When prolific literary historian Robert Darnton published his book *The Case for Books: Past, Present and Future*, in 1990, he was one of the first cultural historians of books to call for a digital future of the book. Darnton, Director of the Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations (ANAMED) in Turkey, and the newly appointed Director of the Library of Congress, was one of the most influential cultural historians of books in the world. His work had been instrumental in developing the field of book history, and his books had already made a significant impact on the study of history. *The Case for Books* was a call to action, urging historians to consider the role of books in shaping society.

Darnton argued that books are not merely repositories of information, but active agents in the construction of knowledge. He believed that books are vital to the development of critical thinking and personal knowledge. Without books, he argued, we would be unable to understand the world around us. Darnton’s book was a wake-up call to the publishing industry, urging them to embrace digital technologies and to make books available in new formats.

*The Case for Books* was a bestseller, and its ideas have continued to influence the field of book history. Darnton’s work has been translated into several languages, and his ideas have been adopted by libraries and publishers around the world. Darnton’s influence is evident in the way that libraries and publishing companies are now incorporating digital technologies into their operations. His ideas have also influenced the way that historians approach the study of books.

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