

Saricks, Joyce G. *The readers' advisory guide to genre fiction, 2nd edition*. Chicago, IL : American Library Association, 2009. 387 p. ISBN: 978-0-8389-0989-8.

Change. It's time to break out of the routine, try something new. Authors are writing books now which cross over into other genres. In the past, when a patron wanted a legal thriller, we'd confidently reach for John Grisham. Mysteries? We would give them Dennis Lehane. But what do we do now that authors are breaking out of their former genres and writing books which no longer fit into the old "legal thriller" or "mystery" genre? How do we help the patron to connect with a particular genre and author when the genres have changed and the author has written new material? It is time to redefine existing genres.

Joyce Saricks has redefined the boundaries between genres, thus creating new four "genre appeal" categories: Adrenaline Genres, Emotions Genres, Intellect Genres, and Landscape Genres. As Saricks states, "...appeal lies at the root of our understanding of genre fiction. We need to understand the appeal of a particular genre and how to connect genres to each other, thus expertly assisting our patrons with navigating the many reading choices that lie before them."

The book is laid out in four "parts," each part covering one of the four new genres (listed above) while describing which of the "old genres" it replaces. For instance, the part on Intellect Genres is based on literary fiction, mysteries, psychological suspense and science fiction. Each part contains a definition of the new genre label, characteristics of the old genre labels and its appeal, key authors, tips for conducting the readers' advisory interview and how to expand their reading horizons, "sure bets," and trends (new writers, topics, formats such as graphic novels.).

This is the second edition of Saricks' earlier work, also by the same title. In this updated edition, Saricks refreshes her lists of titles with newer works, highlighting current authors and trends. For librarians lacking the time and / or desire to read works in each fiction genre, this book serves as an excellent resource tool with which to familiarize themselves when providing readers' advisory services.

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