



Top Genre Challenge

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ROMANCE



Romance = Emotion

Characteristics

- Central plot revolving around a developing romantic relationship
- Has "emotionally satisfying and optimistic ending"
- Includes wide range of sexuality

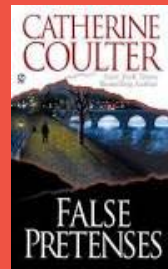
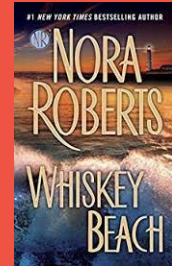
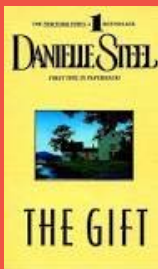
Fan Popularity

- Feel emotional link with protagonists and become invested in outcome of story
- Changing character stereotypes



Must Know Authors

- Nora Roberts
- Lisa Kleypas
- Danielle Steel
- Diana Gabaldon
- Catherine Coulter



Current Trends

- Billionaire romances
- Emergence of new adult genre
- Small town romance remains big
- Romantic fantasy prominent
- Resurgence in popularity of contemporary westerns and/or cowboy stories
- Historical romance covers more time periods



How can I help romance readers?

- Let readers know that you **HAVE** read a romance and that you understand why they enjoy the genre
- Discover how much sex the reader desires or will tolerate
- Provide access to self-publishing, digital-first publishers, and e-book only novels
- Suggest series for “family” sense
- Promote to other genre readers





WOMEN'S FICTION



Women's Fiction = Relationships

Characteristics

- Mostly written by, and read by, women
- Features female protagonists who confront both ordinary and extraordinary (but always realistic) issues

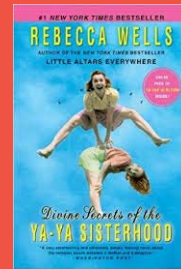
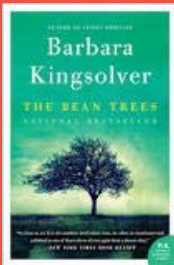
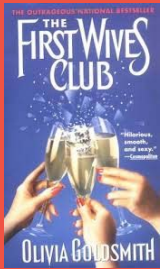
- Contemporary settings
 - Character driven stories



Fan Popularity

- Readers recognize themselves
- Characters likeable
- Well-developed characters seem like friends
- Issue-driven stories can be eye-opening
- Lighter tone lets readers indulge emotions

Must Know Authors



- Olivia Goldsmith
- Barbara Kingsolver
- Adriana Trigiana
- Jennifer Weiner
- Rebecca Wells



Current Trends

- More introspective themes
- Moral dilemmas
- Psychological thrillers
- Richly layered historical novels
- Cutesy cup cake stories



How can I help women's fiction readers?

- Ask what sort of plot and characters your readers are interested in
- Determine what sort of tone your readers are in the mood for
- Find out whether sex, violence (physical or emotional), or strong language are a concern
- Ask if setting is important
- May enjoy memoirs, biographies, travel, adventure and spiritual writing





HISTORICAL FICTION



Historical Fiction = Bring Past to Life

Characteristics

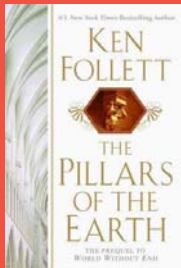
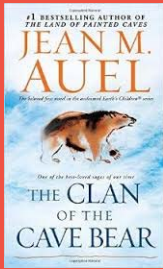
- Enhance readers' knowledge of past events, lives and customs
- Accuracy important
- May center on characters, or explore important historical events

Fan Popularity

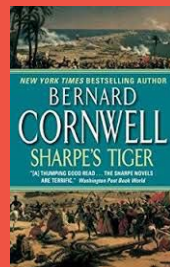
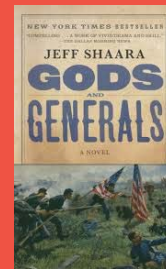
- Like insights into events and people from the past
- Appreciate story form rather than dry facts
- Rich in details but slower pacing



Must Know Authors



- Jean Auel
- Ken Follett
- Jeff Shaara
- Philippa Gregory
- Bernard Cornwell



Current Trends

- Famous vs. Non-Famous
- Changing focus
- Plantagenets replacing Tudors
- WWI popularity decreasing
- WWII Increasing popularity
- 20th century settings
- Settings: Gas-lit Victorian age, Jazz Age and noir traditions Multi-period approach
- Historical romances from Regency and Victorian eras
- Military thrillers and adventures



How can I help historical fiction readers?

