



Final Thought

By Jennifer Ballard Owasso Library Manager Jun 30, 2019

Have you been reading the same mystery series or romance authors for years? Did you join the Adult Summer Reading Program hoping to receive a cool spaceship mug, but haven't read a book since high school? Are you overwhelmed by the choices available in the library and online? We can help! There are several great services available to help you decide what to read next.

Your first stop should be the TCCL website at tulsalibrary.org. Click on Books, Music, Movies+ and then on Reading Resources. Here you will find several TCCL tools to help you find your next favorite book. You can look at staff picks, browse the New York Times Bestsellers list or BookPage magazine. You will also find the link to Your Next Great Read, which is a free service provided to library cardholders. Just fill out a survey to help a librarian understand your reading preferences, interests and history, and a custom reading guide will be developed for you with suggested authors and titles you might enjoy.

You can also find recommendations within the library catalog. Maybe you read "Gone Girl" years ago and haven't found a book that holds your attention since then (there are many, many books similar to "Gone Girl" now). If you want to find more books like it, look it up in the library catalog and scroll down. Under Explore Further, you will find lists within the catalog containing that title, tags, similar titles and recommendations. The recommendations are provided by Novelist, which is another way you can find new books to read.

Novelist is a tremendous resource for book lovers. You can find books based on mood, genre, read-a-likes, award winners and appeal. You can make your own "appeal mix" by choosing from different categories like pace, character, writing style, tone and more. For example, if you are the aforementioned lover of "Gone Girl," you could choose fast-paced for the pace, twisted for the character, and suspenseful for the tone and voila! The first result on the list is "Gone Girl," plus 20 more like it. The search possibilities are endless with Novelist.

There are two additional resources I use on a regular basis to find new books to read. The first one, Library Reads, is one we at the library eagerly look forward to every month. Library Reads (libraryreads.org) produces a list of the top 10 books published each month chosen by librarians. It's basically like library staff picks but nationwide. It includes books from across all genres and reading tastes, and I always find several books to put on my "to read" list from this monthly newsletter.

And where does my "to read" list exist? On my favorite book resource (other than the library, of course!), Goodreads, found at goodreads.com. Goodreads is a social media site for book lovers. You can connect with your friends, follow authors, read and write reviews, make lists of books you have read and books you want to read, participate in a yearly reading challenge, find yearly "best of" lists and much more. Goodreads will even add your Facebook friends for you. It's an extremely happy space for book people, and a wonderful place to find new books to read.

Ready to get started now and can't make it to the library? Don't forget you can also download e-book and audio book formats free with your library card too! Want to talk about books with fellow book lovers? Join our book club, Fiction Addiction, which meets every third Monday evening at 6 p.m. Our next meeting is on July 15, and we are reading "Elevation" by Stephen King (it's not scary, I promise). Copies are available at the front desk.

Post a book cover on our Facebook page (facebook.com/owassolibrary), and let us know what fantastic new books you discover this summer!

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