

Librarian's Shelf by Karen Connell

Library Olympics

Each summer the Columbus Public Library joins many other libraries across the country and encourages library users to engage in activities and read for fun! This year the Summer Reading programs for all age groups follow a general sports theme. On Your Mark, Get Set... READ for children; Get in the Game... READ for teens; and Exercise your mind... READ for adults.

These sports themed Summer Reading programs align nicely with this year's upcoming Summer Olympic Games. Set for August 5-21 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, the Rio 2016 Olympic Games are just a few months away. The Columbus Public Library has a variety of resources available to help you get in the Olympic spirit.

If you don't know much about the sports that are part of the Olympic Games, you are not alone. David Goldblatt and Johnny Acton published "How to Watch the Olympics: the essential guide to the rules, statistics, heroes, and zeroes of every sport" in preparation for the 2012 Summer Olympic Games to help readers understand the rules, strategy, and history of each sport. While it was written prior to the 2012 London Games, it is just as relevant to the Rio 2016 Olympic Games. Complete with photographs, diagrams, and charts this book is easy to browse or read cover to cover.

"The 1908 Olympics: the first London games" by Keith Baker is another book that gives the history of the Summer Olympic Games. This book focuses on the celebrations and disputes between nations of the 1908 London Olympics as well as revealing where the athletes of the games ended up later in life. Fights between the British and Americans, snubs toward the King, boycotting events, and disqualifications during the 1908 Olympic Games, help to make this book an interesting read that details both sport and social history. Available on Overdrive, this book can be downloaded via the Overdrive app on smartphones and tablets. It can also be read on a computer or e-reader.

If you prefer to read fiction, check out James Patterson's "Private Games" which debuted in 2012, not to be confused with his book "Private Rio," releasing in the United States under the title, "The Games" on June 27. "Private Games" takes place during the 2012 Olympic Games in London where Private has been hired to provide security for the Games. A murder occurs along with a threat to end the games for good. Private investigator Nigel Steele and newspaper reporter Karen Pope team up to put a stop to those evil plans. "Private Games" is available at the Columbus Public Library in regular and large print, as well as audiobook.

"The Games" is book 12 in the Private series and takes place during the upcoming Rio 2016 Olympic Games. Private had been hired two years ago and sent Jack Morgan to consult on security for the World Cup in Rio. Kept hidden from the media to avoid panic, the death that took place during the World Cup final was no accident. Now Jack is back in Rio for the Olympic Games and uncovers evidence that the death at the World Cup was just a warning. A plan is underway that if unstoppable, will cause the worst catastrophe the world has ever seen.

To check out these or other Olympic books, call or stop by the Columbus Public Library, or go to our online catalog www.cplconnect.us.