
When it comes to bibliographic instruction, there’s no shortage of good literature to guide the instructor through the venerated halls of pedagogy. And the proliferation of these materials is important, as very few librarians have the benefit of formal instruction training. The latest contribution to the panopoly of bibliographic-instruction literature, Veldof’s Creating the One-Shot Library Workshop: A Step-by-Step Guide, focuses on the design process of the ubiquitous fifty-minute “one-shot” workshop.

This is, first and foremost, a “How To” book, with limited text dedicated to instruction theory. The blueprint for this process is adapted from the Instructional Systems Design (ISD) ADDIE model: analysis, design, development, implementation, and evaluation. The author breaks down the ADDIE model into twenty steps, each an actionable item. A few examples include: Assess Needs, Create Teaching Points, Build Evaluation Tools, Structure Workshop, and Pilot Workshop. The steps are logically arranged, leading the reader through the detailed design process from start to finish with an appreciable absence of extraneous information that might compromise the work’s focus. Veldof does provide some instruction theory and background, but these passages are succinct and immediately relevant to the design process. The author also provides suggested readings where appropriate.

This work could very easily have been dull and dry. One mention of the ADDIE model normally makes this reviewer’s eyes take on the fresh glaze of a Krispy Kreme doughnut. The ADDIE model demands a substantial investment of time and attention. Pejoratives for the ADDIE model might include time consuming, inefficient, and inflexible. But Veldof is quick to establish an informal, friendly, even conspiratorial tone. The author begins each chapter, or step, by considering the all-important why questions: why is this particular step necessary? Why is it important? Veldof then concludes each step with a University of Minnesota Libraries case study. These case studies reveal how the instructional design process played out in the real world, adding a good measure of perspicuity. The author also supplies the reader several time-saving worksheets, forms, and example modules.

Creating the One-Shot Library Workshop: A Step-by-Step Guide is an accessible, well-articulated work that provides an unusually thorough treatment of the instructional design process. Librarians looking for a broader, theory-based approach to library instruction might be more interested in Nancy Pickering Thomas’ Information Literacy and Information Skills Instruction (Thomas, 2004). But librarians searching for a practical guide to aid in the development of a consistent workshop program, or improve an existing program, will be well served by this work.—James Bierman, Engineering Librarian, University of Oklahoma, Norman

According to Michael Sullivan, nearly 40 percent of all library patrons are children aged twelve and younger. Despite this large number of users, many library administrators pay scant attention to the maintenance and improvement of integral children’s library services. This useful and timely reference, part of the American Library Association Fundamentals series, attempts to redress these problems and offer children’s librarians concrete and effective solutions to provide the best possible services to their patrons.

The author, director of the Greenland (New Hampshire) Public Library and a children’s librarian for the past fifteen years, ably covers all of the topics every successful children’s librarian should know, including traditional areas such as collection development, programming, and budgeting, as well as more recently important skills, such as booktalking and marketing. The author also provides excellent and useful examples in each of the twenty-two chapters of the book (such as library “Acceptable Use” policies, professional development links, and storyline bibliographies).

Though addressed mainly to public librarians, Fundamentals of Children’s Services is also a good reference for media specialists who work with elementary and middle school students.—Larry Cooperman, Media Specialist, Seminole High School, Sanford, Florida


Readers’ advisory (RA) has become a subject of serious research during the past twenty-five years. The need to identify authors of similar subject matter or style is currently a much-prized library service for readers of popular fiction, and the number of resources attempting to assist the readers’ advisor continues to grow. One title that has been around since the beginning and continues to deliver is Genreflecting: A Guide to Popular Reading Interests, now in its sixth edition.

This edition contains a number of revisions and updates, the most notable being a new two-part approach: (1) an introduction to popular reading interests containing a series of essays on “the social nature of reading,” “a brief history of [RA],” the “[RA] interview,” and “serving today’s reader,” and (2) a guide to the genres themselves.

There are now ten genres covered in Genreflecting. Both “Christian Fiction” and “Emerging Genres” are new to this edition (“Emerging Genres” includes “Women’s Fiction” and “Chick Lit”). The format is substantially the same as in the fifth edition, though each chapter now begins with an extended essay on issues of the individual genre. This is followed by sections on “Themes and Types” and “Topps” and ends with a list of “DS’s Picks” of favorites in the genre.

The sixth edition gives the reader more information. For instance, historical fiction titles have been given a tag identifying the era in which the story took place, “DS’s Picks” are now annotated, and symbols are used to denote various qualities of a title (award winner, made into a film). The “Crime” and “Science Fiction” chapters have been substantially revised.