

## Purchasing Library Materials Is Fun, Challenging Kris Wiley for The News-Review

Roseburg Public Library patrons have made it clear they want us to purchase the newest, hottest books for their reading enjoyment.

This is especially true for adult readers. Currently, the library has 1,450 books on our new shelves, meaning they have been added to the collection in the past year, and one-third of them are checked out at any given time.

Mysteries are incredibly popular with 48 percent of the newest additions currently checked out. Thirty-eight percent of large print, 33 percent of general fiction and 27 percent of nonfiction are out.

That kind of interest means I spend most of my collection development efforts curating new books.

The easy part is purchasing the blockbusters. For example, “Toxic Prey,” John Sandford’s latest book in the Lucas Davenport series, was a gimme. We purchased two copies for the collection, and our borrowing partner at Mildred Whipple Library in Drain purchased one for their collection. All three copies are checked out, and Roseburg has a waiting list of five patrons.

Typically, I purchase an additional copy of a title when there are at least five holds; sometimes that second copy is large print. That ratio is comparable to what I see at Multnomah County and Eugene Public libraries.

The 5:1 ratio also is what I use to purchase an extra electronic book or audiobook title for the library’s OverDrive (Libby) online platform.

Our other ebook product, cloudLibrary, works a bit different because patrons are not able to place holds on many of the titles. Rather, the platform is more “what you see is what you get.” Therefore, I encourage users to check cloudLibrary often. It’s always a treat to see a brand-new title ready for reading, and that happens regularly.

The more challenging and rewarding part of collection development is selecting beyond bestseller lists.

Currently, I am focused on our consumer health section. We withdrew a number of items that were outdated and unused, and I am replenishing the area with up-to-date books based on what has circulated over the past five years.

I also keep a close eye on the library’s mystery section because it’s so popular. I enjoy maintaining long-running series such as James Patterson’s Women’s Murder Club and Harlan Coben’s Myron Bolitar, and I love introducing readers to authors such as Alisa Lynn Valdés and Danielle Arceneaux.

I also focus on Pacific Northwest authors and subjects, particularly travel and recreation. Books on backpacking, hiking and road trips circulate frequently.

If patrons do not see an item available in print or digital format, I encourage them to submit a request form either in person or through their account at [roseburg.biblionix.com](http://roseburg.biblionix.com). We review all requests and tend to fulfill them when they are newly published and fill a gap in our collection.

Want to know more about collection development? Stop in and visit with us or email [library@cityofroseburg.org](mailto:library@cityofroseburg.org) with your questions.

Happy reading!

### This Week's Library Events

Monday, June 3-Saturday, June 8, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. - StoryWalk® at Stewart Park by Half Shell

Wednesday, June 5, 10:30 a.m. – Storytime at Stewart Park Pavilion

Thursday, June 6, 10:15 a.m. – Storytime at library

Thursday, June 6, 12-2 p.m. – Tech Time with Spanish interpretation available

Friday, June 7, 12-2 p.m. – Tech Time