

Library Sources for Collectibles - Estimating Value Information

Compiled by Pierce County Library System

1) How to Estimate the Value of Your Personal Property using eBay

- Go to: <http://www.ebay.com>
- Type your search into the search bar: i.e., **mesh purse**.
You will get a list of mesh purse auctions sorted by auction end deadlines.
- Scroll down a bit. On the left hand side of the screen under **Search Options**, you will see the “completed listings” box. Check this box, scroll down and click on the “Show Items” box. (You must be registered for an eBay account before you can view completed auctions.)
- Completed auctions sorted by the most recently ended will be displayed. The ending auction price will be shown, but will only be useful if there was at least one bid on the item. Only the closing prices in green received bids and were sold. Look for several items that match your item and compare prices.

eBay will only give you a *rough* value of your item.

These prices are what the current world market was willing to pay for that item *online* at the time the auction closed. Prices will fluctuate depending on supply and demand.

Also, some situations may not give accurate results or may skew values:

- One of a kind or very rare items may be hard to compare.
- Very high priced items are not likely to sell on eBay, as many people will not bid high on items sight unseen.
- Forgeries and fakes. Do your research before bidding to make sure the item is not a reproduction. Ask questions prior to bidding.
- Your search method can affect your results. See http://pages.ebay.com/help/buy/contextual/search_tips.html

2) Books on estimating value of personal property

- For more resources on eBay and other online auctions, try a subject search for “**online auctions**” in our catalog.
- For books on specific types of collectible items, try a subject search of the general term of the item, plus the sub-heading *Collectors and collecting*.

Example: **Coins -- Collectors and collecting**.