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***SPACE EXPLORATION TITLES ARE COLLECTED  
IN NEW RESOURCE FROM UNIVERSITY PRESSES***

***“Books For Understanding” Lists Available Experts and Books  
For Librarians, Journalists, Researchers, and General Public***

**NEW YORK (February 11, 2003)** – Last week’s tragic crash of the Columbia shuttle has brought immediacy to debate over and coverage of the future of manned space exploration. Now, a depth of scholarship on the space shuttle program and the history of space policy is available to journalists, librarians, teachers and others following developments in the Columbia investigation.

A free public bibliography of books on Space Flight is now available at Books for Understanding (<http://aaupnet.org/booksforunderstanding.html>), a service of the Association of American University Presses. The bibliography features books ranging from technical analyses of space shuttle upgrades to histories of the Apollo program and the U.S.-Soviet space race.

Books for Understanding Space Flight includes the following titles:

- *Post-Challenger Evaluation of Space Shuttle Risk Assessment and Management*, from the National Research Council, National Academies Press. This is one of 19 studies on the Space Shuttle and the international Space Station available from National Academies Press. All of these books can be read for free online, and National Academies Press has also posted freely downloadable PDF’s of these works in the past week.
- *The Challenger Launch Decision: Risky Technology, Culture, and Deviance at NASA*, by Diane Vaughan, University of Chicago Press—a general interest title. The author is available as a resource for journalists.
- *A Tribble’s Guide to Space: How to Get to Space and What to Do When You are There*, by Alan C. Tribble, Princeton University Press—a general interest title. Also, Alan Tribble’s aerospace engineering reference work, *The Space Environment: Implications for Spacecraft Design* is listed.

- *“Before This Decade is Out...” Personal Reflections on the Apollo Program*, Edited by Glen E. Swanson, University Press of Florida—a general interest title.

The free service is only available on the Association of American University Presses (AAUP) web site [www.aaupnet.org/booksforunderstanding.html](http://www.aaupnet.org/booksforunderstanding.html).

“Books For Understanding” launched the month following the terrorist attacks on New York and Washington to help teachers, scholars, journalists, librarians, and booksellers find necessary information. The **September 11, 2001** list eventually grew to include more than 650 books from 64 university presses, and is still available as an archived list on the site. Today, AAUP continues that public service, and offers lists on North Korea, Iraq, Race Relations in America, and Civil Liberties among other current lists.

“**Journalists’ Resources**”—a section for members of the media—contains detailed contact information for authors available to talk with the press. For many of the books listed, the publishers have also indicated whether the titles are primarily directed to a general reader or to a special interest/scholarly audience. Every book listed is in print or soon to be published, available at bookstores, libraries, online booksellers, or directly from the presses.

“Informed debate on national and world events is essential to active democracy,” said AAUP Executive Director Peter Givler, “and Books for Understanding makes that debate possible for the widest range of readers.”

The Association of American University Presses is the world’s largest organization of not-for-profit scholarly publishers. Formally established in 1937, AAUP promotes the work and influence of its 122 university press members.