

Organize your bookshelves with these 16 products under \$20

By Jolie Kerr

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CNN —

One of the tricky things about organizing a bookshelf or bookcase is that we use them to hold much more than just books: Our shelves display keepsakes and picture frames, house collections of board games and photographs, and often end up as a place where odds and ends like eyeglasses and remotes are stored.

To help you out with those bookshelf challenges, we enlisted the help of home organization experts Pam Meluskey and Larisa Bright, founders of the luxury home organization service, [Settled](#), and interior designer [Lindsay Pumpa](#). We asked these experts to help us pick out 20 of the absolute best items to organize and style a bookshelf or collection of books — plus something for those cobwebs! — all priced under \$20.

Crystal Allies Gallery Pair of Polished Agate Geode Halves Bookends (\$19.99; [amazon.com](#))



Crystal Allies Gallery Pair of Polished Agate Geode Halves Bookends
[Amazon](#)

“This may be obvious,” Pumpa says, “but bookends! Bookends are probably the best way to show your style because they come in so many varieties.” For a natural look that spans a variety of styles, Pumpa suggests a geode-style set of bookends. Look for different colors to match your decor or personal style.

Design Ideas Hidden Bookends (\$18.99; [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com))



Design Ideas Hidden Bookends
Amazon

Pumpa points out a very specific problem that bookends can help to solve: How to store books that have seen better days. “If you have some older books that are ‘gently loved’ and may need a little bit of help standing up on their own, try invisible bookends,” she says. Pumpa likes the invisible bookends for creating what she calls “a cleaner library feel” because they don’t compete with other decor you may be trying to showcase.

Eyeglasses Organizer Box (\$18.99; [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com))



Eyeglasses Organizer Box
Amazon

People who wear “cheaters” — those nonprescription reading glasses that are typically sold at drugstores — know that those cheaters seem to proliferate in the night, like gremlins, leaving pairs strewn randomly around the house. A storage box designed specifically for glasses (with a clear lid to remind you of what’s inside!) can be the key to getting those cheaters organized and easy to find.

Acrylic Lid Boxes (starting at \$7.99, originally \$15.99; [containerstore.com](https://www.containerstore.com))



Acrylic Lid Boxes
The Container Store

Books aren't the only thing we store on a bookshelf: Photo albums and collections are often housed on bookcases. Pumpa recommends this acrylic lidded box, which she says is "a great way to store keepsakes and photos, while also adding another layer of style."

Elegance Eclipse Bowl (\$18.52; [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com))



Elegance Eclipse Bowl
Amazon

"Another great storage idea for those items you may need to grab a bit more often, but still may need a home, like keys, the remotes or a box of matches," Pumpa says, "try an open bowl or catchall." Pumpa picked this stylish bowl because, she says, "it also doubles as a great decorative topper to a stack of larger books."

Threshold Decorative Coiled Rope Basket (\$9.60, originally \$16; [target.com](https://www.target.com))



Threshold Decorative Coiled Rope Basket
Target

“If you have some taller bottom shelves,” Pumpa says, “and are tight on storage for larger items like extra blankets, toys or seasonal items, I recommend trying a basket or bin.” This is her pick for a neutral basket, and she offers this tip for picking neutral storage of your own: “The key is making sure the baskets blend with your decor and not detract or draw a lot of attention. You also want to make sure they find a home on a lower shelf, so they don’t throw off the balance of the bookshelf.”

Acrylic Display Cube (starting at \$9.99; [containerstore.com](https://www.containerstore.com))



Acrylic Display Cube
The Container Store

Meluskey and Bright especially like clear acrylic accessories for bringing order to a bookshelf. “When styling your bookshelf, there can quickly become many items fighting for visual attention,” they say. “That’s why we like to use clear, acrylic items where possible, to keep the focus on your collection.” They recommend this display cube, which they say is “great for highlighting or spotlighting a specific item.”

Acrylic Risers (starting at \$4.99; [containerstore.com](https://www.containerstore.com))



Acrylic Risers
The Container Store

Another way to use acrylic organizers to style a bookshelf is to buy a set of risers. Meluskey and Bright say that these well-priced risers are “perfect for utilizing different heights when styling — a successful shelf design incorporates items at varying heights.”

Royal Duster Ostrich Feather Duster (\$8.75; [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com))



Royal Duster Ostrich Feather Duster
Amazon

Well, we promised you something for cobwebs and here it is: a good old-fashioned feather duster! Even if your book storage isn’t afflicted with cobwebs, it is almost definitely dusty — bookshelves get very, very dusty! — and keeping it clean can be a frustrating task. A feather duster solves that problem, by allowing you to regularly dust books, knickknacks and the shelves themselves without having to pick up every item.