

Is Readers' Advisory for Nonfiction, Too?

Presented by
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KDLA's Division of
Library Services



we are in *love*
with nonfiction

Getting to Know Nonfiction Readers



What Surveys Report

- Men more likely to read nonfiction
- Oldest Americans (aged 75 and older) are more likely to read nonfiction
- Sales of print books declining more in fiction than nonfiction
- Strong preference for self-help titles



Why Prefer Nonfiction

- Truth and attempts to discover it through nonfiction is often an ingenious and creative process.
- You value “enlightenment” over “entertainment”.
- You don’t like the predictability of fiction.
- You read nonfiction because you enjoy the accumulation of facts overall.



More Reasons

- There's something about reading the same thing that everybody is reading and at the same time as everybody else, that turns you off.
- You enjoy the direct application that you can make from nonfiction.
- You tend to think that nonfiction simply makes you smarter because it expands your understanding of the real-world.



More Reasons

- You find that the reality of nonfiction is not worse than fiction simply because it is true.
- You can make connections more easily between two seemingly disconnected events or subjects.
- You are always in a state of re-evaluating and re-assessing what you believe in.



More Reasons

- Your ability to hold contradictory ideas makes you forever curious.
- The way you see it, nonfiction is more challenging than fiction.
- Your engagement with nonfiction is almost always intentional and enhancing.
- Preferring nonfiction makes you feel like more of a student of the world.





Appeal Factors



Appeal Elements

- Pacing
- Characterization
- Storyline
- Detail
- Learning/experiencing
- Language
- Setting
- Tone



Narrative Context

- Using storytelling to capture readers' interest
- Character, dialogue, setting and scene



Type

- Memoir, biography, letters, educational, investigative
- Type of book in nonfiction similar to sub-genre in fiction



Subject

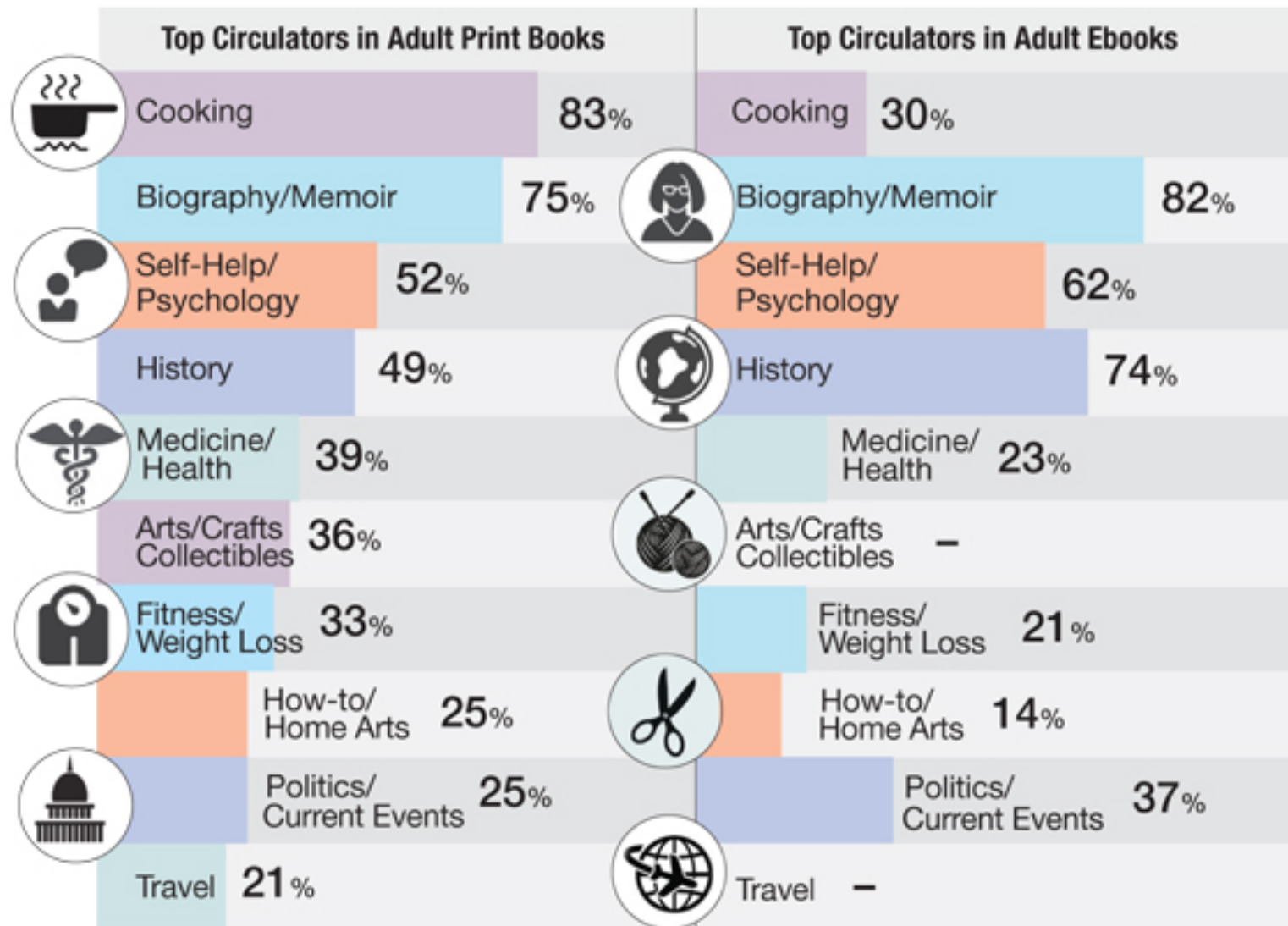
- What the book is about
- When reading for pleasure, subject may be of secondary consideration
- Readers may gravitate to particular author or type of book



