

Recommendations for New Adult Fiction Genre Collections

Fiction Genre Team

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1. Recommendations for fiction genre categories

Category/Suggested Name	Notes	Suggested Call #
Fiction	existing	F
Mystery	existing	M
Science Fiction and Fantasy	existing SF, adding Fantasy and Paranormal	SF
Historical Fiction	new, includes Western	HIST
Inspirational	new, includes Christian	INSP
Romance	new	ROM

2. Definitions of Categories (from our Brodart vendor)

Fiction - General fiction, including these Brodart categories:

- **Horror** – Works that are bloody and/or gory, that are intended to scare readers.
- **Suspense/Thriller** – Works that contain constant action and adventure. The main character is often in danger. The central plot is not about solving a crime. Instead, the focus is on the adventure. This may include espionage. Romantic suspense is excluded.
- **Urban fiction** – Works that contain an emphasis on African-American and/or Hispanic characters in an urban setting. Typically includes a rags-to-riches theme, references to the hip-hop music industry, profanity, urban slang, erotic sex scenes, criminal activity, gangsters, drug dealing, prostitution, and/or violence.

Mystery – Works in which a crime (or crimes), frequently murder, is committed, and have as their central character a person (or persons) intent upon solving that crime, either in a professional capacity or inadvertently through his or her occupation or personal interest. Juvenile materials may not necessarily involve a crime. Instead, there may be an unexplained event that the character(s) will investigate.

Science Fiction and Fantasy

- **Science fiction** – Works that contain scientific facts or hypotheses that form the basis for adventures in the future, on other planets, or in other dimensions of time. This may include time travel, aliens, utopias, and dystopias.
- **Fantasy** – Works that contain the struggle between good and evil, incorporating elements of magic and the impossible, and are set in non-existent and unreal worlds that may contain wizards, dragons, elves, and/or sorcery.
- **Paranormal** – Though Brodart defines Paranormal Romance, it doesn't define the genre Paranormal by itself. From <https://book-genres.com/paranormal-fiction-genre/>: Books in the paranormal fiction genre are set in the real world, but they include experiences that

defy scientific explanation. For example, stories set on earth that include things like angels, demons, ghosts, psychics, vampires, etc.

Historical fiction – Works that are set in the past, with a focus on the culture, location, lifestyle, and events of that time period.

- **Western** – Works that are geographically set in the American West, dealing with the lives and adventures of cowboys, frontiersmen, Indian fighters, or scouts.

Inspirational fiction – Works that emphasize values and morals, and contain little or no sex, violence, or profanity. These books show conflict involving morality. These books may include a focus on other religions.

- **Christian fiction** – Works that contain at their core biblically-based attitudes, values, and actions and are characterized by explicit or implicit Christianity and little or no sex, violence, or profanity. These books show conflict involving faith and morality and often emphasize a conversion or crisis of faith and exemplify Christian faith. These stories may contain biblical characters or be apocalyptic tales of cosmic good struggling with cosmic evil.

Romance – Works that contain a contemporary or historical story of love, usually involving a young and beautiful woman and a dashing, handsome man who overcome adversity to achieve a happy ending. This includes contemporary romance and historical romance. Romance excludes erotica. Brodart sub-genres:

- **Contemporary romance** – Works that contain a contemporary story of love, usually involving a young and beautiful woman and a dashing, handsome man who overcome adversity to achieve a happy ending.
- **Historical romance** – Works that contain a historical story of love, usually involving a young and beautiful woman and a dashing, handsome man who overcome adversity to achieve a happy ending.
- **Paranormal Romance** – Works that contain a story of love between a human and a paranormal creature.
- **Romantic Suspense/Thriller** – Works that contain a contemporary or historical story of love, usually involving constant action and adventure. The main character is often in danger. The central plot is not about solving a crime.

3. Criteria for inclusion in genre - suggestions:

- 1) When a title straddles one or more genres, selectors generally will define the main genre as follows
 - Inspirational (Christian or otherwise) trumps other categories.
 - Romance trumps all other categories except Inspirational (for instance, paranormal romance that might otherwise go in Science Fiction and Fantasy).
 - Mystery trumps Historical Fiction.
 - Science Fiction and Fantasy trumps Historical Fiction (for instance, alternate history or SF/fantasy/paranormal set in the past)
 - Historical Fiction
 - Fiction – includes anything not the above.

- 2) Selectors also consider Brodart's TIPS categories which list the most favored genre first, as well as summaries and reviews. Selectors can make exceptions using their best judgement.

4. Next steps once recommendations are finalized:

- 1) Tech Services creates Koha collection codes, Brodart grids, and spine label templates.
 - 2) Tech Services sends Brodart a file of our holdings.
 - 3) To facilitate adding titles, the Brodart collection development librarian can send us lists of what we don't own in these categories.
 - 4) Staff splits up collections using the criteria for inclusion noted above.
 - 5) The physical locations of collections will be determined when we know how many are in each collection and can assess space considerations at each location.
 - 6) We evaluate how this process is working in 18-24 months.
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Fiction Genre Team Charter: This team's purpose is to develop guidelines and procedures for creating additional genre collections in the Adult Fiction area in order to facilitate browsing, collocation, and discovery of new authors and series within genres. Expected Results:

- 1) Research additional genre collections to be added as well as what subgenres may be combined together. This research should include genre criteria used by our vendors, how other libraries and/or bookstores approach multi-genre collections, viability for growth and future development of each genre collection, and how our customers seek out new authors and genres.
- 2) Propose additional genre collections and develop a comprehensive guideline to be used by selectors and catalogers to determine when a specific title should be in a particular genre. This guideline should include a hierarchy of subgenres when titles fit into multiple categories.
- 3) Present their recommendations to the Leadership Team in late November 2019 and Library Advisory Board at the December 2019 meeting.