Be an Expert on the Top Genres

Presented by
Nancy Houseal
KDLA's Division of Library Services

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Readers' Advisory

- Finding the right book for the right person at the right time
- Helping readers find the best, most enjoyable reading that matches their needs, interests and reading level
- Connecting readers and authors/writers
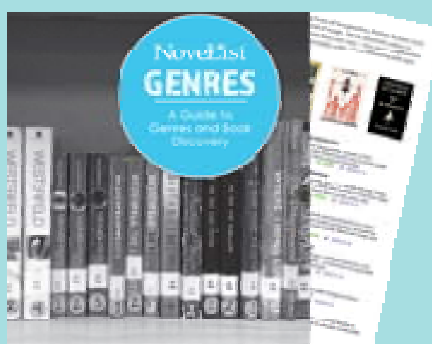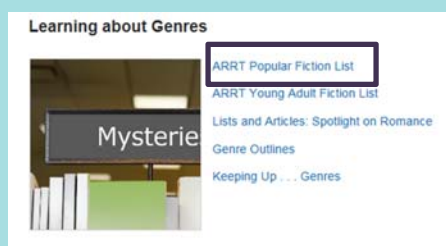
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Becoming a Genre Expert

- Broad knowledge of library's collection
- Develop quick sources you can check
- Do self-training
- Challenge yourself to discover one new author a week
- Keep a reading journal

- Locate non-library blogs
- Read books or articles on RA
- NoveList
- Adult Popular Fiction Checklist

KYVL's NoveList

NoveList – Reader's Advisory Toolkit

Readers' Advisory Toolbox

NoveList's "Keeping Up" Pages

Our "Keeping Up" genre pages deliver all you need to quickly understand popular genres -- and better pinpoint the books your patrons will love!
Check them out!

Learning about Genres

Mysterie

ARRT Popular Fiction List
ARRT Young Adult Fiction List
Lists and Articles: Spotlight on Romance
Genre Outlines
Keeping Up . . . Genres

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NoveList Genres: A Guide to Genre and Book Discovery
https://help.ebsco.com/@api/deki/files/3162/GenreGuide-2017.pdf%20?utm_medium=email&utm_source=various_cp&utm_campaign=updatedguides_20170201&utm_content=genre&eis-cmp=NOVBD&eis-src=email&eis-type=website-novelist&eis-code=updatedguides_20170201

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Science Fiction

Science fiction asks "What if?" and then answers the question. Encompassing a range of locations and timelines, this "literature of ideas" depicts, with varying degrees of realism, the plausible, the improbable, and the seemingly impossible. Whether exploring the farthest reaches of outer space or the intricate workings of the human mind, this genre challenges readers to envision the best -- or worst -- of all possible worlds.

THE HUNGER GAMES
SUZANNE COLLINS

THE WILD ROBOT
PETER BROWN

ANNIHILATION
JEFF VANDERMEER

THE MARTIAN
ANDY WEIR

THE THREE-BODY PROBLEM

Science fiction

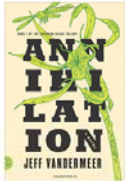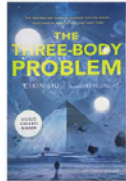Science fiction is first and foremost a literature of ideas. With varying degrees of realism, Science fiction depicts the plausible, the improbable, and the seemingly impossible.
● ADULTS   ● TEENS   ● AGES 9-12

Alternative histories

"If only…" is the thread that ties together this genre, which examines how even minor alterations to the

Hard science fiction

Extrapolating from our current understanding of the universe, this subgenre puts the science in science fiction.
● ADULTS

Military science fiction

War. What is it good for? Testing out those death rays, for one. Super-soldiers armed with cutting-edge weaponry engage in high-tech combat.

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Sci

TIPS
for searching by genre

Become a NoveList pro with field code searching! Enter the field code GN (must be capitalized) with the genre you are looking for in the search box.

Example: **GN space opera**

Find your perfect genre combination by adding the Boolean operator AND (must be all caps).

Example: **GN science fiction AND GN classics**

Discover that perfect book by combining appeal with genre.

Example: **GN science fiction AND AP witty**

Don't forget, you can learn more about field code searching in the Learn section of the Idea Center at ebscohost.com/novelist.

