

BEYOND THE DESK

Recommended Reference Resources

[BadgerLink](#): Online resource library provided by the Wisconsin DPI to serve all Wisconsin residents. These are just some of the available databases:

- Consumer Reports Magazine: Full-text PDF version of the popular consumer magazine
- EBSCO: Online research platform with reliable, peer-reviewed content
- Auto Repair Source: Authoritative and up-to-date service and repair information for thousands of domestic and imported vehicles
- U.S. Newsstream: Select U.S. newspapers, current and archival to the 1980s, including The New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, Boston Globe, Newsday, and Chicago Tribune as well as over 80 Gannett titles
- Consumer Health Complete: Consumer-oriented health content, from mainstream to holistic medicine
- HeritageQuest: Comprehensive treasury of American genealogical sources

[LibraryThing MDS Guide](#): Interactive Dewey Decimal guide

[MyVoteWI](#): Register to vote, update registration information, preview your ballot, request an absentee ballot, find your polling place and more all on this one site

Legal Resources

- [Wisconsin Judicare](#): Free civil legal assistance to low-income persons in Northern Wisconsin
- [Wisconsin Free Legal Answers](#): A virtual legal advice clinic in which qualifying users may ask civil legal questions to be answered by pro bono attorneys – noncriminal cases only
- [I Need a Lawyer! - State Bar of WI](#): Call or go online to be set up with a 30-minute consultation that will either be free or cost no more than \$20

Tax Resources

- [IRS](#): Federal tax forms, instructions, and resources
- [Wisconsin DOR](#): State tax forms, instructions, and resources
- [VITA and TCE sites](#): Free tax assistance for qualifying WI residents

Job Searching and Career Development

- [Job Center of Wisconsin](#): A collection of resources for employers and job seekers including not only job searching, but education and training, workforce events, veteran services, and more
- [EBSCO LearningExpress Career Preparation](#): Test prep for occupational exams, job searching advice, and workplace skills
- [Workforce Resource](#): Connects Wisconsin employers with job seekers

Readers' Advisory – General & Adult

[ALA Recommended Reading](#)

[All About Romance](#) - *the* place romance readers come to read about romance novels.

[All Readers](#) - romance precision book/movie search; plot, setting, thriller, action.

[Amazon](#) - "Customers who viewed this item also viewed," "Sponsored products related to this item," and "Frequently bought together."

[Bethel College Library](#) - LibGuides, A-Z databases

[Book Riot](#) - come for the book recommendations, stay for reading life tips, book news, and general literary chatter.

[BookBrowse](#) - author/title read-alikes.

[Bookish](#) - if you aren't sure what to read next, we've got you covered. Part of NetGalley.

[Booklist Online](#) - As the book review journal of the American Library Association, *Booklist* connects library and education workers to the books and resources needed to support and enrich their communities.

[Fantastic Fiction](#) - each author page includes a wealth of information, including books by the author, series they've written listed in order, similar authors based on the activity of other users, and relevant genre pages.

[FictionDB](#) - simple lists of books in order by author, title, series, and ISBN; you can also search their extensive fiction database using a wide variety of criteria.

[Gnooks](#) - a quick survey of three authors you have enjoyed leads you to a suggestion, which then has three options for you to select: I like it, I don't like it, or I don't know. Once you've clicked on one, the system supplies the user with a new author, using that option to inform its new author and to inform future associations.

[GoodReads](#) - discover and share the books you love. Under the Browse menu, users can navigate to what's known as "Listopia" where other users make lists of books under whatever criteria they choose. You might also check out the "Readers Also Enjoyed" feature, which typically appears to the right on a given book's page. Plot summaries, author pages, possible readalikes, but more importantly, customer comments!

[IndieBound Next Lists](#) - find your next great read. Inspired recommendations from indie booksellers, huge database of previous lists available.

[Library Journal](#) - a full-service magazine/working tool tailored to the information needs of librarians and managers in public, academic and corporate libraries.

[LibraryReads](#) - the top ten books each month that library staff across the country love, plus Hall of Fame and Archive flyers you can print. Visit their [YouTube channel for instructional videos](#), on Readers' Advisory 101 (75 min), tips on how to vote for LR, and how to write annotations.

[Click here for the sortable spreadsheet text master list of all past titles \(opens in Google Sheets\)](#).

[Library Thing](#) - an online service to help people catalog their books easily. You can access your catalog from anywhere. Because everyone catalogs together, LibraryThing also connects people with the same books, comes up with suggestions for what to read next, and so forth; sort-of an alternative to GoodReads that allows reader reviews. Book pages include reviews, ratings, read-alikes, linked tags, external links to access the books, linked lists the book appears on, and more.

[Literature Map](#) - enter author's name into the search bar and the tool produces other options. It provides more than one match and visually indicates how similar other author options are to the author you started with. Tutorial: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aQeSbcpByYM>.

[Litsy](#) - where books make friends; a place to share and discover your favorite books with your favorite people; reader recs not algorithms.

