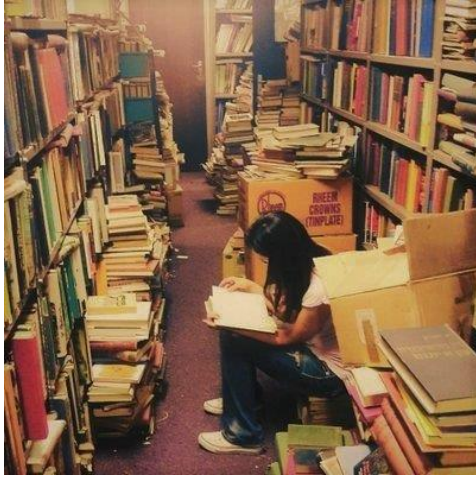


Stumbling through the stacks: Inside Joburg's towering temple of books

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When I think about books, I touch my shelf.

It's seductive. That faint, vanilla-like, musky smell that beckons whenever I step inside. I resist the urge to giddily skip up the stairs.

Collector's Treasury is an eight-storey building in downtown Joburg, with the bragging rights to housing the largest collection of used and antique books of any African bookstore – and possibly the southern hemisphere (according to the owners).

Resisting the urge to skip up the stairs is a wise move – towering stacks of books haphazardly loom, they also line the entrance, walls, floors, and shelves which hide amongst the dusty stacks.



Cruising the stacks in Collector's Treasury is not for the faint-hearted.

This is a refuge for every bibliophile and a probable purgatory for any Marie Kondo enthusiast.

It's advisable to set a few hours aside to do any visit justice and don't bother wearing your Sunday/athleisure best (even for the gram).

Amongst the Treasury's impressive selection of books are vinyl records, antiques and an array of old maps. It's also advisable to keep your wits about you as you cruise through the stacks, as there are some rare books in hiding.

Total *mind fudge* to find a first edition of Mein Kampf wedged between Les Schtroumpfs (The Smurfs, in French) and some Barbara Cartland.