



### Themed bookcase at the Library – Staff Picks

Many people, I believe, share my reluctance to check out a book so new that it's still on the ten-day list. Those who love to read the newest books right away zip right through them and bring them back on time. But I find that a lot of pressure. Give me a good three-week book any time.

Here's what happens when a book becomes a three-week book though. It disappears from the featured shelves that we see across from the circulation desk, and it takes its home back in the stacks with all those thousands of other books. Therefore, its circulation slows down.

One of those featured book cases, however, isn't for the newest books. Right now, this bookcase features staff picks – books that someone on the library staff has chosen off the shelves because it meant something to them, struck them as a special book in some way. As Director Pamela Williams said, "If it's just a book that we sort of remember reading and enjoying, that's not enough to make the featured book case. It has to be a book that makes us go, 'Oh, yes! That was an amazing read.'"

This bookcase has room for 22 books as they are currently arranged, with the entire cover facing out. Remember how we thought about the covers of books in this column a couple weeks ago? Those covers tend to stop us in our tracks. It did me the other day. I stood looking at a lot of books that I knew were years old, decades old in some cases, but that I had read and loved.

For example, there was **Devil in the White City** by Erik Larson, which still reigns as my favorite non-fiction book, about the Chicago World's Fair near the turn of the twentieth century complete with an active serial killer. Every part of this book is great.

And there's John Irving's **Cider House Rules**, which I liked but it reminded me how much I loved **The World According to Garp**. And look there! Wally Lamb's **I Know This Much Is True**, which finally made me believe a man can write from a woman's point of view effectively.

These books don't shine less because they're years old. Each of them is as exciting and wonderful as ever. So many books we mean to read but never get back to. Maybe you'll see some of those books on this display.

If you stop in and look for the books I just named, remember that people really are checking books out right from the display. Librarians then seek out another book they've loved

to replace it. Librarians are remarkable readers, of course. So, it's a living display, changing by the day.

At some point, this bookcase will hold spring gardening books. Around November, it will hold holiday and Christmas books. The Teen Room and the Children's Wing also have featured book displays geared toward their young audiences. These displays always have a theme even if it is as broad as the current one, staff picks. They are meant to be disturbed – by all means pluck books right off that bookcase, take five steps to the desk, and check it out for three whole weeks – renewable. No pressure.

One more book comment – especially for **FRB** – the new thriller **Anonymous Girl** is fine, it offers its share of thrills, but it's kind of thriller-light (but heavy with elements of **chick lit**.)

See you at the Library!

**Upcoming Events:** April 17 at 6:30 p.m. is the **Spring Gardening Workshop**. Follow us on our website, FB and Twitter for all the upcoming spring events at the Library.