange." *International UFO Reporter* 12 (4), 22 - 24, 1987; and "Modern Biology and the Extraterrestrial Hypothesis." *MUFON 19th international UFO Symposium Proceedings*. Ver-

sailles, MO, *MUFON*, 50 - 78, 1991. As mentioned, the detailed reading should be taken up in the journals *ICARUS*, *Journal of the British Interplanetary Society*, and *Origins of Life*.

Important Miscellani

General Anomalistics and Crop Circles

- Corliss, William (editor). The handbooks and publications of the Sourcebook Project, especially *Handbook of Unusual Natural Phenomena* (1977); *Lightning, Auroras, Nocturnal Lights and Related Luminous Phenomena* (1982); and *Rare Halos, Mirages, Anomalous Rainbows and Related Electromagnetic Phenomena* (1984). Glen Arm, MD.
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- Morrison, Tony. *Pathways to the gods*. New York, Harper and Row, 1978.
- Ramage, Edwin (editor). *Atlantis: fact or fiction?* Bloomington, Indiana, 1978.

Selected Works on the Paranormal

(UFOlogists are constantly confronted by elements in their field which are potentially characterized as "paranormal", yet few researchers actually know anything about the field. Proper research would be to regularly consult journals like *J. American Society of Psychological Research*, *J. of Parapsychology*, *Research in Parapsychology* (the abstracts of the Parapsychological Association conventions), the Princeton PEAR publications, the *Zetetic Scholar* debates, and the *Journal of Scientific Exploration*. Rhea White's *Exceptional Human Experience*, the *Journal of Near-Death Studies*, and Marilyn Ferguson's *Brain/Mind Bulletin* are also potentially relevant. Since this level of time expenditure "outside the field" is possibly too much to expect, a few book selections follow).

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- Davidson, H. R. E. and W. M. S. Russell (editors). *The folklore of ghosts*. Cambridge, D. S. Brewer, 1982.

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- Krippner, Stanley (editor). *Advances in parapsychological research* (multi volumes continuing). New York, Plenum, 1977 - present.
- Plank, Robert. *The emotional significance of imaginary beings*. Springfield, IL, Charles Thomas, 1968.
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- Selected works on Frontier Science Thinking (for UFOlogists with impoverished vision vis-a-vis the possible)*.
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... and having experienced the above perhaps one could risk reading "dangerous" authors like Fritjof Capra, Nick Herbert, Fred Wolf, and Michael Talbot.

