UNIVERSITY PRESSES COMPILE EXHAUSTIVE ONLINE RESOURCE IN WAKE OF SEPTEMBER 11

“Books For Understanding” Categorizes Hundreds of Titles by Leading Experts In Terrorism, Disaster Management, Islamic Culture, Grief, Aviation Security, And Other Themes

NEW YORK (October 2, 2001) – A new online resource categorizes the hundreds of university press books in print that relate to the events of September 11 and its aftermath. Now available on the Association of American University Presses (AAUP) website (http://www.aaupnet.org/news/spotlight.html), “Books For Understanding” lists more than 465 books from 55 university presses. This bibliography is organized under nine broad themes: The World Trade Center; Terrorism; Grief, Loss, and Trauma; Catastrophe and Disaster Management; War, Peace, and Global Issues; The Middle East and Islamic States; Fundamentalism and Political Islam; Islamic Thought and Culture; and Aviation/Airport Security. The authors are many of the leading authorities on their subjects, and some have researched and studied the fields for their entire career.

The list has been designed for use by general readers, as well as by teachers, librarians, scholars, booksellers, and journalists. All listed books are in print, and can be found in local bookstores, libraries, online booksellers, and directly from the presses.

“University and scholarly publishers are often in the position of having already published books on subjects central to understanding new and difficult situations,” said Peter Givler, AAUP Executive Director. “One of our core missions is to serve society and scholarship through the dissemination of basic research and analysis – as well as promoting works that assist in the understanding of cultures, policies, and historical consequences throughout the world.”

New titles will continue to be added to keep the bibliography relevant and timely. Among the titles included:

“Books for Understanding” was sparked by Sanford Thatcher, Director of Pennsylvania State University Press. Immediately after September 11, he noticed a surge of requests for two backlist titles on terrorism and approached AAUP with a request to compile a field-wide listing for people looking for information and insight.

The Association of American University Presses is the world’s largest organization of not-for-profit scholarly publishers. Formally established in 1937, AAUP promotes the work and influence of university presses, provides cooperative marketing opportunities, and helps its 121 members respond to the changing economy and publishing environment. These presses are active across the United States and abroad, and publish in a range of scholarly disciplines including the humanities, arts, science and technology, and social sciences.