Fun for All Ages: Reader's Advisory Wins in Youth & Teen Services

Megan Guderian
Alexis Skidmore
Scottsdale Public Library
Today We Will:

1. Share our most successful methods for Reader's Advisory services at Scottsdale Public Library and how you too can easily implement them. Including:
   - Discuss “What’s Great”
   - Discuss “Opportunities for Improvement”
   - Share Metrics and Data
   - Give samples of our graphics and templates.

2. Technology and Reader's Advisory. What is “Yay!” and what is “Yikes!” how we use them at SPLS.

3. Super fun book nerd trivia with CANDY!
TRIVIA!

Stonehead McGurney and Sir Harry the Muse are owls in what colorfully-named fantasy novel series by Brian Jacques?
Bookmates & Bookmates Jr.

Library Staff as personal shoppers!
Getting the right books to the right readers.
How it works:

Resource for ALL ages.

1. Patrons fill out a google form which goes to a group "inbox" for processing.

2. Staff fill requests as they are able.

3. Items are placed on hold thru our regular process.

4. Patrons come and pick up their reads!

https://www.scottsdalelibrary.org/virtual-library
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What's Great About Bookmates</th>
<th>Opportunities for Improvement</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Takes pressure off service points.</td>
<td>Can be feast or famine.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At your leisure Reader's Advisory means less pressure and more</td>
<td>Access is limited. It's an online form that you need access to a</td>
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<tr>
<td>intentionality.</td>
<td>device and technology skills to fill out.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Provides patrons with leisure service too: it gives them high</td>
<td>It's front loaded on the patron; it requires patrons to know the</td>
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<tr>
<td>quality service around their availability.</td>
<td>service and seek it out.</td>
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TRIVIA!

The winner of the 1994 Newbery Medal was ranked as the fourth best children's novel of all time by a 2012 US survey. What is this Lois Lowry-penned book which centers on protagonist Jonas's apprenticeship as his community's "Receiver of Memory?"
Grab & Go Book Bundles

Creative book treat stacks that are the perfect "impulse" checkout.

How it works:

1. Library staff creates themed book bundles.
2. We use picture books, non-fiction, graphic novel, middle grade, readers, and a mix.
3. Wrap the bundles in string and add a Grab & Go tag labeling the theme.
4. Patrons find a favorite theme, grab the themed bundle, and checkout the entire bundle.
How it looks in practice:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What's Great About Book Bundles</th>
<th>Opportunities for Improvement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Convenient for patrons! They love the quick and easy.</td>
<td>We wish we had thought to track bundle circulation by topics that circ more than others.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great for including hidden gems including awesome non-fiction reads.</td>
<td>Too many bundles prepared makes the Pull/Hold's List a little cumbersome.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Themed books pulled for storytime or in-person RA can easily be put into a bundle.</td>
<td>Creating book bundles by theme and AR level can be challenging.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Chapter Books:
• 1st in a series
• Fantastic Books by Grade "4th Grade Favs" or "5th Grade Magic Reads"
• Friendship
• Far Away Places
• It's a Mystery!
• Must Love *insert any animal*
• Try Not to Laugh!
• Classics
• Staff Favorites
• If you like ... *insert popular title or genre* (we also label these "For fans of...")
• Heritage and History Months and other DEIB themes like disability and anti-bullying.
• Books that build *insert a virtue/skill* (I've done: grit, empathy, kindness, cultural awareness, vocabulary, reading comprehension, curiosity)

Picture Books:
• Learning Focus: ABCs & 123s, Shapes, Colors, Read, Sing, Write, Play, Talk, Vocabulary, Phonics Skills, Word Fun, Narrative Skills...
• Friends (making, being a good, unlikely)
• Any Animal: "Tiger Tales", "Moustasic Reads", "Turtle Power!", "Take it Slow" (sloths, turtles, snails), "Beary Good Books"
• As Seen in Storytime, or sometimes staff picks "Mrs. Megan's Favorites"
• Versus: "Dogs Versus Cats" or "Dragons Versus Unicorns", "Cat Versus Mouse" or "Crocs versus Gators"
• Bibliotherapy Bundles: Emotions, Potty Training, Having a Sibling, Going to School, Manners.
• Nonfic Focus: an example for Picture Book Biographies we label it "Meet Someone New", 'Historical Figures", Science Bundle might be labeled "Sun, Moon and Stars!", or "How things work"
• Popular topics: "Things that Go!", "Superheroes!" "Princesses"
Show Us the Data:

