Topic-- Powell’s Books is one of the largest independent bookstores in the nation. Although it is a chain and serves customers around the world via its online store, it is still local, and very much a part of the surrounding city of Portland, Oregon. In this project, I plan to explore the extent to which Powell’s Books is an example of localism: how it interacts with the surrounding community, and how it can be thought of as an influential economic, social, and political force. I will also explore the role that independent businesses, such as Powell’s play in their communities, and how these communities shape them in turn.

Archive—

Brown, Mariah J. “How Important are Small Businesses to Local Economies?” Chron. Hearst Newspapers LLC. n.d. Web. 30 January 2016. <[http://smallbusiness.chron.com/important-small-businesses- local-economies-5251.html](http://smallbusiness.chron.com/important-small-businesses-%09local-economies-5251.html)>

Chamberlin, Jeremiah. “Inside Indie Bookstores: Powell’s Books in Portland, Oregon.” Poets & Writers. Poets & Writers. 1 March 2010. Web. 30 January 2016. <[http://www.pw.org/content/inside\_indie\_bookstores\_powell\_s\_books\_in\_portland\_oregon?a rticle\_page=2](http://www.pw.org/content/inside_indie_bookstores_powell_s_books_in_portland_oregon?a%09rticle_page=2)>

Farmanfarmaian, Roxane. “Powell’s employees vote to unionize; negotiations begin.” *Publishers Weekly 246.20.* (1999): 14. Web. Jan 30 2016 <[http://search.proquest.com/docview/197033362?pq- origsite=summon](http://search.proquest.com/docview/197033362?pq-%09origsite=summon)>

Glick, Andrea. “Portland, OR, bookstore shares profits with school libraries.” *School Library Journal 44.3* (1998): 97. Web. <<http://search.proquest.com/docview/211707381?pq-origsite=summon>>

“History of the Pearl District.” *Explore the Pearl*. Pearl District Business Association. n.d. Web. 30 January 2016 <<http://explorethepearl.com/about-the-pearl/history-of-the-pearl-district/>>

*Powell’s City of Books*. Powells.com n.d. Web. 30 January 2016 <http://www.powells.com/info/about-

 us>

“Powell’s City of Books.” *Travel Portland*. DiscoverAmerica.com. n.d. Web. 30 January 2016 <<http://www.travelportland.com/article/powells-city-of-books/>>

“Top Reasons to Buy Local, Eat Local, Go Local.” American Independent Business Alliance. American Independent Business Alliance. n.d. Web. 30 January 2016. <<http://www.amiba.net/resources/localhero/>>

Rothenberg, Randall. “The Media Business; Outside Publishing Centers, A Giant Bookstore Prospers.” *The New York Times*. The New York Times Company. 12 August 1991. Web. 30 January 2016 <[http://www.nytimes.com/1991/08/12/business/the-media-business-outside-publishing- centers-a-giant-bookstore-prospers.html](http://www.nytimes.com/1991/08/12/business/the-media-business-outside-publishing-%09centers-a-giant-bookstore-prospers.html)>

Conversation—

1) Blanchard, Troy; Todd L. Matthews. “The Configuration of Local Economic Power and Civic Participation in the Global Economy.” *Social Forces 84.4.* (2006). 2241-2257. Web. <<http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/social_forces/v084/84.4blanchard.html>>

The main theme of this article is the connection between local, independent businesses and the participation of citizens in politics and other community affairs. It has a section about the interactions between local businesses, global and national businesses, and communities, that I think may be useful in understanding the role of Powell’s Books in Portland.

2)Cormack, Mandy; Niall Fitzgerald. “The Role of Business in Society: An agenda for Action” *Corporate Social Responsibility Initiative CSRI Report No.12* (2006). Web. < [http://www.hks.harvard.edu/m- rcbg/CSRI/publications/report\_12\_CGI%20Role%20of%20Business%20in%20Society%20Report %20FINAL%2010-03-06.pdf](http://www.hks.harvard.edu/m-%09rcbg/CSRI/publications/report_12_CGI%20Role%20of%20Business%20in%20Society%20Report%09%20FINAL%2010-03-06.pdf)>

This source may help me to understand the role that businesses in general are expected to play in their communities (not just independent businesses).

3) Hess, David J. *Localist Movements in a Global Economy : Sustainability, Justice, and Urban Development in the United States*. Cambridge, Mass. MIT Press, 2009. p.2-22. PDF.

The source explains terms and concepts that will be helpful in the development of my paper much as “localization”, “localism”, and “alternative global economy.”

4) Lyson, thomas A. “Big Business and Community Welfare: Revisiting a Classic Study by C. Wright Mills and Melville Ulmer” *The American Journal of Economics and Sociology* 65.5 (2006): 1001-1024. Web. <[http://www.jstor.org/stable/27739608?pq- origsite=summon&seq=1#page\_scan\_tab\_contents](http://www.jstor.org/stable/27739608?pq-%09origsite=summon&seq=1#page_scan_tab_contents)>

I have not been able to examine the following sources yet, but I also plan to look at: *Local industrial structures, economic power, and community welfare: thirty small New York State cities, 1930-1950* by Irving A. Fowler, *The social responsibilities of business, company, and community, 1900-1960* by Morrell Heald,and ***Citizen participation in urban development*, edited by B.C. Spiegel** for more information about the relationship between local businesses and their surrounding communities. I also plan to narrow this list down to 2-4 works that I feel will best fit into my paper before I begin writing.

Question—

To what extent is Powell’s Books a good example of localism, and what kind of relationship does it have with its community? What kind of relationship do local, independent businesses in general typically have with communities?