Recreational Reading Collections in Academic Libraries
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Undergraduates and Campus Libraries
- Study conducted at Gustavus Adolphus College found 93% of students enjoyed reading for fun
- 60% of surveyed academic librarians thought that students were only getting recreational reading titles from campus libraries "occasionally"
- Students surveyed found LC call numbers and amount of holdings overwhelming to browse

The Benefits of Recreational Reading
- Students benefit from recreational reading in a number of ways
  - Increases academic achievement
  - Increases reading comprehension
  - Increases critical thinking
  - Increases empathy
  - Combats stress

Recreational Reading Collections
- 2007 survey of 111 American academic libraries found that 66% noted that they had a recreational reading collection which included a special space for students to look at new titles
- Recreational reading collections can include
  - Print items: popular fiction, mystery, romance, new adult, or graphic novels
  - Some also include popular music, DVDs, videogames, or magazines
  - Can be promoted by staff during library information sessions, or via social media
  - Sometimes promoted through book clubs, book lists, or book displays

Problem: Small Budget? Solution: Online Browsing Platforms
- Not every library has room for dedicated recreational reading collection space
- Some libraries have used online browsing platforms to highlight recreational reading titles without creating a new space in the library

Problem: No Room? Solution: Displays
- New collections can be costly
- Highlight books already owned through themed displays
- Informs patrons about recreational reading titles already held at library without requiring new title

Problem: Small Budget? Solution: Grants and Gifts
- Accept donated items
- Create a wish list for those looking to donate
- Try applying for collection expansion grants
- Illinois’s Back 2 Books Grant
- Will Eisner Graphic Novel Grants for Libraries

Sources

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