

Reading Bytes: Online Resources for Readers' Advisory

My Favorite RA Websites –Yvonne Selander, Readers' Services Librarian, Bridgewater Library

EarlyWord: www.earlyword.com – The Publisher | Librarian Connection

- Preview of buzzy titles including a list of what is coming out that week that they think is going to be hot
- Right-hand side
 - Award winners all in one place!
 - Best of yearly lists, again all in one place!
 - Books → Movies

NextReads: If your library doesn't have it, find one that does!

<http://www.nextreads.com/join.aspx?SID=cbcc09db-b4fo-4adb-a778-88822e096591>

Fresh Fiction: www.freshfiction.com

- Media Spotlight – daily email

What's Next: <http://ww2.kdl.org/libcat/whatsnext.asp>

- Crisp, clear, wonderful series lists

New York Times Bestsellers: <http://www.hawes.com/pastlist.htm>

- Fiction and Non-fiction best seller lists from 1970-today
- Bonus: Week ahead!

Indie Bound: <http://www.indiebound.org/>

- IndieNext- What the independent book sellers think will be the hot picks of the month; their “main” pick is always a hit
- Indie Bestsellers – Great for book clubs

Stop You're Killing Me!: <http://www.stopyourekilllingme.com/>

- Location, Job, Subgenre, etc. – Great ways to find books for Mystery Lovers

My Favorite RA Websites – Joanne Cronin, Readers' Services Librarian, Morris County Library

General /News

Overbooked

<http://www.overbooked.org/>

“Providing timely information about fiction (all genres) and readable nonfiction for ravenous and omnivorous readers.”

Lists items receiving starred reviews by Booklist, Kirkus, LJ, and PW, by expected publication date. Also has links to “hotlists” of new/noable books in GoogleDocs.

Readers' Advisor Online

<http://www.readersadvisoronline.com>

“Welcome to the blog for readers' advisors and bibliophiles who work with readers. You'll find essential news, tips, fun stuff, and a community for exploring RA issues. The blog is presented by the Reader's Advisor Online.”

Contains weekly lists of new and upcoming fiction and nonfiction, as well as related news. Less busy design than EarlyWord, but covers similar ground.

Shelf Awareness

<http://www.shelf-awareness.com/>

“Shelf Awareness is a free e-newsletter about books and the book industry. We have two separate versions:

For Readers: Discover the 25 best books coming out this week as selected by our industry insiders. (Tuesdays and Fridays.).

For Book Trade Professionals: Receive daily enlightenment with our FREE weekday trade newsletter.”

Cjhock-full of industry talk, reviews, author interviews, and highlighted titles.

The newer Readers version would be useful to patrons; Pro gives librarians useful information about industry trends and upcoming titles. Worth perusing both, and it's hard to argue with free subscriptions.

Genre-specific

Locus Online

www.locusmag.com

“The Website of The Magazine of the Science Fiction & Fantasy Field.”

Truth in advertising. News, reviews, bestsellers, convention listings, links to genre articles in mainstream media..

The Mystery Reader/The Romance Reader

www.themysteryreader.com; www.theromancereader.com

Sister review sites that cover mass market and category materials as well as hardcovers.

Mystery Reader reviews contain notes for levels of violence, and Romance Reader reviews note level of sexual description by borrowing the MPAA ratings. Handy if you're dealing with patrons who have strong feelings related to these topics.

Smart Bitches, Trashy Books

www.smartbitchestrashybooks.com

A guilty pleasure masquerading as a book review site. Snarky, hilarious, on-target articles, reviews, occasional contests, reviews sorted by letter grade Sarah Wendell and Candy Tan, the women who write this blog, have collaborated on *Beyond Heaving Bosoms: The Smart Bitches' Guide to Romance Novels*. Giggles and good information—what's not to like?

