



Collection Management

V.29, n.3/4, 2004

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Managing the Mystery Collection: From Creation to Consumption



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Bodies of Evidence: How Mystery Writers Imagine Their Worlds Through Research <i>Barbara Fister</i>	5
<i>Mysteries employ a combination of imagination, experience, and research for authenticity. This article explores how writers in the genre conduct their research, the role research has played in their books, what effect the research underpinning their work has on readers—and what it might mean for libraries.</i>	
KEYWORDS. Mystery and detective stories, genre fiction, creativity and research, libraries and popular culture	
Libraries and Sisters in Crime <i>Kathy Harig</i>	21

Founded in 1986 by mystery author Sara Paretsky, Sisters in Crime (SinC) is devoted to promoting mysteries written by women. In 1991, in order to spread the word about SinC and its authors to libraries and librarians, SinC staged its first presence at the annual American Library Association. A SinC Library Liaison position was established to coordinate this effort. SinC also established Speakers' Bureaus to coordinate and encourage requests for SinC author appearances in libraries. At the same time, libraries have been important to the writing life of SinC authors and for the promotion of their books. From the beginning, SinC produced



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Books in Print of SinC authors' work to distribute to libraries, bookstores, and the general reading public, and this article discusses the relationship between libraries and bookstores in promoting and acquiring mysteries. It concludes with recommendations for stocking and developing a comprehensive mystery collection in libraries and promoting mysteries through readers' advisory work with all age groups.

KEYWORDS. Mysteries, fiction collections in libraries, library programming, Sisters in Crime, AIA conferences

Buying Books Online Is No Mystery 41 *Larisa Somsel*

This article discusses buying books online, includes popular sites where you can buy books online, and identifies important considerations for online shoppers.

KEYWORDS. Out-of-print books/acquisitions, mystery and detective fiction/acquisitions, Internet/bookstores, second-hand books

Review Sources for Mystery Fiction 53 *Jean Bielke-Rodenbiker*

Mysteries are an increasingly popular genre with library patrons. The following article discusses sources that librarians can use to find reviews and other information about mystery fiction. Professional journals and fan publications are discussed; online sources attached to these venues are also included. Since subscriptions to print sources may be limited, selected Web sources are covered. Finally, selected sources for further research are briefly discussed.

KEYWORDS. Mystery fiction reviews, review sources, mystery reviews, mysteries reviews

"I Need a Good Mystery": Selecting for the Juvenile Reader 73 *Nancy Larson Bluemel*

Mystery series have been a favorite choice of juvenile readers ages ten to fourteen since the publication of Nancy Drew and the Hardy Boys over seventy years ago. Because of this popularity, the genre is an effective teaching tool across the curriculum when appropriate titles of good quality are selected.

KEYWORDS. Mystery fiction, mystery-juvenile, mystery-selection, mystery-study and teaching

African-American Mysteries 83 *Connie Van Fleet*

African Americans who have spent formative years in the United States have a viewpoint grounded in a specific culture. This paper defines "African American mystery" as crime or detective fiction written by African Americans. African American mystery novels have grown in number and diversity over time. As



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the audience has grown, publishers and reviewers have given more attention to the genre. While the stories are not necessarily about race, they are richly imbued with African American culture and themes. An overview of review sources, an annotated bibliography of four essential background sources, a classified list of African American mystery novels, and a list of award-winning African American mysteries are included.

KEYWORDS. African American, authors, awards, bibliographies, black, crime, detective, genre, mysteries

The Native American Detective 101
Rhonda Harris Taylor

While the Native American detective is a recent phenomenon in popularity, portrayals of Native Americans that have been present in the earliest examples of American literature and in well-known American mystery stories have usually been stereotypical. Listings of authors who have penned mysteries with Native American detectives are available to acquisitions librarians in print and Web resources.

KEYWORDS. Native Americans, American Indian, detectives, mystery, stereotypes

The Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library 107
Victoria Gill

The Arthur Conan Doyle Collection, one of the Toronto Public Library's special collections, dates from 1971. The areas of collection were clearly laid down in the first two major purchases: original material by Conan Doyle and others using his characters in any format, and secondary material to support these works.

Many significant purchases in the collection's early days gave it a sound foundation, upon which it has been possible to continue to build in later times of budgetary restraints.

