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Readers' Advisory Service In The Public Library



Synopsis

Do you have anything else like this?" In public libraries, reference librarians are often called on to make recommendations to readers, sometimes in genres that they don't personally read. Learning how to frame a discussion and articulate the appeal of a book, author, or genre marks the essence of a successful readers' advisor. Readers' advisory is defined as, "patron-oriented library service for adult fiction readers," according to Saricks, a noted expert on the subject. In the completely revised third edition of *Readers' Advisory Service for Public Libraries*, Saricks updates this critically acclaimed how-to guide, making it more helpful than ever. As reference librarians seek support in guiding adult readers, they've come to trust this authoritative resource. It has been expanded and improved with: Easy ways to create "read alike" lists, identifying what else is "like" a favorite book; Practical guidelines for conducting the advisory interview so it's a comfortable exchange; Confidence-boosting tactics for drawing on reviews to make recommendations; Methods for incorporating nonfiction into the discussion; More resources and online tools; Using the proven strategies in this newly updated, back-to-basics overview, librarians providing readers' advisory services will find the answers they need to help customers make appropriate choices.

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Customer Reviews

An expanded and updated version of her 1989 title, this book describes the past and present philosophy of readers' advisory service in public libraries. Sarick offers many training ideas for

librarians interested in learning how to perform the service. She gives guidelines on how to conduct the readers' advisory interview, which she describes as a conversation about books between a patron and the librarian. One goal of the readers' advisory interview is to demonstrate that the conversation should be viewed to be as important a library service as is answering reference questions. I found that one of the most interesting chapters was on defining the book's appeal to the reader, the basic elements of which are pacing, characterization, story line and setting. The author devotes an entire chapter in this version on how to articulate those elements, to get the reader to describe what it is about that book that makes them want to find a similar one. Part of the staff at the Downer's Grove Public Library, Sarick helped to create their readers' advisory service in 1983. The author achieves her goal in this book of introducing the materials, skills and philosophy of readers' advisory service. This book will be a very useful training tool for libraries and librarians interested in learning how to provide readers' advisory service in their libraries. Many specific examples of authors, titles and genres are described within the text, and a list of popular authors within each genre is included.

This book was quite useful for my Reader's Advisory course. It doesn't go into great detail but it does provide a good overall perspective.

Great for helping patrons in my library choose their next book.

great!

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