

Staying in Genre Shape



PCIWebinars
Your Trusted Source for Training

Hello My Name Is



And I am afraid of genre fiction fans



Today's Workout Plan


- The basic theory and resources so you can start flexing your genre muscles by yourself ASAP and plan your future study
 - No more excuses allowed!
- An overview of all of the different ways you can study genre on your own or in a group.
- Pick the workout plan that is right for you, your staff, and your time availability
- Never be out of genre shape again!

Let's Get Started....



What is Genre?

gen·re

/ˈZHänrə/ 

noun

a category of artistic composition, as in music or literature, characterized by similarities in form, style, or subject matter.

synonyms: [category](#), [class](#), [classification](#), [group](#), [set](#), [list](#); [More](#)

- Boxes? No, more of a filing cabinet
- Useful and helpful? Yes. Static? No
 - Not ghettoizing
 - [genre distinctions humor](#)
 - Slides from Becky's [Demystifying Genre](#) webinar

Too Many Genres?

- Genre itself is not the problem, it's the sheer number of them!
- ...But how we all react to this overload is a BIGGER problem

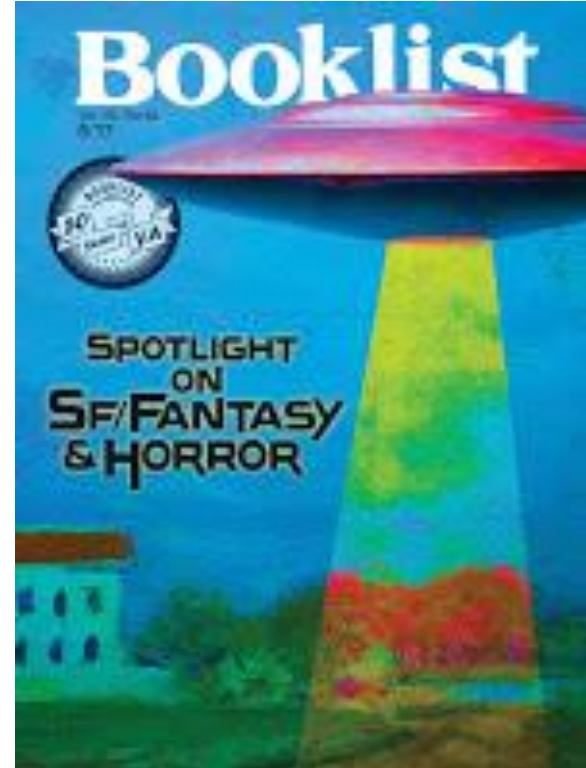
The screenshot displays a library website interface. On the left, under 'Recommended Reads Lists', there are tabs for 'Fiction' and 'Nonfiction', with 'Fiction' selected. Below this, there are sub-tabs for 'Adult', 'Teen', 'Ages 9-12', and 'Ages 0-8', with 'Adult' selected. A list of links follows: Audiobooks: Fiction », 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 », and Westerns ». A dropdown menu is open for 'Mysteries', listing: By the Book, Christian Mysteries, Cooking Up Crime, Fataally Funny, Gumshoes and Flatfoots, Make Mine Hardboiled, Paranormal Mysteries, Classic Mysteries, Crafty Crimes, Getting Cozy, Historical Mysteries, and Not Just for Teens: Mysteries. On the right, the section 'I'm in the mood for books that are...' has tabs for 'Adult', 'Teen', 'Ages 9-12', and 'Ages 0-8', with 'Adult' selected. Below are two filter tabs: 'Leisurely paced and Atmospheric' (selected) and 'Heartwarming and Uplifting'. The text says 'Savor the mood of these novels.' and shows two book covers: 'THE DEATH OF KINGS' and 'SHIVER' by Linda Greenlaw. At the bottom, there are more book covers including 'THE MARTIAN' by Andy Weir, 'DOING HARM', 'GIRLS WHO BOSS', and 'GIVE YOU THE SUN'.

