Librarian's Shelf by Rachelle McPhillips

Books and Authors Database

Columbus Public Library subscribes to a database for readers. If you have conquered your to-be-read pile, head to the Books & Authors database to keep a reading log, review the books you have read, and find new titles to enjoy.

From the library's webpage, www.columbusne.us/library, choose "E-Services" and then "E-Materials." This page lists all of the databases available to our patrons. Select "Books & Authors" from the list.

If you are using this service at home, you will need your Columbus Public Library or Bookmobile card number to access the page. Once there, you can create an account by clicking "Join for Free!" in the upper right-hand corner.

This is one of the easiest online registrations I have ever encountered. It is not necessary to join to explore the site, but if you are interested in keeping your reading log and reviews here, it only takes a few seconds to join.

If you are looking for the answer to, "What do I read next?" Books & Authors is a great place to visit. You can browse books by author, title or genre.

One of the hottest books right now is "The Hunger Games," by Suzanne Collins. It is a young adult novel that is being enjoyed by teens and adults. If you have read all three books in this trilogy and need something to read until the movie release in March, find "The Hunger Games" on Books & Authors and choose the "read-a-likes" tab at the top.

The suggestions for "The Hunger Games" read-a-likes include titles found in our Adult, Young Adult and Juvenile fiction collections. "The Running Man," by Stephen King, "Crossed," by Ally Condie, and "Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children," by Ransom Riggs should appeal to fans of the wildly and deservingly popular trilogy by Collins.

The "Who, What, Where, When" feature allows you to search by character, subject, location and time period. This tool gives you suggestions for each of these options. In keeping with "The Hunger Games" theme, I used who, what and when to search for "Teenager," "Dystopias," and "Indeterminate Future AD" This yielded 14 overlapping results that I could browse.

Searching this way, "The Hunger Games" is included in the list of results, but the list is not exactly the same as the read-a-likes I found before. Even better, each of the books listed in the results for teenager, dystopias, and indeterminate future have their own lists of similar reads.

As a registered Books & Authors user, I can mark the titles I encounter on the site that interest me and sort them into their own category in the "My Reading Room" section of the site. Registered users create their own shelves and can sort their books any way they like.

If you have questions about using the Books & Authors database or want to place a hold on the titles you discover there, visit the library or contact me at 402/562-4201.