Total SPLS Circulation 2018/2019

- Youth and Teen Circulation: 35% to 47%
- Other Collections

Total SPLS Circulation 2020/2021

- Youth and Teen Circulation
- Other Collections
Metrics
The Numbers Show the Impact

Show Us the Data:

- Physical Circulation Increased 11% 2021-2022
- We continue to circ an average of 165 Grab & Go Bundles a month at the main branch.
- We’ve completed over 1,000 Bookmates Jr requests.

Increased Circs & Positive Patron Feedback!

During "peak" times we've gone as high as 326 bundles.

SPLS metadata services team specially credited these services as part of this change in their reporting.

The service started as Bookmates Jr. and then was then EXPANDED for all ages.
TRIVIA!

Turtle Princess is the very strict librarian, and the Pagelings are the guardians of the books, in what was a Cartoon Network animated series, and now a graphic novel series?
How are we using technology in Reader's Advisory in-the-moment, on the desk?
**Yay!**
- Quick access
- Spelling doesn't matter
- Learning opportunity

**Yikes!**
- Quantity over quality
- Buried by the algorithm
- Common titles
Could you recommend books for kids who like the Magic Treehouse series by Mary Pope Osborne?

Certainly! If kids enjoy the Magic Treehouse series by Mary Pope Osborne, they might also enjoy the following books and series that offer similar themes of adventure, history, and magic:

1. **The Magic School Bus series by Joanna Cole**: This series combines science with adventure as Ms. Frizzle and her class go on exciting field trips in a magical school bus.
2. **The Time Warp Trio series by Jon Scieszka**: Follow Joe, Fred, and Sam as they travel through time with a magical book, encountering historical figures and solving problems along the way.
3. **The Secrets of Droon series by Tony Abbott**: This series follows three friends who discover a hidden world called Droon, filled with magic, adventure, and strange creatures.
4. **A to Z Mysteries by Ron Roy**: These books follow a group of young friends who solve mysteries in their town, each book focusing on a different letter of the alphabet.
5. **The Chronicles of Narnia by C.S. Lewis**: This classic series features magical land, talking animals, and epic adventures that will captivate

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**Yay!**
- Quick results
- Specific
- Allows you to fine tune results or ask for more.

**Yikes!**
- The results aren't always correct.
- AI sounds great, but content can be dated.
**Yay!**
- Integrates with catalog
- Virtual RA that increases interest.
- Showcases staff in a positive way.
- Allows for grouping with shelves.
- Can sticker items with reviews.

**Yikes!**
- Slow build
- Staff coordination is needed.
- Time intensive: reading, writing, posting, MARC records... it’s a lot.
TRIVIA!

In what book did Avery stand to inherit a mansion and 46.2 billion dollars if she can stand/survive living in the mansion for a year?
Yay!
- Similar Titles and Similar Authors integrate in catalog.
- Series order and availability integrated as well.
- Integrations are quick and convenient for patrons and staff.

Yikes!
- An extra database to go into, can be clunky to access.
- Similar Title lists can be dated.
- If the information is integrated incorrectly, you have to contact NoveList to correct.
Track (Jason Reynolds)
Yay!
• Great for knowing specific content.
• Resource for parents that doesn’t require library science skills.
• Reviews all media

Yikes!
• Limited # of reviews can be viewed unless $
• Takes time for new books to be reviewed.
• Interest level is mentioned but not reading level.

Alternatives:
The Literate Mother, NPR Book Concierge, & library curated lists.
What series of massively popular books took "Top Prize" as the most commonly banned book by the American Library Association from 2000 to 2009?
Questions?

If you want to...

Contact Us:
Alexis Skidmore
askidmore@scottsdaleaz.gov
Megan Guderian
mguderian@scottsdaleaz.gov
TRIVIA!

There are 13 Pigeon books by Mo Willems. Can you name the first, the most recent, and 5 other Pigeon books?