

# The Central Library Bulletin

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## Adult patrons in the Mid-Hudson Library System checked out over 1,355,000 books in 2006; how many of those titles did you recommend?

Patrons may satisfy many of their information needs outside of the library, yet they still turn to the library for their leisure reading. Often, they expect library staff to make recommendations based on their own reading, and to make suggestions that satisfy the patron's personal needs and preferences. Fortunately, staff now have a variety of resources to help their patrons find a good book, some of which you'll read about in this edition of the **Central Library Bulletin**.

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### Question of the Month

*I like to read travelogues, you know, books about real people visiting exotic locations. What can you suggest?*

**Useful Tools:** Non-Fiction Connection, a readers' advisory resource available through HomeAccess.

Choose the **Topic** tab for Travel, and then refine your results by choosing among headings such as Genre, Location, Setting and Time-frame. Choosing Adventure (under Genre) and then Europe (under Location) provides a list of possible titles. Choose a title, and then click "Search my library's catalog" to locate the book or place a hold.

### FAQs at the Reference Desk

**Q.** Can you recommend a good book for me to read?

**A.** We have several resources to help you: some books, some websites, and some library-based electronic resources. Let's get started.

### Suggested Titles:

(Having some of these titles on hand to browse through can help get you started.)

Charles, John. *The Mystery Readers' Advisory: the librarian's clues to murder and mayhem*. Chicago: American Library Association, 2002.

Cords, Sarah Statz. *The Real Story: a guide to nonfiction reading interests*. Westport, Conn.: Libraries Unlimited, 2006.

Hooper, Brad. *Read On--Historical Fiction: reading lists for every taste*. Westport, Conn.: Libraries Unlimited, 2006.

Gannon, Michael B. *Blood, Bedlam, Bullets, and Badguys: a reader's guide to adventure/suspense fiction*. Westport, Conn.: Libraries Unlimited, 2004.

Spratford, Becky Siegel. *The Horror Readers' Advisory: the librarian's guide to vampires, killer tomatoes, and haunted houses*. Chicago: American Library Association, 2004.

Wyatt, Neal. *The Readers' Advisory Guide to Nonfiction*. Chicago: American Library Association, 2007.

## Readers' Advisory Links:

Readers' Café: A Virtual Meeting Place for Books and Readers

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/apps/libraries/readerscafe/>

Find "Pearl's Picks," reading suggestions from Nancy Pearl; book newsletters to read online, subscribe to or receive through RSS feeds; a book discussion corner; and Booklovers' Links.

whichbook.net

<http://www.whichbook.net/default.aspx>

Use a sliding scale to select the elements you'd like in your next read—from happy to sad, beautiful to disgusting, safe to disturbing. Created by librarians in England, Scotland and Wales, the site offers over 20 million possible permutations.

**Website review:** Morton Grove Public Library's Webrary

Here you will find Fiction\_L, the electronic mailing list dedicated to reader's advisory topics; Fiction\_L Booklists, with titles grouped by genre, character, setting, etc., with additional lists grouping authors by region and ethnicity; read-alikes; and "Best-of" lists, with titles grouped by year or other defining characteristic.

To browse the booklists, or to subscribe to the electronic mailing list, go to <http://www.webrary.org/RS/FLmenu.html>

**HomeAccess:** Introduce your patrons to FictionConnection and Non-Fiction Connection. Search them individually or simultaneously, by author, topic, genre, and setting; or by media mentions, bestsellers or award-winners. Your patrons can print or email lists of ten titles at a time.

Visit your library's homepage, and log in to use these HomeAccess resources.

**Training Tips:** Compile a list of the readers' advisory questions you have trouble answering,

and then assign one to each staff member. Staff can then consult resources, colleagues and other readers to develop a booklist for the topic.

To learn more about providing readers' advisory service, read Joyce Saricks' column in *The Booklist*. (Use ProQuest to read her columns online, if you don't have a print subscription; even the older ones make for good reading.) A search in ProQuest (HomeAccess) for "readers' advisory" will turn up articles by Mary K. Chelton, Duncan Smith, Nancy Pearl and other experts in the field.

**Links:** Visit Adriance Library's Useful Sites page at [www.poklib.org](http://www.poklib.org). Click on the Reference and Research tab, then Useful Sites. Click on Books and Literature to find links to some of the best sites on the web for books and reading.

## Training Spotlight:

"Help Your Patrons Find Books They Will Love with Readers' Advisory" (Sue Hermans, presenter): June 16, 10-12 at the MHLS auditorium, and June 26, 10-12 at Kingston Library. Register online through the Mid-Hudson calendar. To register now, click <http://calendar.midhudson.org/>.

## Recent Central Library Acquisitions

These titles have been added to the collection at Adriance Memorial Library.



### Non-Fiction

Anderson, Pam. [The perfect recipe for losing weight & eating great](#). Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2008.

Begley, Ed. [Living like Ed](#). New York: Clarkson Potter, 2008.

Braden, Gregg, [The spontaneous healing of belief: shattering the paradigm of false limits](#). Carlsbad, Calif.: Hay House, 2008.

