
Do you hear the question, “are there any good books I can read in this library?” or, “can you get me a funny book?” multiple times during the day? If so, then The Big Book of Teen Reading Lists by Nancy Keane will be an invaluable resource for you.

The one hundred lists included in this book were created with the assistance of secondary school teachers, public librarians, and participants in professional e-mail discussion lists. Every title included in the book was in print as of 2005. The Big Book of Teen Reading Lists includes both fiction and nonfiction titles. For even more convenience, it is divided by age levels. “Books for Ages 12–15” can be used for all ages and are not necessarily restricted to use with younger teens. Books that are intended for ages fourteen and up are labeled “Books for older teens.” The author includes the caveat that one should preview the material before making recommendations to students if age appropriateness is in question.

The best feature in this resource book is the use of genre lists, ranging from common themes such as “Humor” and “Vampires” to more complex topics such as “Life in the Fat Lane: Books About Food Issues for Teens,” “Female Quest Stories,” and “Aftereffects of Violence.” These premade lists help librarians give children personal library service even when they are busy with multiple responsibilities.

Each title listed in the book contains a brief annotation and bibliographic information, making it easy for librarians to locate the desired titles and get them into the hands of young people quickly. Even if you already have readers’ advisory materials at your disposal, this would be one worth adding.—Karin Perry, Library Media Specialist, Whittier Middle School, Norman, Oklahoma


Build It Once toutself as a simple-to-follow guide for librarians responsible for digital archiving and collection management. Written in pithy, easily digestible chapters, Build It Once takes the approach of practical online exhibition design manual.

The task of providing overview detail to librarians who may have little or no experience in developing and managing digital collections is challenging at best. Thiels book provides a good basic overview, although it does assume some basic competency in digital technology. Another common challenge for books about Web design is that they are often obsolete before their press dates due to the rapid pace of technological change. For example, the phrase “online exhibition” has expanded to include anything from digital library collections to virtual poster sessions for online conferences (which are becoming more common for academic library conferences). Unfortunately, this nomenclature shift defining online exhibitions is not addressed anywhere in Build It Once.

Chapter 1 covers “defining the exhibition,” by outlining the target audience, sizes, and resources required for a successful exhibition, as well as design considerations such as quality of reproduction, originality, and appropriateness of subject matter. Chapter 2 focuses on equipment selection and provides anecdotal detail about the imaging laboratory at the University of Kansas's Kenneth Spencer Research Library.

Chapters 3 through 6 cover the mechanics of the design and structure of Web pages with enough rich detail to constitute its own book. Thiel's clarity in outlining layers and levels of Web page interface is user-friendly and can be applied to any Web design project. The book concludes with advanced topics in Web design, an online exhibition tutorial with an emphasis on Dreamweaver, and a digitization glossary.

Thiel's work is useful and important, but an electronic version would be advised for future additions to allow continuous updates as technology develops.—Alexia Hudson, Reference & Instruction Librarian, Penn State Great Valley, Malvern


Wherry's Intellectual Property is intended to help librarians understand patents, copyright, and trademarks, and to navigate the intricacies of the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) Web site. He succeeds in providing a good overview, including several real-life illustrations of intellectual property concepts. Wherry writes clearly about a topic that could easily become overwhelming, considering the many legal and linguistic complexities surrounding the concept of intellectual property.

Along with chapters on copyright, patents, and trademarks, the book also provides useful information to guide readers through the search process on the PTO Web site. While a step-by-step walkthrough is helpful to readers who rarely navigate the PTO Web site, one wonders whether a more detailed examination of his topics would have been more useful than a walkthrough of the current incarnation of the PTO Web site.