Your Neighbor is a Writer: Curating a Local E-book Collection

Kady Ferris, Electronic Content Librarian
Poll: How are you offering local content?

- Physical books?
- E-books?
- Both?
- Neither?
Katie Grindeland, author, *The Gifts We Keep*

“Without this program through the Multnomah County Library my book would still be sitting at home in a binder somewhere. This program helps bridge the gap between enthusiastic writers and willing readers. The reception to my work has been extremely validating, and I'm exceptionally grateful for this opportunity. And now you can imagine a cartwheeling emoji or something equally culturally relevant.”
KATIE GRINDELAND

THE GIFTS WE KEEP

[Image: Boating with a blue boat and a woman in a backpack]

[Image: Author's portrait]
Library Writers Project: 3 Years Running...
Poll Question #1 Results: How are you offering local content?
Poll: What platforms are you using?

- OverDrive or Cloud Library?
- Biblioboard/SELF-e?
- Own platform?
- Other?
- N/A
Why Local Collections (and Why E-books)?

Unique
Library as curator
Exposure for the author
Access & ease
The Practical: Deciding on a Platform

OverDrive vs. Biblioboard vs. ??

Where the readers are

Cost

Trade off: Staff time
Poll Question #2 Results: What platform are you using?
Poll: What are the barriers to offering?

- Staff time?
- No technical resources?
- Perceived quality of content?
- Saying no to community members?
- Other?
The Practical: The Technical Set-up

Smashwords portal
Submission form
Parameters: Local, fiction
20% Sample
The Practical: The Review Process

Google Drive is your friend
Staff reviewers
Scoring
In person reviewer check-ins
Technical Score (out of 10) *

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Unreadable

Excellent word choice, sentence mechanics and flow, use of punctuation

Reasoning behind technical score (if necessary)

Your answer

Artistic Score (out of 10) *

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Unoriginal, uninteresting, stale

Interesting themes/ideas, originality, developed characters, unique style

Reasoning behind artistic score (if necessary)

Your answer

How likely are you to recommend this to a patron? (out of 10) *

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Never!

I'm telling everyone to read this!

This book should/shouldn't advance because... (If you liked it, why? What makes it good? If not, why not?)

Your answer
The Practical: The Review Process

Google Drive is your friend
Staff reviewers
Scoring
In person reviewer check-ins
The Practical: Adding the Books

Notify authors
Purchasing
MARC Records
Featured titles

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Library Writers Project Feature: Acquaintance by Jeff Stookey

For more information about the Library Writers Project: https://multcolib.org/library-writers-project
Poll Question #3 Results: What are the barriers?
Expectation vs. Reality: Submission Quality
Expectation vs. Reality: Time
# Expectation vs. Reality: Reception

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Marketing

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March 2, 2017 •

Ready to read local? We've just added a fresh crop of Library Writers Project selections to the OverDrive collection. Hand-picked by library staff, these books come from fellow community members and include a title for almost every taste: mysteries, time travel romance, historical fiction and an array of teen books.

Dig in and enjoy!

More about the Library Writers Project: multco.lib.org/library-writers-project

Multnomah County Library had more than 150 submissions for its Writers Project. I’m happy to say that my book Water Damage: A novel of fluid mystery was selected. That means you can borrow the eBook from MOL if you have a library card. Or you can learn more about it and buy it at Smashwords.

Water Damage: A novel of fluid mystery, an eBook by Vivian McInerny

American student Lily Edens finds at the Bath Academy of Arts in England in the 1970s. It's a rare time when creative working class and middle class seem to mingle with Bohemian intellectuals, where art seems revolutionary, and cultural change prove inevitable. Lily meets a...
Scaling Down

Advertise the process, leave it open ended

More submission parameters

Only take what you can handle
What’s Next?

Expanding submission criteria
Publisher partnership + print edition
Library Music Project
Author Impact

“When I tell someone I wrote a book, instead of just saying it hasn't been published and isn't available, I am able to say that it is available on the Multnomah County Library website as an e-book.”

“Increased sales and readership. Reader Reviews increased. My audio books got attention as well.”

“We write to be read. The Writers Project found us readers while we waited for Random House to call.”
Thank you!

Questions?

Contact: kadyf@multcolib.org