Keeping in Genre Shape

- Not hard; in fact it is fun! You are paid to learn about the current state of fiction!
- Two Choices: Self Directed and Group Genre Study
- If you don't work out your genre muscles they will atrophy. The further you get behind the harder it is to catch up.
- First stop on our circuit-- Self Directed

Your Personal Trainer-- Booklist

- Every issue spotlights at least 1 genre
 - No excuse for self directed
 - Get your digital access- you probably already have it, use it!
- Top 10 Genre Lists
 - Use for yourself
 - Use for your collection
 - Use with your patrons



Your Personal Trainer-- NoveList



NoveListSearchStrategy

Applies to: NoveList | NoveList Plus

February 2016

Finding the Right Romance

When to use:



Search spiciness

How hot is just right? We use four appeal terms to help you identify exactly how spicy a romance is:

🔥 Chaste: This term is applied to wholesome romances that have no sex or descriptions of sexual activity.

🔥🔥 Mildly Sensuous: Slightly racier, these books have sex but the relationship is more important.

🔥🔥🔥 Steamy: When applied to adult books, you'll find lots of vividly described sex. When used for teens, the books will have a sexy aura but no graphic detail.

🔥🔥🔥🔥 Explicit: The spiciest of the bunch, you'll find lots of sex, from the plainest to the kinky.

TRY IT 🔍

At the **Advanced Search**, enter **Steamy** (or another one of the above terms) in the search box

Select **AP Appeal Factors** from the drop-down

Click **Search**

Browse-able romance

Looking for a new love? Try our Browse by Romance page for the latest in romance. From the top menu, choose **Browse by**, then **Genre**, then pick **Romance** from the drop-down.

Find the right type of love

Romances are grouped into more than 20 subgenres, including Contemporary Romance, Historical Romance, and more.

TRY IT 🔍

Click **Advanced Search**

In the first box enter a genre like **"historical romances"** and select **GN Genre** from the drop-down

Click **Search**

TIP: YA romance is found in the Contemporary Romance, Historical Romance, or Paranormal Romance subgenres. Limit this search to the Teen audience to find these books.

Try this with some other popular subgenres: Romantic Suspense, Christian Romance, Category Romance, and Paranormal Romance.

LGBTQIA love stories

Use the LGBTQIA romances genre to find books featuring romantic relationships between characters of any sexual orientation or gender identity. Search **GN LGBTQIA romances** to find these titles.

We also have Recommended Reads lists for "LGBTQIA Romances" - look for them under Romance Recommended Reads on the homepage.

Librarians: I am not a romance reader so I have trouble matching these readers with the right books.

Readers: Sometimes I want a "spicy" romance and sometimes I want one that is more "tame."

Parents: My teen loves to read romance books, but I'm not sure how to find them.

NoveList
www.ebscohost.com/novelist/



NoveList Database Searching

- Three easy entry points:
 - Recommended Reads [home page, left gutter]
 - Browse By... Genre [top, pull down menu]
 - Especially For...Readers' Advisory [top, pull down menu]- “Keeping Up” Articles are a Becky Fav.

Learning About Genres



[ARRT Popular Fiction List](#)

[ARRT Young Adult Fiction List](#)

[Lists and Articles: Staff Picks](#)

[Genre Outlines](#)

[Keeping Up . . . Genres](#)

Be Your Own Personal Trainer...

- ...with FREE genre resources
- But you've got to "work out"
 - Becky's not so secret "genre-a-day" plan
- Use Awards Lists as a RA Tool
 - Easiest way to stay in tip-top shape
 - Their schedule tells you when to flex those muscles
- Becky's Favorite Genre Specific Resources
 - Listed by genre in the handout