My Go-To RA Websites – Brenda Muhlbaier, Circulation Manager (and RA coordinator), Gloucester County Library – Mullica Hill Branch

Fantastic Fiction: www.fantasticfiction.co.uk

- Every book an author has put out
- Series orders
- Forthcoming titles
- Similar authors
- Titles an author has recommended

Blogging for a Good Book: <http://bfgb.wordpress.com/>

(A suggestion a day from the Williamsburg Regional Library)

- Staff reviews
- Not just books, has movie and music recommendations too
- Searchable by keyword

A Reader's Place: <http://areadersplace.net/>

- Memoirs and other nonfiction
- Searchable by keyword

Library Thing: www.librarything.com/

- Can catalog up to 200 books for free
- Find similar books
- Zeitgeist tab – top tags, books, authors

Fiction L: www.webrary.org/rs/flmenu.html

- Created by Morton Grove Public Library – listserv and searchable website
- Searchable archives – by year, by month, keyword by year range
- Booklists – Genre, Character, Setting, Subject, Author, Audience, “Best of”, and Miscellaneous

<http://www.gcls.org/RA/Annotations/Fiction/>

This is an in-house created annotations database I and my staff use. You are free to look at and use as well. It can be searched by keyword (tip: when searching an author's name, use upper and lower case).

NoveList Plus: subscription only, but a great resource if your library can afford it

I also use: Early Word, RA for All, and Readers' Advisor Online

Favorite RA Blogs

Liz Burns, Head of Youth Services, NJ State Library Talking Book & Braille Center

Beth Fish Reads www.bethfishreads.com Freelance editor & reviewer; an eclectic reader who reviews many types of books. Other blogs that feature a mix of reviews include **Jenn's Bookshelves** www.jennsbookshelves.com, **She Is Too Fond of Books** www.sheistoofondofbooks.com **Sophisticated Dorkiness** www.sophisticateddorkiness.com (including nonfiction), **Write Meg** writemeg.com

Book Club Girl www.bookclubgirl.com Books, news and tips for bookclubs.

The Book Smugglers thebooksmugglers.com Two bloggers (one US, one UK) review & discuss speculative fiction and YA.

Booking Mama www.bookingmama.net Book blog whose focus is book reviews & information for book clubs.

Bonjour, Cass! bonjourcass.com Reader whose focus is queer non-fiction/gender studies/LGBTQ fiction.

Boston Bibliophile www.bostonbibliophile.com Librarian, NBCC member, reviews current and backlist literary fiction, narrative nonfiction and books of Jewish interest.

Color Online coloronline.blogspot.com Focusing on books for all ages by women writers of color.

Dear Author dearauthor.com Romance book reviews and discussions of ebooks and digital technology related to ebooks.

INSPYS inspys.com Award for excellence in faith-driven literature (Christian based). The bloggers behind this (at inspys.com/?page_id=129) offer a good starting place for RA for those looking for faith-driven books, including works by secular publishers.

The Millions www.themillions.com An online magazine offering coverage on books, arts, and culture since 2003.

A Novel Challenge novelchallenges.blogspot.com Challenges - Usually set up over an extended period of time which encourages participants to read a certain number of books or type of book; can be for a set period of time (with a beginning and ending) or may be perpetual (with no time limit).

Reading Group Choices www.readinggroupchoices.com News about reading groups, book festivals, libraries reading groups.

S. Krishna's Books www.skrishnasbooks.com Freelance writer, editor, and book reviewer. Reviews include South Asian Fiction, or books by South Asian authors.

Smart Bitches, Trashy Books www.smartbitchestrashybooks.com Smart women writing about romance books & industry news

White Readers Meet Black Authors welcomewhitefolks.blogspot.com By Carleen Brice, author of *Orange Mint and Honey*. The blog title explains it all!

Your Next Read www.yournextread.com Based on the books you look at, this will recommend other books you may like by creating "your map" of books.

For Reading Groups

Roz Reisner, Great Group Reads Coordinator, National Reading Group Month

National Reading Group Month: <http://www.nationalreadinggroupmonth.org/>

- Great Group Reads list of good books for discussion (annual in October)
- Author programs in 10 cities

Reading Group Choices: <http://www.readinggroupchoices.com/>

- Reviews, ideas for book groups

Shelf Awareness: daily enlightenment for the book trade – <http://www.shelf-awareness.com/>

- Shelf Awareness Pro
- Shelf Awareness for Readers

Books on the Nightstand: <http://booksonthenightstand.com/>

- Podcasts about new books (every Wednesday)
- Book reviews
- A blog about the publishing world

RA for All: Becky' Spratford's blog to showcase how the readers' advisors at your local library can help:
<http://raforall.blogspot.com>

- Ideas and tips for Readers Advisors—"how-to"
- Genre book lists, reviews, display ideas, games, RA and literary news, web resources, etc.

Book Group Buzz: a daily blog from Booklist – <http://bookgroupbuzz.booklistonline.com/>

- advice for good book group titles
- resources in print and on the internet