The collection has strong ties to the world of Sherlockian enthusiasts; donations and information from them have been important over the years and continue to be so. The recent formation of a Friends group for the collection is of great significance, not merely in fundraising, but in showing support and in raising public awareness of the collection.

KEYWORDS. Conan Doyle, Sherlock Holmes, special collections, Toronto Public Library

The Adventure of the Unopened Box: Building the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota Libraries 121
Timothy J. Johnson

The article traces the historical development and description of significant acquisitions that comprise major portions of the Sherlock Holmes Collections of the



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University of Minnesota Libraries Special Collections. Beginning with the formation of the Norwegian Explorers, a local scion society of the Baker Street Irregulars of New York, in 1948, the article presents the intertwined nature in the development of this local interest group and the growth of the Holmes Collections. Various strategic acquisitions methodologies, such as donor relations, exhibitions, scholarly publications, and conference development are presented as part of the narrative.

KEYWORDS. Sherlock Holmes, Special Collections, University of Minnesota, donor relations, acquisitions

- Mysteries in a Law Library: The Law in Popular Culture
Collection at the University of Texas School of Law** 143
*Marlyn Robinson
Rhonda Hankins*

The Law in Popular Culture Collection (LPOP) at the Jamail Center for Legal Research at the University of Texas at Austin houses some 4,000 works of fiction, most of them legal mysteries, and over 600 movies that have an association with the law or lawyers. The LPOP collection includes works of high and low culture and offers unique insights into the public's perception of the lawyer as well as the lawyer's perception of the public and the legal system. This article, an interview with the originator and curator of the LPOP collection, discusses the beginnings of the collection, the philosophy of the collection, and the practicalities of maintaining the collection.

KEYWORDS. Mystery, thriller, legal, law, Jamail Center, Tarlton Law Library, LPOP, Law in Popular Culture

- Mystery and the Romance Reader** 161
Tracy Allen

Mystery fiction and romance fiction share many common elements often including the same readership. Romance readers consume vast numbers of books not all of which are romances. Similarly mystery readers often enjoy that most intense form of romance: romantic suspense. In the last decade, authors such as the phenomenally popular Janet Evanovich have pleased large numbers of romance and mystery readers by combining elements of each genre along with a distinct style and voice. The reasons why individual readers, who might classify themselves as primarily romance or mystery fans, find pleasure in other genres comes down to a myriad of appeal factors. Matching readers with books they will enjoy, no matter what "official" category they occupy, is a very satisfying job.

KEYWORDS. Janet Evanovich, romantic suspense, romance fiction, reader's advisory work, booklists



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- Murder, Mystery, and Mayhem: The Development
of a Mystery Book Discussion Group** 179
Elizabeth Arneth

Describes a two-year period in which a book discussion group proposal evolved into a viable forum for interesting monthly discussions of a variety of mysteries.

KEYWORDS. Mystery book discussion groups, Cyrus H. Booth Library

- A Brief History of Scholarly Study of Detective Fiction,
with Particular Attention to the Detective & Mystery Fiction
Area of the Popular Culture Association** 189
Mary P. Freier

Academic study of detective fiction is an outgrowth of several things: the study of popular culture, women's studies, ethnic studies, and gender studies. It has become a legitimate area of study for academic scholars. The Popular Culture Association and American Culture Association's Detective & Mystery Fiction Area has been an important part of the legitimizing of the field, giving scholars a forum in which to present and discuss ideas and scholarly journals in which to publish.

KEYWORDS. Mystery fiction, detective fiction, literary criticism, Popular Culture Association, American Culture Association

- Tracking Miriam Grace Monfredo Through Herstory,
Librarianship, and Sleuthing** 197
Judith Overmier
Rhonda Harris Taylor

Librarian Miriam Grace Monfredo's Glynis Tryon historical mystery series portrays a multi-faceted librarian sleuth. The series is a case study of using genre fiction to popularize women's history with its many political and social issues. It also emphasizes the important role of collections of resources in supporting the creative activities of authors.

KEYWORDS. Miriam Grace Monfredo, Glynis Tryon, women's history, historical mystery series



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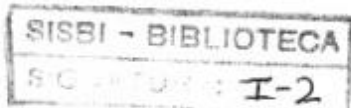
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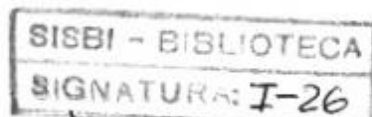
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