

# No Supernatural Entities, Forces, or Powers and No Ghosts

Post by “Joshua” of September 24, 2024 at 6:55 PM

There is an interesting remark by Stephen Greenblatt in *The Swerve* about libraries in antiquity, but I haven't been able to track down a source for the claim.

## Quote

At the games in the Colosseum one day, the historian Tacitus had a conversation on literature with a perfect stranger who turned out to have read his works. Culture was no longer located in close-knit circles of friends and acquaintances; Tacitus was encountering his "public" in the form of someone who had bought his book at a stall in the Forum or read it in a library.

In any case, [This](#) article (PDF) gives an interesting look into how these texts might have been distributed in antiquity. Just in case Don needs a cheering-up!