[NoveListPlus](#) - providing access to information on fiction titles as well as feature content including author read-alikes, book discussion guides, reading lists. Provided by BadgerLink/IFLS.

[NPR Books We Love](#) - Great yearly reads, thoroughly curated by NPR staff; mix and match tags to filter results.

[Readers' Advice](#) - a social cataloging website for books; users build virtual bookshelves of the [Shelfari](#) titles they own or have read, and can rate, review, tag and discuss their books.

[Romance](#) - Search through hundreds of thousands of books and love stories by keywords, themes and topics.

[Shelf Awareness](#) - includes news about titles coming out now, titles getting buzz in the media, authors on major shows, movie tie-ins, sleepers, news about the business, and other tips.

[Stop, You're Killing Me](#) - mystery author/category read-alikes

[The Story Graph](#) - track your reading and choose your next book based on your mood and your favorite topics and themes.

[Taste Dive](#) - provides recommendations of similar music, movies, TV shows, books, authors, games.

[Texas Library Association Reading Lists](#) - one of the best state LAs, expertly curated reading lists and programs for ages two to 102 - from fiction, nonfiction, and graphic novels, to picture books, bilingual and multicultural lists.

[TVTropes \(don't let the title fool you\)](#) - huge section on Print Media, works of ink and paper, including comic books, literature, light novels, and picture books, etc.

[What's Next](#) - from Kent District Library (great for series-in-order lists)

[What Should I Read Next?](#) - Enter a book you like and the site will analyze a huge database of real readers' favorite books to provide book recommendations and suggestions for what to read next.

[WhichBook](#) - Using up to four of the descriptor sets, users can choose on a sliding scale how much of one way or another a book should be.

[WorldCat](#) - search for a book the reader has enjoyed, find an edition which has been most-fully cataloged, scroll down to the "Similar Items" pane, where you will see linked subject headings.

TOP RA BLOGS

- [RA For All](#) - Training Library Workers to Help Leisure Readers by Becky Spratford, MLIS, La Grange Public Library (IL) - best advice ever!! She also manages [RA For All: Horror](#).
 - [Becky's Ten Rules of Basic RA Service](#)
 - [Becky's Favorite Free Genre Resources](#)
- [Early Word](#) - news for collection development and readers' advisory librarians; the publisher/librarian connection; keep track of their constantly updated [Diverse Titles spreadsheet](#).
- [Citizen Reader](#) - third most popular RA blog; great links to non-fiction RA resources.
- [Shelf Talk](#) - created and maintained by the staff of The Seattle Public Library.
- [Science Fiction & Fantasy](#) - a blog about science fiction and fantasy novels, films and related matters

INSTAGRAM - Although tag searching is limited to one at a time, plenty of users (often called "[Bookstagrammers](#)") write book reviews, point readers to read-alikes, and tag their pictures and reviews of books with clues to genre and other relevant details.

BOOK BLURBS - Authors recommendations of other authors! Many patrons will love trying an author or book that one of their favorite authors recommends.

PUBLISHER NEWSLETTERS

- [Criminal Element](#) - mysteries, thrillers, and all things killer.
- [Harlequin for Libraries](#) - discover your next book and what's new.
- [The History Reader](#) - books and dispatches on history.
- [Tor.com](#) - Science fiction. Fantasy. The universe. And related subjects.

AWARDS LISTS

[ALA RUSA Carnegie Medals](#)

(go to EBSCO NoveList for others...)

TEXT RESOURCES:

FICTION

Herald, Diana Tixier. Genreflecting.

Orr, Cynthia. Genreflecting: A Guide To Popular Reading Interests.

Pearl, Nancy. Book Lust & More Book Lust

Saricks, Joyce & Nancy Brown. Readers Advisory Service in the Public Library.

Thomson Gale. What Do I Read Next?

NON-FICTION (credit: Sarah Statz Cords)

Brottman, Mikita. *The Solitary Vice: Against Reading*. CounterPoint: 2008.

**Burgin, Robert, ed. *Nonfiction Readers' Advisory*. Libraries Unlimited: 2005.

Burgin, Robert. *Going Places: A Readers' Guide to Travel Narratives*. Libraries Unlimited: 2013.

Cords, Sarah Statz. *The Inside Scoop: A Guide to Nonfiction Investigative Writing and Exposés*. Libraries Unlimited, 2009.

Cords, Sarah Statz. *The Real Story: A Guide to Nonfiction Reading Interests*. Libraries Unlimited: 2006.

Drew, Bernard A. *1000 Most Popular Nonfiction Authors*. Libraries Unlimited: 2008.

Reisner, Rosalind. *Read On...Life Stories: Reading Lists for Every Taste*. Libraries Unlimited: 2009.

Roche, Rick. *Real Lives Revealed: A Guide to Reading Interests in Biography*. Libraries Unlimited: 2009.

Saricks, Joyce. *Readers' Advisory Service in the Public Library*. ALA: 2005.

