

I have just finished reading the Herald Spectrum liftout and noticed the ad about importing books.

Not really sure if I am in the category of people who qualify for this study but I thought I'd contact you anyway.

I am an avid reader and source books from a variety of locations. On occasions I buy new books from franchises such as Borders and Dymocks etc (and independent bookshops like Gleebooks). I occasionally buy books from second hand bookshops and have also recently joined the City of Sydney library.

However, because I am quite a fussy reader, I often order books both new and second hand through Amazon.com. I have been ordering books through them for many years now. If you are interested in why I choose to order from Amazon.com rather than using bookshops here in Sydney (and helping our economy) the answer is simple. The majority of authors and books that I want to read are rarely found in Australian bookshops. If I could get them in Australia then I would most certainly do it. I have on occasions seen something I like on Amazon.com then ordered it through Dymocks or Borders but ultimately I have found it quicker and easier just to order from Amazon or Powells.com directly. The service is fast and secure and ultimately those two companies have the literature, titles and authors that I want to read.

I hope that the Australian Government is not thinking of banning this practice or adding some type of hideous tax. I recently returned from teaching English in Santiago, Chile. I was horrified by the Government rules on literature. Any books that were sent to me by my family or ordered through Amazon were so heavily taxed by the Chilean Government that it was ultimately not worth having them sent. The prices of books in Chile were among the most ridiculous I have encountered and mostly only the upper classes could afford them.

I truly hope that doesn't happen here. I feel lucky to have so much access to literature in Australia at a good price. Especially when so many other forms of entertainment such as movies and sports have risen in price.

Depending on my budget, I guess I use Amazon or Powell's Books to order maybe three or four times a year. When I do order, I often order three or four at one time. Unfortunately with the weaker Aussie dollar it is becoming more expensive but still worth it. Hopefully the government won't start taxing me for ordering through overseas sites but I totally understand why the publishers and bookshops here would be angry at loss of profits etc. It's a difficult situation I guess. Sometimes people want certain books and if they can't access them at their local Dymocks or Borders they will look elsewhere.

Hope this information was helpful.

Regards,

Darren Cole

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