- Ask readers what they enjoy and then follow up with questions about whether they want more of the same
- Listen for indications of a preference for the broad scope of history versus a more narrowly focused time and place,
- Listen for clues to a preference for real historical figures as protagonists or as secondary characters
- Have readers describe the types they don't enjoy





CHRISTIAN FICTION



Christian Fiction = Values

Characteristics

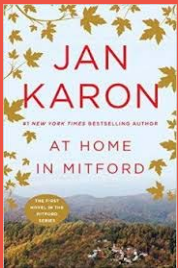
- Promote a Christian worldview
- Good triumphs over evil
- Often focus particular theme relevant to Christianity

Fan Popularity

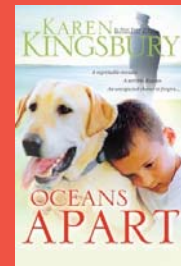
- Validation of Christian life
- Offer guidance
- Journeys of faith offer hope
- Model characters offer inspiration and motivation
- “Safe” books



Must Know Authors



- Tim LaHaye
- Jan Karon
- Beverly Lewis
- Karen Kingsbury
- Janette Oke



Current Trends

- More mainstream appeal
- Cross genre-blending
- CF authors trying other genres
- Fewer stories with heavy spiritual content
- Increasing number of titles self-published or by hybrid publishers
- Greater diversity in storylines, settings and time periods
- Biblical fiction rising popularity
- Increased titles about end-times
- Coverage of difficult contemporary social issues
- Movie tie-ins
- Inspirational science fiction, fantasy, romance, cozy mysteries and thrillers popular
- Continued popularity of “bonnet” fiction



How can I help Christian fiction readers?

- Ask if readers want a more conservative or liberal Christianity viewpoint
- Ask whether they want books that offer a literal interpretation of scripture
- Ask if they want a “gentle” read
- Ask if they want titles that are explicitly evangelical or more allegorical
- Assume nothing about beliefs or preferences





WESTERNS



Westerns = Adventure

Characteristics

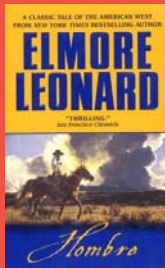
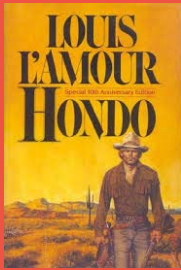
- Set in the Western United States from the end of Civil War to beginning of the 20th century
- Mythic feel of Old West takes precedence over accuracy
 - Detailed and often treacherous landscapes
 - Mournful tones
 - Morality play



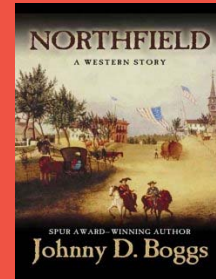
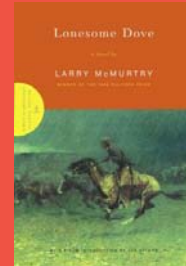
Fan Popularity

- Deep-seated connection with land and men who conquered the wilderness
- Appreciate descriptive landscape and action-filled adventures
- Like emotionally satisfying endings in which bad are punished and good are rewarded
- Feel as if actually in that time and place
- Like romantic, nostalgic tone

Must Know Authors



- Louis L'Amour
- Elmore Leonard
- Larry McMurry
- Johnny D. Boggs
- Loren D. Estleman



Current Trends

- Traditional westerns still popular
- Modern offer updated perspectives with more diverse, nuanced characters
- Cross-over appeal among fans of historical fiction, fantasy, science fiction, horror and romance
- Increasing number of female authors



How can I help readers of Westerns?

- Ask readers if looking for another traditional western. a western story set in the modern day, one that focuses on Native Americans, or adult western with a much sexier storyline.
- Use classic western themes from movies and television to make connections
- See if more interested in Native American experience
- Recommend timeless, reprinted titles
- Look for genre crossovers