Getting to Know Nonfiction



PRINT & EBOOK NONFICTION CIRCULATION COMPARISONS



Numbers will add up to more than 100 percent because respondents could check more than one subject

SOURCE: LJ MATERIALS SURVEY 2017

Popular Subgenres

- Biographies / memoirs
- Contemporary issues / politics
- Cooking / diet
- History / immigrant experience
- Popular culture / entertainment / lifestyles
- Popular science



More Subgenres

- Self-help / sociology / spirituality
- Sports
- Survival / true adventure / nature
- Travel
- True crime



Nonfiction RA Tools & Tips



Fiction / Nonfiction Crossovers

- Memoirs
- Essays
- Adventure stories
- Reading guides



Other Tips

- Start reading nonfiction
- Use displays that pair up fiction and nonfiction
- Include nonfiction in booklists
- Include nonfiction in discussion groups and blogs
- Suggest at least one nonfiction title when doing RA with fiction reader



Awards

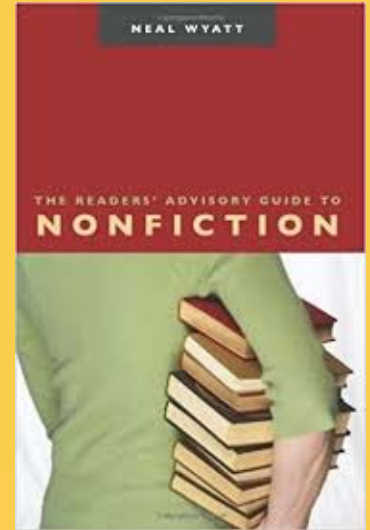
- American Booksellers Association Award
- Audie Award for Nonfiction Audiobook
- Aventis Prize for Science Books
- Lionel Gelber Prize
- Lukas Prize Project
- National Book Critics Circle
- Pulitzer Prize nonfiction
- Samuel Johnson Prize



Available from KDLA via ILL

Wyatt, Neal. *The Readers' Advisory Guide to Nonfiction*. Chicago: ALA, 2007.

Orr, Cynthia and Diana Tixier. *Genreflecting: a Guide to Popular Reading Interests*. Santa Barbara, CA: Libraries Unlimited, [2013].



