Not Just for Kids—Book Displays for Adults

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Why bother?

WATCHING PATRONS CHECK OUT MY DISPLAY

From: librarianproblems.com
Things to consider

• Cost
• Space
• Need
• Audience
Inspiration

- Your event calendar
- Chase’s Calendar of Events
- Current Events
- Your catalog
- Local News
Inspiration

• Use lists already created...
  – Book Lust by Nancy Pearl
  – The Year of Reading Dangerously by Andy Miller
  – The Mother of All Booklists by William Patrick Martin
  – 1001 Books You Must Read Before You Die
  – Goodreads.com
    • Check out Listopia
And so many more...
Inspiration, Internet Style

- Fiction-L (https://listserv.cuyahogalibrary.net/scripts/wa.exe?HOME)
- Google Image

Original Image from Deviant Art by Jason Heuser
http://sharpwriter.deviantart.com/art/Welcome-to-the-Internet-Please-Follow-me-322248378

- Facebook
- Pinterest
- Reddit
- Instagram
- Twitter
- Flickr
Research

• Your catalog
  – Use your excellent search skills to compile lists specific to your location.
• Make sure there is enough material to go on display.
• Is there enough material to refill a successful display?
Technical Aspects

• Any way you want
  – Build with boxes
  – Make sure the books are attractive
    (get out your wet wipes)
    (put a new jacket cover on it)

• Easily Accessible
  (one hand grabs only)
Technical Aspects

- Clear and interesting signage
  - Large letters
  - Brief Description
  - GIMP
- Ellison machines
- Microsoft Publisher
- Lamination or contact paper
- Paper Mâché

GNU Image Manipulation Program (free image editing software)
www.gimp.org
Creative Design

• Fishing Line
• Upcycled recyclables
• Junk Drawers
• “dinosaur closets”
• Your closets, your kids’ closets, your colleagues’ closets and your patrons’ closets (maybe).
Location

- Use high traffic areas and captive audiences
  - Bathrooms
  - Check-out desks
  - Top/bottom of stairs
  - Entrances
  - Book shelves
Flat Surfaces

https://www.flickr.com/photos/vblibrary/6964912345/
Bulletin Boards

FICTION MEETS REALITY

https://www.pinterest.com/pin/287315651203131696/
Glass or Acrylic Cases
Helpful Hints

- Add props (not ones that you’ll miss)
- Use puns and make jokes
- Go with the theme of the organization...
- Use anything that you have access to, fabric, paper, cardboard, paint, glitter, etc.
- Make it easy for people to grab the books
- It doesn’t have to be just books.
Helpful Hints

• Consider the number of displays, the staff time available and the demand for displays when planning.
• Don’t wait for the display to be empty, keep it filled.

• If you run out of materials for a display then change it.
• Keep an idea list running
• Plan ahead
  If you know that March is Irish-American Heritage Month don’t wait to gather your ideas.
Helpful Hints

- Work with an outside organization
- Take suggestions
- Keep a fall back list.
- Beg, Borrow and Steal (sort of)-Do the exact display as someone else.
Helpful Hints

• Turn your display into a passive program. Invite people to interact with it.
  – Use the word “PRIZE”
Thanks for listening!
Any Questions?