Stoeger, Melissa Bratney. *Food Lit: A Guide to Epicurean Nonfiction*. Libraries Unlimited: 2013.

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

Zellers, Jessica. *Women's Nonfiction: A Guide to Reading Interests*. Libraries Unlimited: 2009.

Readers' Advisory & Reference – Youth & YA

[American Indians in Children's Literature](#)

[Book Links](#) - a guide to current print and nonprint materials worthy of consideration for purchase by small and medium-sized public libraries.

[Book Riot](#) - articles, resources, book lists, and more. Subscribe to newsletters to tailor what you get in your inbox - YA, Queer, censorship news, middle grade, fantasy, mystery, etc.

[Cooperative Children's Book Center](#) - Booklists galore, censorship & intellectual freedom resources, educator resources, and more!

[Epic Reads](#) - tends to be pretty marketing heavy but I still get great ideas for displays, lists, and readalikes

[Learning A-Z](#) Reading levels

[Learning for Justice](#) - educator oriented and lots of professional development resources and guides. Get on their email list to receive many great and timely resources, book suggestions, and ideas for all ages and for teachers in your area.

[School Library Journal](#)

[Social Justice Books](#)

[Storytime Solidarity](#) on Facebook - this group amplifies marginalized and traditionally excluded voices. While it is geared towards storytime, you'll also find lots of RA adjacent posts.

[Tough Topics booklists](#) from ALA - We have an increasing number of adults looking for materials to help their students and kids with socio-emotional topics such as expressing emotions, coping with trauma, living with grief, etc. We use these booklists regularly with parents, guardians, and teachers. They can look at the lists more privately if they are uncomfortable with or have a hard time sharing more details (death of a spouse/parent, abuse, etc.) in a public setting. They are from 2019 so there are many more titles available out there but this is a great starting point. Patrons can look at the list to get started. Always offer to look up more titles.

[Wisconsin Department of Instruction](#)

Text Resources:

- Ahiyya, Vera. *Rebellious Read Alouds*
- Berthous, Ella and Susan Elderkin. *The Story Cure*
- Dorr, Christina and Liz Deskins. *LGBTQAI+ Books for Children and Teens*
- Fraser, Elizabeth. *Young Adult Non-fiction*
- Hart, Melissa. *Better with Books*
- Mackenzie, Sarah. *The Read-Aloud Family*
- Miller, Donalyn. *Reading in the Wild*
- Reid, Rob. various titles
- Seale, Doris and Beverly Slapin. *A Broken Flute*

Additionally:

-Create lists of your materials in Bibliocommons and also make them available to your patrons on your website, attach in newsletters, etc. Don't reinvent the wheel - bookmark others' already created lists for quick reference to save yourself and your patrons some time. Watch the holiday gift guide lists around the winter holiday season.

-What is the child or teen into in regards to popular culture? Ask about their favorite movies, series, toys, games, fandoms. Also ask about things they do not like.

-Follow Social Media accounts (only some of the many great ones out there):

- #BookTok - lots of YA ideas!
- #IReadYA
- A Black Librarian
- A room of one's own bookstore
- Black Boys & Books
- Book Riot
- Buy Black Authors
- BuzzFeed Books

- Clarion Teen
- Epic Reads
- Greendale Public Library – Teens
- I Read YA
- Milwaukee Public Library
- Mount Prospect Public Library Teen Services
- Penguin Teen
- Tor Teen
- YA Buzz
- Yall West
- YALSA's Teen Book Finder app
- Follow authors, illustrators, and book creators - they often talk up others' books, visits, and resources, not just their own.

-Stealth and Passive RA is your friend

- Bookmarks with QR codes
- Shelf talkers
- Displays (If you liked....try..., etc.)
- Bookmark on your computer or print out your favorite resources and lists for quick reference
 - Readalikes for Harry Potter, Wimpy Kid, Telgemeier's graphic novels, Guinness World Records, etc
 - Series lists
 - Award winning audio, graphic novels, etc.
 - Think beyond best sellers and classics
 - Lists of words/phrases that help describe books and media - I'm not great on my feet so having a list is very helpful (fast-paced, creepy, heart-pounding, romantic, steamy, lots of dialogue, action-packed, etc.)
 - Popular tropes, especially for YA readers (new to fame; The Chosen One; fake dating)

-Bibliographies - printouts, binders, website, Pinterest

-Read reviews of new books, jackets and descriptions of new books coming in, familiarize yourself with diverse author and illustrator names, themes, titles, and historical events.

-Look beyond classics and best-sellers

-Childhood Development

- [Article](#) about rethinking childhood development with a multicultural lens

-Australian resource that is amazing: [Raising Children Network](#) (I am unable to link to the source

-I used to access it all the time but IT recently changed our staff firewalls and I can't access certain things anymore, including Nintendo of all things...)

-<https://www.ccrcca.org/parents/your-childs-growth-and-development/>

-[Examples of cultural differences](#) that can mold childhood development