Tools for Nonfiction RA

- Amazon.com
- BarnesandNoble.com
- Publishers' catalogs
- Review sources
 - *Booklist*
 - *Library Journal*
 - *Publisher's Weekly*
 - *New York Times Book Review*



Web Resources

- AllReaders.com
- BookTV.org
- ALA/RUSA CODES Notable Books List
- *Fourth Genre* (Michigan State Univ.)
- Goodreads Popular Non Fiction that Reads Like Fiction



Sachem (NY) Public Library

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The Reader's Advisor



*Expanding Your Horizons
One Book at a Time!!*

[America's Disasters:
A History Book Discussion Group, 2013-2014](#)
Moderated by staff librarian Brad Silverman

Best-Sellers & Beyond

Book Recommendations Sent Directly to Your Email Address!!



Sleuth of the Month
Christopher Marlowe

[True-Life Survival](#)
[Reality Bits & Reality Bits II](#)
[All Heroes Great & Small](#)
[Warm Hearts, Cold Noses:
Our Love Affair With Dogs](#)
[Women of the Air](#)
[Film Focus:
The Books Behind the Movies](#)
[The History of Stuff](#)
[Favorite Civil War Titles](#)
[Lighten Up! Part I and Part II](#)
[Life Interrupted:
The Famous & the Infamous Who Died Young](#)
[Bio-Adversity:
People Who Have Triumphed Against the Odds](#)
[Math and Science for Reading Pleasure](#)
[More](#)

Pickering (Ont.) Library

Filter by Book Non-Fiction Adult Language - Any Clear all filters

The image displays a grid of 28 book covers from the Pickering (Ont.) Library. The covers are arranged in four rows and seven columns. The first row includes: 'Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos & Northern Thailand', 'Dunkirk', 'Missing Mother', 'John McEnroe: But Seriously', 'HBR Guide to Emotional Intelligence', and 'The Recording Engineer's Handbook'. The second row includes: 'Reading with Patrick', 'Be a Hero', 'The Phenomenon', 'Thoreau: A Life', 'Welcome to Your World', and 'The Cardamom Trail'. The third row includes: 'Cooking Sous Vide', 'A Woman's Huts and Hideaways', 'Who Stole My Spandex?', 'One More Step', 'Psychopath Whisperer', and 'Understanding Drugs: Date Rape Drugs'. The fourth row includes: 'Healing Back Pain', 'Getting Ahead of...', 'Bulgaria', 'Las Vegas', and 'A Captain's Duty'. A red box highlights the filter options at the top left of the page.



Charlotte Mecklinburg (NC)

Filter by DVD Non-Fiction Adult English Clear all filters

KEEP QUIET

MISSION CONTROL

THE BUSINESS OF AMATEURS

MAMA SHERPAS

MARCH OF THE PENGUINS

CITY IN THE SKY

ALL GOVERNMENTS LIVE

GENDER REVOLUTION

Eero Saarinen

LEONARDO

ENGLAND: CASTLES, COTTAGES & COUNTRYSIDE

BRIGHT LIGHTS

On the Way to School

WHEN THE BOUGH BREAKS

Autism: A Family's Journey

I Know a Woman Like That

YOSEMITE

BEFORE THE FLOOD

BUENA VISTA SOCIAL CLUB

JOHN LEWIS: GET IN THE WAY

THE CHOICE 2016








George Balanchine's The Nutcracker

SHADOWS OF LIBERTY

BOPPY



Christchurch City (NZ)

