

## ***“Librarian’s Shelf” by Heather St. Clair***

### Witch “Crafts”, Historical Halloween, and Monster Guides

October has arrived, which means Halloween is just around the corner. The Columbus Public Library is here to help you prepare for the ghosts, witches, vampires, monsters and trick-or-treaters.

For the craftier side, we have “Witch Craft,” by Margaret McGuire, where you can learn how to make tasty marshmallow skulls, plushie poisoned apples, and more. We have multiple books on pumpkin carving, such as “Extreme Pumpkins,” by Tom Nardone and “Pumpkin Decorating,” by Vicki Rhodes.

Make monsters, vampires, and evil pumpkins using “Papier-Mache Monsters,” by Dan Reeder as your guide. “Country Living Happy Halloween!” and “Better Homes and Gardens Halloween” help you with recipes, costumes, decorations and more.

If you are interested in the origins and evolution of Halloween, checkout “Halloween: From Pagan Ritual to Party Night,” by Nicholas Rogers. Read about Halloween’s Celtic origins, its move to North America, Hollywood’s transformation of the holiday, and Halloween in the 21st century.

If you wish to read about your typical Halloween baddies, we have books on ghosts, witches, vampires, werewolves and zombies. For some local apparitions, “A Guide to the Ghosts of Lincoln,” by Alan Boye has many stories from Nebraska’s own city of Lincoln. We also have “World’s Most Haunted Places” and “Ghosts of War,” by Jeff Belanger, and “Ghosts of the Old West,” by Earl Murray.

For a historical view of “witches,” Peggy Saari wrote “Witchcraft in America.” Thomas Robisheaux’s “The Last Witch of Langenburg” covers one of the last cases of witchcraft hysteria in Europe. Of course we cannot forget the Salem Witch Trials, which you can read about in “A Fever in Salem,” by Laurie Winn Carlson.

There are countless fictional books on vampires, but if you are looking for some fact or humor about these blood suckers, you are in luck. Mark Collins Jenkins has written “Vampire Forensics,” which investigated the beginnings of vampire folklore. “The Everything Vampire Book,” certainly comes close to its title. It covers legend, early writings, focuses on “Dracula” and its inspiration Vlad the Impaler, modern vampire fiction, big and small screen vampires, modern day vampires and more. “Vampire Taxonomy,” by Meredith Woerner, breaks down vampires into different species such as the romantic vampire and the tragic vampire, and lists the attributes and known specimens for each.

Dr. Bob Curran has written “Werewolves” and “Zombies,” both field guides to the respective monster. These books delve into the myths and the small truths behind these legends.

Speaking of zombies, an entire book has been written to help you protect yourself from these undead creatures. “The Zombie Survival Guide” covers the fact and the fiction on zombies, the best

weapons and combat strategies, defending a building, what to do on the run, and the best ways to attack. It provides what to do should the world be taken over by the zombie hords. The book ends with recorded attacks all the way back to 60,000 B.C. The book is written by Max Brook, who just happens to actor Mel Brooks' son.

Finally, for the newly minted monsters, we have "The Werewolf's Guide to Life," by Rich Duncan and Bob Powers, "The New Vampire's Handbook," by Joe Garden, etal., and "Zombies for Zombies," by David P. Murphy. Coming out later this month we will also have "So Now You're a Zombie," by John Austin. Each one of these books will help you survive as one of these creatures, what to eat, how to interact with others of your kind, and personal maintenance.

If you need help or have any questions about these or other materials, please feel free to stop in the library, call us at 564-7116, or email us at [library@columbusne.us](mailto:library@columbusne.us).