Genre-fying Your Fiction Section
(and why it matters)

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Where are We Going?

- Is Genrefying New?
- My Story
- Benefits of Genrefying
- Tips, Tricks, and Getting Started
- Going Forward & Additional Resources
Genrefying: A History

- **1700s-1800s**: Library is a social and community place to gather

- **1900s**: Librarians worked toward standardized, routine, and common modes of practice
  - Where Dewey came into play

- **Today**: The advent of personalized, blended, and flipped learning is allowing libraries to be of, and for, their community
Survey

- Anyone else genrefied their library?
- In the midst of genrefying?
My Story

- Genrefied classroom library
- Topic for masters thesis
- Implemented my 1st year as librarian
My Genrefying Experience

- 4 months
- 8,000 books
- 400 dollars
- 13 genres
Why It Matters

- Faster checkout
- Makes library manageable for all students
  - SPED
  - Reluctants
  - ESOL
  - Frequent Fliers
- “Effective users of ideas and information”
Why It Matters

- Encourages unplanned discovery and impromptu browsing
- Keeps the library relevant to similar experiences
Why It Matters

1. Books are for use.
2. Every reader his book.
4. Save the time of the reader.
5. The library is a growing organism.

- Dr. S.R. Ranganathan, 1931
  “5 Laws of Library Science”
“Patrons will always prefer to browse a smaller, more manageable set of books rather than wander the aisles aimlessly and pulling out random books. They really just want to find an easier way into the collection.”

- Trott, 2006
Determining Your Library’s Genres

- Know your clientele

- Look at your circulation data: What’s popular?

- Survey your students - formally or informally
  
  - What are your favorite genres?

  - How do you find new books in the genres you like?

- Tiffany Whitehead’s blog series on genrefying (2013) (mightylittlelibrarian.com)
Determining A Book’s Genre

- Cataloging in Publication info
- Read reviews & inside book jacket
- Read the book!
  - Don’t have time? Elect a student reading team!

Ultimately, when deciding where a book should be placed, ask yourself:

*What kind of reader would most likely pick up this book?*
Collecting Data

- Informal survey of English teachers
- Student feedback in conversation
- Monitored circulation month by month and compared to previous year’s data

- Sept: Long bar
- Oct: Medium bar
- Nov: Short bar
- Dec: Long bar
- Jan: Medium bar
- Feb: Short bar
- Mar: Long bar
- Apr: Medium bar
- May: Short bar
- Jun: Medium bar
Total Circulation 2015-2016

- 2014: 9500
- 2015: 11500
Collecting Data: Student Feedback

- Surveyed students 2nd quarter & 4th quarter
  - 94% of students liked the genre organization
  - 73% found new authors they liked in the genre they preferred
  - 68% tried a new genre based on a friend’s recommendation
- “Genre shelving is awesome! How did I ever survive in a library without it?”
Keeping up

- Additional processing
- Changing shelf location in catalog
  - Destiny: Batch Entry
- Being open to genre changes
- Books that
The Anti-Genrefying Club

- Multi-genre books
- Space issues
- Inconsistencies among libraries
- Kids will only read one genre
- Money

- SO. MUCH. TIME.
- Authors’ works aren’t all together
- Genrefying doesn’t help student achievement
- Browsing vs. looking for specifics
- “Just a phase”
Making Genrefying Work for You

- Informs ordering
- Great for readers’ advisory
- Helps with weeding
- Shelving is easier

Genrefying the fiction section helped me become a better librarian!
Where to Start

- Determine your genres and your criteria for each
- Decide your approach
- Purchase materials to identify genres on the book and on the shelves

*Remember: Nothing is set in stone!*
Getting More Info

- Tiffany Whitehead’s Blog
- Articles
- Dec/Jan 2013 Knowledge Quest
  - Dewey or don’t we?
Is it Worth it? **YES!**

Your students will visit your library more. You will be able to recommend books easier. It will focus your limited budget. Students will branch out in their reading and learn more authors and series that write the genres they enjoy reading.
Going Forward

- Keep data!
  - Be sure you have before/after circulation stats
- Share your story with others
  - 41% wanted to talk with those who genrefied
  - 29% wanted to read success stories
- Talk to librarians nearby/in feeder schools
- Spread the news to your admin & teachers
- Create announcements on website/social media/school newsletter
  Host an English dept mtg in the library
Final Thought

As librarians, it is our job to help our students locate anything and everything.

The organization of the library should help them do the same!

Thanks!