Home   Browse By   Especially For   Quick Links   How Do I?

NoveList Plus   Keyword ▾ | GN science fiction AND AP witty

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ARRT Popular Fiction List

- http://imagesrvr.epnet.com/embimages/novelplus/2008/misc/ARRT_Workbook_4.1_ed_2015.pdf
- Compiled by The Adult Reading Round Table Steering Committee
- Permits library staff to survey their adult fiction reading experience
- Fiction categories contain brief description of characteristics and the genres and/or subgenres
- Each further described by listing key elements and appeal characteristics.
- Includes list of representative authors

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Self-Evaluation Bibliography

Amateur Detective

Mysteries in which the investigator is not a detective by profession. Some, but not all, amateur detective mysteries are cozy.

Nevada Barr				
Stephanie Barron				
C. Alan Bradley				
Jan Burke				
Laura Childs				
Jill Churchill				
Margaret Coel				
Mary Daheim				
Sarah Graves				
Charlaine Harris				
Carolyn Hart				
Sue Henry				
Faye Kellerman				

R=I've read this author   RA=I've read about this author (reviews, interviews, etc.)
H=I've heard of this author (patron or colleague comments)   NH=I've never heard of this author
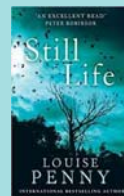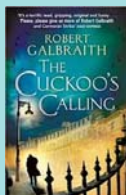
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MYSTERY

Mystery = Puzzle

Characteristics

- Involves a crime, usually murder
- Investigated and culprit brought to justice
- Focus on central puzzle and/or character development
- Wide range of detectives and types of mystery

Fan Popularity

- Like to solve the puzzle before the detective
- Like that good and justice triumphs in the end
- Some cover social issues
- Blends well with other genres
- Like elaborate backgrounds
- Appreciate range of tones—humor, moody, evocative

Must Know Authors

- Michael Connelly
- Janet Evanovich
- Robert Galbraith (J. K. Rowling)
- Jo Nesbo
- Louise Penny

Current Trends

- Psychological suspense
- Classics reissues and rediscoveries
- International authors and settings
- Use of actual historical personages as detectives
- Historical mysteries
- U.S. regional mysteries

How do I help mystery fans?

- Ask readers to describe the detective they like to read about for clues to the kind of mystery to suggest
- Use television shows or movies from books to find similar titles
- No two people have the same definition of the genre
- Suggest cozies for readers looking for mysteries with minimal violence
- First title in series not always the best place to start

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THRILLERS / SUSPENSE

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Thrillers = Anticipation

Characteristics

- Action-driven stories
- See both hero and villain viewpoints
- Sense of menace builds to dramatic climax
- Pacing important
- Story takes place in short time frame
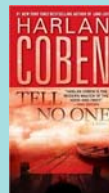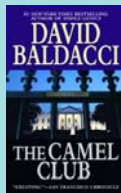
Fan Popularity

- Sympathetic heroes and heroines / deadly villains
- Conspiracies
- Learn about inner workings of profession
- Twisting story lines
- Good and bad clearly defined
- Justice done by the end
- Cinematic scope

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Must Know Authors

- Lee Child
- Gillian Flynn
- David Baldacci
- James Patterson
- Harlan Coben

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Current Trends

- Historical thrillers and suspense, especially featuring World Wars I & II
- Technology plays bigger role
- Forensics important
- Tales of terrorists and conspiracies
- More international settings and characters
- Supernatural plays bigger role

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How can I help thriller/suspense readers?

- May confuse thrillers, suspense and mysteries
- Use movies as starting place to find similar plots in books
- Offer range in amount of sex and violence
- Covers reveal clues that can be used in booktalks or RA interview

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FANTASY

Fantasy = Imagination

Characteristics
- Takes intuitive approach
- Deals with emotions and relationships
- Preserves familiar stories, legends and myths
- Good vs. Evil battles
- Characters may have special gifts
- Elaborate detailed settings
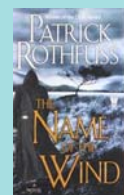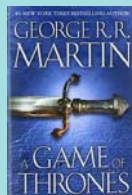- Accelerated pacing

Fan Popularity
- Contains wide range of characters, storylines, and tones to match moods
- Contains wide range of tones from humorous to gritty
- Familiar stories with a twist
- Male and female protagonists
- Long-lasting series

Must Know Authors

- Brandon Sanderson
- Neil Gaiman
- George R. R. Martin
- Patrick Rothfuss
- Jim Butcher
- Joe Abercrombie

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Current Trends

- Dark and gritty urban stories
- Alternate history
- Genre mash-ups
- Fantasy graphic novels
- Game, film and television adaptations

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How can I help fantasy readers?