<ul style="list-style-type: none">Internet GatewayLiterary prizesNew Titles: fictionPeoplePoetryRead the book, then see the film	<h2>Non-fiction</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none">BiographyTravel <p>From mysteries to history sometimes the truth is more interesting than fiction. Here is a selection of literary non-fiction.</p> <p>Amir D. Aczel The riddle of the compass  ↗ Discusses the 12th century invention of the compass, its dramatic influence on navigation and its impact on the development of world trade and the Age of Discovery.</p> <p>Bella Bathurst The Lighthouse Stevensons: the extraordinary story of the building of the Scottish lighthouses by the ancestors of Robert Louis Stevenson ↗</p> <p>Jean-Dominique Bauby The diving bell & the butterfly ↗ Jean-Dominique Bauby was paralyzed and able to communicate only by blinking his left eye. Yet he dictated this book by blinking one letter at a time. Although Bauby said his existence was like being "trapped inside a diving bell in the ocean depths," he wrote without sentimentality or self-pity.</p> <p>John Berendt Midnight in the garden of good and evil ↗ In charming, beautiful, and wealthy old-South Savannah, Georgia, the local bad boy is shot dead inside of the opulent mansion of a gay antiques dealer, and a gripping trial follows.</p> <p>David Bodanis E=mc²: a biography of the world's most famous equation ↗</p> <p>Mark Bowden Black hawk down: a story of modern war ↗ On 3 October 1993, 140 US soldiers abseiled from helicopters in Mogadishu, Somalia. Their mission was to abduct two warlords and return to base. Instead, they fought for their lives against armed Somalis, and this account tells of the battlefield of injured and killed.</p> <p>Victoria Bruce No apparent danger: the true story of volcanic disaster at Galeras and Nevado del Ruiz ↗</p> <p>Deborah Cadbury The dinosaur hunters: a story of scientific rivalry and the discovery of the prehistoric world ↗ Gideon Mantell uncovered giant bones in a Sussex quarry, became obsessed with the lost world of the reptiles and was driven to despair. Anatomist Richard Owen gave the extinct creatures their name and secured unrivalled international acclaim. The bitter rivalry between the two men is told here.</p> <p>David Clark Newton's tyranny: the suppressed scientific discoveries of Stephen Gray and John Flamsteed ↗</p> <p>Judith Cook Dr Simon Forman: a most notorious physician ↗ Simon Forman rose from a poor upbringing in Wiltshire to become one of</p>	<p>response by email, or try again between 9am to 8pm weekdays, 9am to 5pm weekends.</p> <p>Christchurch City Libraries' BLOG <i>your people, your library...</i></p> <p>Join the conversation on our blog</p> <p>Email Newsletters</p> <p> Be the first to know — subscribe today</p> <p>email news-letters</p> <p>Books & reading eResources</p> <p>Askews eBooks</p> <p> OverDrive e-books & audiobooks</p> <p> Wheelers eBooks</p> <p> ARTEMIS LITERARY SOURCES</p> <p> Books & Authors</p> <p> Novelist Plus</p>
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What do you know?



Which is the best choice?

A patron is looking for another book similar to *The Perfect Storm* but not necessarily about shipwrecks.

- a. Tell him you haven't read *The Perfect Storm*.
- b. Tell the patron to search the library's catalog.
- c. Ask the patron what he liked best about *The Perfect Storm*.



Which choice is best?

A patron enjoyed *Mauve: How One Man Invented a Color That Changed the World*.

What title would you recommend?

- a. *Blue: the History of a Color*
- b. *Zipper: an Exploration of Novelty*
- c. *Word Freak: Heartbreak, Triumph, Genius, and Obsession in the World of Competitive Scrabble Players*



Which is the best answer?

As a reader's advisor, which would be important?

- a. Know about every title in your library
- b. Be able to write a review
- c. Have an open mind



What would you choose?

If you wanted to recommend a nonfiction title to a patron who enjoyed the Philippa Gregory's *The Boleyn Inheritance*, what would you suggest?

- a. *The Six Wives of Henry VIII*
- b. *Eat, Pray, Love*
- c. *Under the Tuscan Sun*



What should you do?

A regular patron complains he has read all the library's fictional police procedural titles.

- a. Ask him to donate money for more police procedural titles.
- b. Ask if he would like to try something related, like nonfiction true crime narratives.
- c. Send him to another library or bookstore.





Conclusion



Need Help?

- Telephone
- 502-564-8306
- 800-928-7000 (option #3)
- Ask a Librarian
<https://kdla.ky.gov/librarians/askalibrarian/Pages/InformationRequest.aspx>



Remember

Continuing Education Events Calendar

<https://kdla.ky.gov/librarians/staffdevelopment/Pages/ContinuingEducationCalendar.asp>

X

Follow-up email (may take 1-2 weeks)

- Training certificate
- Evaluation survey link



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