Genre Study = Group Fitness

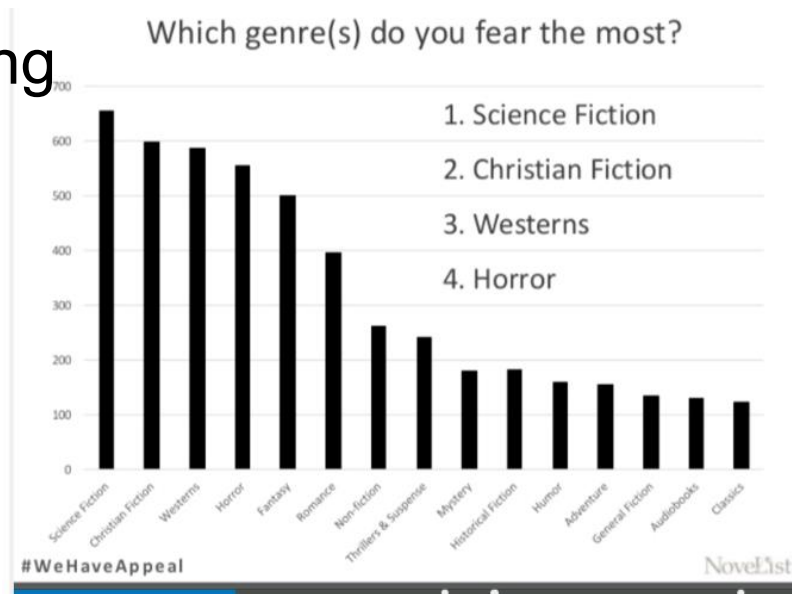
- Group learning about categories of popular reading
 - lecture and discussion
- Participants engage in a shared reading experience
 - compare reactions
- Discussion books in genre AND how readers interact with genre

Why Am I Doing This?

- Learn with and from colleagues
- Forces you to read outside comfort zone
 - but then gives you a chance to discuss with others
- You can cover much more together than alone
- More fun for you
- Improved patron satisfaction and collections
- Increased circulation
- Builds Camaraderie

What Genre Do We Study?

- Don't choose based on having an “expert”
- Assess your needs
 - gaps between staff weakness and patron interest
- Expand your notion of genre [aka- think like a reader]
 - graphic novels [formats]
 - crime fiction
 - books set in _____
 - popular nonfiction



Slide from NoveList, "[Appealing to Genre Readers](#)" Webcast

How Do We Structure the Study?

- You get to decide!
- Becky’s “mix and match” menu to keep you on track
 - Formal vs Informal
 - Broad vs Specialized
 - In-house vs Regional
- Adult Reading Round Table Genre Study
 - Assignments and notes for you to use as your guide-- <http://arrtreads.org>

Formal vs Informal

- **Formal**

- Regularly scheduled/planned out meetings- far in advance
- Assigned read AND choice read
- Included lecture

- Pros: cover more, context to compare, standardized material

- Cons: rigid schedule, takes a lot of time, can be overwhelming

- **Informal**

- Less planning/impromptu
- Only choice reads
- No lecture

- Pros: more responsive, personal reading experience, staff meeting

- Cons: more opinion, requires solo work, not getting big picture

Broad vs Specialized

- *Can be formal or informal*
- **Broad**
 - Considers a category in its entirety
 - Ex: historical fiction, romance, or crime
- Pros: big picture view with some specialization
- Cons: needs multiple meetings to accomplish goal
- **Specialized**
 - Considers a very specific reading niche
 - Ex: setting specific, subgenres
- Pros: fewer meetings, can address local needs or quickly emerging genres [eg, domestic suspense]
- Cons: narrow lens, limited opportunity for comparisons

In-house vs Regional

- *Can be formal or informal; broad or specialized*
- **In-House**
 - Meet during staff meetings, in-service days, lunch
 - Can include patron participation
- Pros: can include more non-professional voices, tailored to your needs, no travel
- Cons: limited experiences
- **Regional**
 - Meet at a central location with staff from multiple libraries
- Pros: broad experiences, pooled knowledge/resources, chance to get to know your colleagues
- Cons: fewer staff can attend, time/staffing commitments

Checklist for Genre Fitness Success

- Pick the style and type of genre study that matches your specific needs
- Select the “genre”
- Locate a resource to frame the study
- Designate a leader, back-up, and notetaker
- Set a schedule based on your style choice
 - next meeting plan ready for end of current meeting
- Come prepared-- be ready to share and listen
 - genre study success is dependent upon the participants and leaders equally

Now Get Out There And Flex Those Genre Muscles...Librarianian Style!



Questions Anytime

- Slides and more on [RA for All](#)
 - use genre specific tags for updates
- bspratford@hotmail.com
- @RAforAll