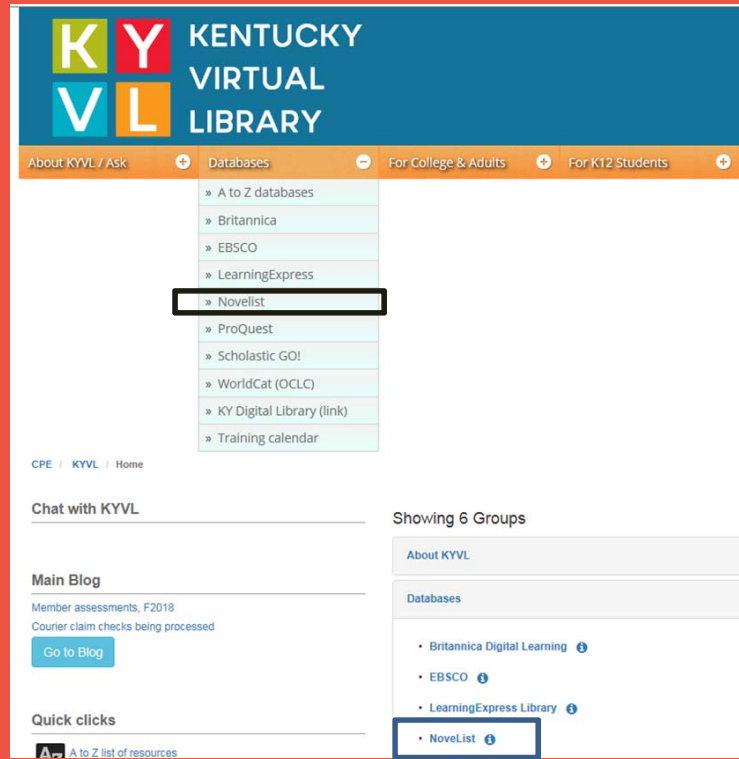


**ALMOST
DONE!**

CONCLUSION



KYVL's NoveList



The screenshot shows the KYVL (Kentucky Virtual Library) website interface. At the top, the logo consists of the letters 'K', 'Y', 'V', and 'L' in colored squares, followed by the text 'KENTUCKY VIRTUAL LIBRARY'. Below the logo is a navigation bar with links for 'About KYVL / Ask', 'Databases', 'For College & Adults', and 'For K12 Students'. The 'Databases' menu is expanded, showing a list of options: 'A to Z databases', 'Britannica', 'EBSCO', 'LearningExpress', 'NoveList' (highlighted with a black box), 'ProQuest', 'Scholastic GO!', 'WorldCat (OCLC)', 'KY Digital Library (link)', and 'Training calendar'. Below the navigation bar, there are sections for 'Chat with KYVL', 'Main Blog' (with a 'Go to Blog' button), and 'Quick clicks'. On the right side, there is a 'Showing 6 Groups' section with a list of databases: 'Britannica Digital Learning', 'EBSCO', 'LearningExpress Library', and 'NoveList' (highlighted with a blue box). At the bottom left of the screenshot, there is a small icon of a bookshelf with three books.

Home Browse By Especially For Quick Links How Do I? Sign In Help Exit Feedback

KENTUCKY DEPT OF LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES

Search Other Databases

book. Ex. Japan 1930 women Search

Search History

Recommended Reads Lists

Adult Teen Ages 9-12 Ages 0-8

- Best of 2016: Fiction »
- Canadian Fiction »
- Fantasy »
- Fiction A to Z »
- For Fans of... »
- Graphic Novels »
- Historical Fiction »
- Horror »
- Mysteries »
- Romance »
- Science Fiction »
- Thrillers and Suspense »
- Westerns »

I'm in the mood for books that are...

Adult Teen Ages 9-12 Ages 0-8

Romantic and Lush Moving and Sympathetic Unconventional and Haunting Bleak and Brooding

Love is in the air.

Want to make your own combo? [Try our appeal mixer](#)

Browse Genres

For Adults For Teens For Ages 9-12 For Ages 0-8

MyFreePPT



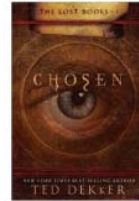
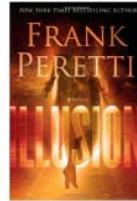
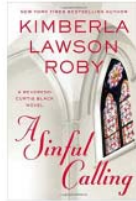
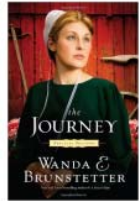
Novelist Genres: A Guide to Genre and Book Discovery

https://help.ebsco.com/@api/deki/files/3162/GenreGuide-2017.pdf?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



Christian

Christian fiction, also known as Inspirational fiction, is written from a Christian worldview. Across all these subgenres, readers will find popular Christian themes of forgiveness, grace, redemption, and the triumph of good over evil.



Christian fiction

An umbrella genre including a variety of titles reflecting a Christian worldview. Characters confront challenges and everyday issues by turning to their faith and religious communities for support and guidance.

● ADULTS ● TEENS ● AGES 9-12

Christian adventure stories

These books combine the action-packed, plot-driven narratives of adventure stories with a Christian perspective.

● ADULTS ● TEENS ● AGES 9-12

Christian apocalyptic fiction

Titles in this genre imagine the end of the world as interpreted through a Christian lens. Books may invoke the Antichrist, the rapture, or the final battle between good and evil.

● ADULTS ● TEENS

Christian fantasy

Works of fantasy fiction that reflect some part of the Christian perspective through symbolism or allegory.

● ADULTS ● TEENS ● AGES 9-12

Christian historical fiction

This genre offers historical fiction with a strong sense

Christian romances

These romances demonstrate that a strong relationship with God is an essential component of true love. Couples often undertake a journey of spiritual growth before building a future together.

● ADULTS

Christian romantic suspense

The protagonists in these stories encounter situations designed to test their faith but rely on Christian teachings and values to survive and prevail against evil.

● ADULTS

Christian science fiction

Exploration of science fiction elements -- such as other planets and alien cultures -- serves to expand the role that God plays in the universe and his plan for all living things.

● ADULTS ● TEENS ● AGES 9-12

Christian suspense

In these tense stories, characters face dangerous situations and derive their strength and endurance through their faith.

● ADULTS ● TEENS

Christian urban fiction

In this genre, characters contend with real-



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Articles and Reviews

- *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



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!)

Download Presentation

In the File Share box:

- Click “Top Genre Challenge”
- “Save to my computer”
- In the pop-up window:
- “Click to Download”
- “Save”
- Choose where to save it
- “Save”