- Catalog by series rather than author
- Blends with other genres
- Inquire about mood and tone
- Recommend classic fantasy titles, titles that span conventional age designations and titles of short story collections
- Have all titles in series on hand

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SCIENCE FICTION

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Science Fiction = What if?

Characteristics

- Considers moral, social, and ethical issues while exploring philosophical, technical, and intellectual questions
- Often in a setting outside own world or in a future time
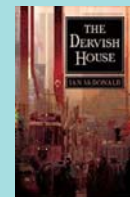- Stories contain science supported by known scientific principles

Fan Popularity

- Filled with physical and intellectual adventure
- Appeals to wide range of readers
- Raises thought-provoking issues
- Deals with "why" and "where" questions
- Cherishes the unexpected
- Affirms imagination

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Must Know Authors

- Orson Scott Card
- Ian McDonald
- Kim Stanley Robinson
- Neal Stephenson
- Ernest Cline

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Current Trends

- More social sciences' issues included in stories
- More international science fiction
- Military-oriented science fiction popular
- Steampunk continues popularity
- Increase in cli-fi and apocalyptic fiction
- Increase in alternate history and timelines

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How can I help SF readers?

- Listen to patrons for feedback
- Use movies and books to find what appeals to readers
- Suggest classic sci-fi authors
- Catalog under series title rather than authors
- Acquire paperbacks and short story collections
- Reach out to tweens and teens
- Cross genre blending
- Multiple formats—graphic novels, e-books, audiobooks, media (games, television, movies)

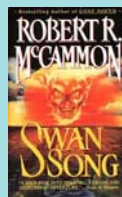MyFreePPT

HORROR

Horror = Fear

Characteristics

- Feature nightmares come to life
- Monsters can be human, inhuman, and psychological
- Surprise a key element
- Evil beaten down, but never destroyed completely

Fan Popularity

- Love the chills produced
- Expect to be scared
- Drawn to intensity created by disturbing images and violence
- Like worlds out of control
- Can face worst fears in safe environment

Must Know Authors

- Stephen King
- Clive Barker
- Ramsey Campbell
- Dean Koontz
- Robert McCammon

Current Trends

- "Weird Fiction"
  - Blends occult, supernatural, mythical and even scientific elements
- Comic Horror
- Blending with other genres
- Greater prominence of women horror writers
- Diverse formats—pulp paperbacks, audiobooks, graphic novels

How can I help horror readers?

- May want to read about a particular subject -- zombies or haunted houses
- May want to read everything by favorite authors.
- May want to read across the genre, searching for particular tone or storyline that satisfies

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CONCLUSION

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Kentucky Virtual Library

Readers' Advisory Articles

- *Library Journal*
- *Booklist*
- *Library Trends*
- *Kirkus Reviews*
- *Publishers Weekly*
- *School Library Journal*

Help from KDLA

KDLA Worldcat Discovery Catalog

https://kdla.on.worldcat.org/discovery

Library Science Resources webpage

http://kdla.ky.gov/librarians/staffdevelopment/Pages/LibraryScienceResources.aspx

KDLA Webinars

- Live Online
- Archived
  - African-American Fiction
  - Romance
  - Horror
  - Fantasy and Science Fiction
  - Mainstream Fiction
  - Military Fiction
  - Women's Fiction

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Thank You for Attending Today's Session

- Check the Continuing Education Events Calendar for upcoming sessions

- Respond to evaluation survey

- Examine email for training certificate (It may take 1-2 weeks to arrive!)

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Download Presentation

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- "Click to Download"
- "Save"
- Choose where to save it
- "Save"

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