

Getting Your Community Reading: Ideas from RA in a Day 2012

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| <p>Reflections on Aging: A Reading Circle</p> <p>From the Carlingwood Branch, Ottawa Public Library: There are no maps for the journey we take through our years as older adults. But many writers provide signposts as they consider issues we all encounter as we age, such as reconsidering our identities, living with loss, expressing gratitude, coping with solitude, and finding new ways to engage with life. Be part of a reading circle that meets weekly for six weeks to explore older adulthood, as portrayed in a wide range of writings, including poetry, short stories and articles. Discussions will be facilitated by Trudy Medcalf, a gerontologist and writer, and Wendy Robbins, a library consultant and former CBC producer. Readings will be provided.</p> <p>Contact: Alexandra Yarrow, Carlingwood Branch Coordinator Alexandra.Yarrow@BiblioOttawaLibrary.ca</p> |
| <p>An Afternoon in Paris</p> <p>A themed panel discussion of two books, <i>A Man in Uniform</i> by Kate Taylor and <i>The Reinvention of Love</i> by Helen Humphries, and moderated by Marilyn Simonds. This event was in partnership with Kingston's Writer's Fest. The Moderator developed questions as well as the audience. Some discussion ensued about enhancing the program with theme related food and book lists. As well the possibility of theme related book displays. There was also some thought that this could be a revenue generating event.</p> <p>If this program interests you, contact Deanna Macdonald of Kingston Frontenac Public Library dmacdonald@kfpl.ca</p> |
| <p>Books to Eat</p> <p>Professional chefs from London create edible masterpieces inspired by a book. Community members purchase tickets to come to the library, taste the treats on offer and vote for their favourite. A cash bar is available. The gala-style event raises funds for the library, put the spotlight on some favourite books, and brings people back into the library to discover what the library offers.</p> <p>Contact: Community Outreach and Programming Services London Public Library</p> |
| <p>Spicynodes</p> <p>Use of Spicynodes could be used in RA work to lead readers to new content through the use of nodes that are linked to content such as: book trailers, books lists, readalikes, author interviews and embedded YouTube videos. Content is linked visually from node to node allowing users to trace back to the node that they started with. Free to use although there is a paid option available.</p> <p>From the website: "What is SpicyNodes? SpicyNodes is a way to visualize online information that mimics that way that people look for things in the real world. Bits of information — such as text, links, photos, and other media — are placed into "nodes," which are then linked together in an appealing interface that invites exploration. SpicyNodes can be used for everything from mind maps and content portals to organizational charts and lesson plans."</p> |

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| <p>Serving Readers with Alternative Formats</p> <p>The most popular idea shared at our table was the CNIB Services and the overall awareness of patrons' need for material in an alternate format. The discussion highlighted the need for and making books available in different formats for book clubs and for including in Book Club Bag sets. These formats include: Audio (Books on CD), Audio downloaded on ereader for loan, Large Print, DAISY, downloadable ebook and Braille.</p> <p>Contact: CNIB Library</p> |
| <p>Mississauga Library System's "Raves and Faves" Program</p> <p>To better serve Mississauga's readers, titles are selected yearly and up to 10 copies are purchased per branch library to ensure that new copies of well-loved titles are available to be borrowed. With the large amount of copies, most titles are always available and customers are assured that they will read a great book when they borrow these titles. Titles are purchased in adult fiction, non-fiction, youth fiction and children's fiction, subdivided by books for young readers and books for young children. The books are branded with their own sticker and are placed on prominent display in each library. This encourages a community of readers to enjoy similar titles and helps to drive up interest in reading as the books are new and inviting.</p> <p>Contact: Diana Krawczyk diana.krawczyk@mississauga.ca</p> |
| <p>Cookbook Book Club</p> <p>The Barrie Public Library offers this bookclub which is really popular because it pairs readers with cookbooks. As cookbooks are popular with many readers, this seems a natural fit for a club which allows readers to discuss the books and their cooking. There are a lot of options with this kind of club which would allow a natural partnership with Barrie restaurants and "Barrie-licious."</p> |
| <p>Reader's Advisory Online Form</p> <p>The most popular program shared was an online form created to identify patron's reading preferences. The form asked patrons to identify preferences by asking them questions such as the latest novel they enjoyed, their latest favourite movie and a favourite television program. Six library staff members divided up the task of responding to these online forums by identifying four to six reading suggestions. For more information, please visit http://www.epl.ca/services/personalized-book-list</p> |
| <p>Books and Beer</p> <p>The program from Burlington Public Library basically is a book talk at a local "literary" pub (in this case, "The Dickens"). The program was free but participants needed to purchase food and beverages at their own expense. For obvious reasons, the program was only open to individuals aged 19+. 3 library staff members presented 2 books each and choose books that would appeal to a younger demographic such as "Fifty Shades of Gray," etc.</p> <p>Contact: Amanda Larsen larsena@bpl.on.ca 905-639-3611 ext. 1211</p> |

Open Book Discussion

A book club with a twist from [Oshawa Public Libraries](#). Instead of discussing a particular book, members come prepared to talk about their recent reads and get recommendations from staff and other members on what to read next. To get the discussion rolling, staff may prepare a list including their own recent reads, upcoming books of interest, book news, movie tie-ins, etc. Members share their love of books and listen to others talk about their favourites in an informal, lively setting. Refreshments are usually served (tea and cookies).

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