Chilton, Bruce. [Abraham's curse: child sacrifice in the legacies of the West.](#) New York: Doubleday, 2008.

[Choosing the president 2008: a citizen's guide to the electoral process.](#) League of Women Voters. Guilford, Conn.: Lyons Press, 2008.

Domar, Alice. [Be happy without being perfect: how to break free from the perfection deception.](#) New York: Crown Publishers, 2008.

Faerber, Esmé. [All about stocks: the easy way to get started.](#) New York: McGraw-Hill, 2008.

Ford, Debbie. [Why good people do bad things: how to stop being your own worst enemy.](#) New York: HarperOne, 2008.

Harford, Tim. [The logic of life: the rational economics of an irrational world.](#) New York: Random House, 2008.

Kutner, Lawrence. [Grand theft childhood: the surprising truth about violent video games and what parents should know.](#) New York: Simon & Schuster, 2008.

Lisick, Beth. [Helping me help myself: one skeptic, ten self-help gurus, and a year on the brink of the comfort zone.](#) New York: William Morrow, 2008.

Lydon, Christine. [Ten years thinner: 6 weeks to a leaner, younger-looking you.](#) Cambridge, Mass.: Da Capo Lifelong, 2008.

Mooney, Nan. [\(Not\) keeping up with our parents: the decline of the professional middle class.](#) Boston: Beacon Press, 2008.

Pollan, Stephen. [Lifelines for money misfortunes: how to overcome life's greatest challenges.](#) Hoboken, N.J.: John Wiley & Sons, 2008.

Shook, Kerry. [One month to live: thirty days to a no-regrets life.](#) Colorado Springs, Colo.: WaterBrook Press, 2008.

Spinelli, Frank. [The advocate guide to gay men's health and wellness.](#) New York: Alyson Books, 2008.

Twyman, James. [The Moses code: the most powerful manifestation tool in the history of the world.](#) Carlsbad, Calif.: Hay House, 2008.

Wilson, John. [Barack Obama: this improbable quest.](#) Boulder, CO: Paradigm, 2008.

Winget, Larry. [You're broke because you want to be: how to stop getting by and start getting ahead.](#) New York: Gotham Books, 2008.

Wright, N. T. [Surprised by hope: rethinking heaven, the resurrection, and the mission of the Church.](#) New York: HarperOne, 2008



## Reference

Adamec, Christine. [The encyclopedia of adoption.](#) New York: Facts On File, 2007.

[Alzheimer Disease sourcebook: basic consumer health information about Alzheimer Disease, other dementias, and related disorders ...](#) Karen Bellenir, editor. Detroit, MI: Omnigraphics, 2008.

Carlisle, Rodney P. [Civil War and reconstruction.](#) New York: Facts On File, 2008.

Collins, Ross F. [World War I: primary documents on events from 1914 to 1919.](#) Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 2008.

DeVries, Kelly. [Medieval weapons: an illustrated history of their impact.](#) Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, 2007.

[Encyclopedia of gangs.](#) Louis Kontos and David C. Brotherton, editors. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 2007.

[Encyclopedia of the age of the industrial revolution, 1700-1920.](#) Christine Rider, editor. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 2007.

[Encyclopedia of the age of political revolutions and new ideologies, 1760-1815](#). Gregory Fremont-Barnes, editor. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 2007.

[The Encyclopedia of phobias, fears, and anxieties](#). Doctor, Ronald. New York: Facts On File, 2008.

[Encyclopedia of plague and pestilence: from ancient times to the present](#). New York: Facts On File, 2008.

[The Gale encyclopedia of diets: a guide to health and nutrition](#). Jacqueline L. Longe, editor. Detroit: Thomson Gale, 2008.

[The Gale encyclopedia of mental health](#). Laurie J. Fundukian and Jeffrey Wilson, editors. Detroit: Thomson Gale, 2008.

Hughes, Theodore. [The executor's handbook: a step-by-step guide to settling an estate for executors, administrators, and beneficiaries](#). New York: Facts On File, 2007.

[Icons of hip hop: an encyclopedia of the movement, music, and culture](#). Mickey Hess, editor. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 2007.

Kinnear, Karen L. [Childhood sexual abuse: a reference handbook](#). Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, 2007.

McBride, Dorothy E. [Abortion in the United States: a reference handbook](#). Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, 2008.

McCue, Margi Laird. [Domestic violence: a reference handbook](#). Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, 2007.

McDougall, Jennifer. [Euthanasia: a reference handbook](#). Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, 2008.

Montgomery, Florence M. [Textiles in America, 1650-1870: a dictionary based on original documents, prints and paintings, commercial records, American merchant's papers, shopkeepers' advertisements, and pattern](#)

[books with original swatches of cloth](#). New York: W. W. Norton & Co., 2007.

Yount, Lisa. [Animal rights](#). New York: Facts On File, 2008.

Please send your questions, comments, and ideas for future issues to Sue Hermans, Central Library Services Coordinator and Head of Reference, Poughkeepsie Public Library District (shermans@poklib.org.)