

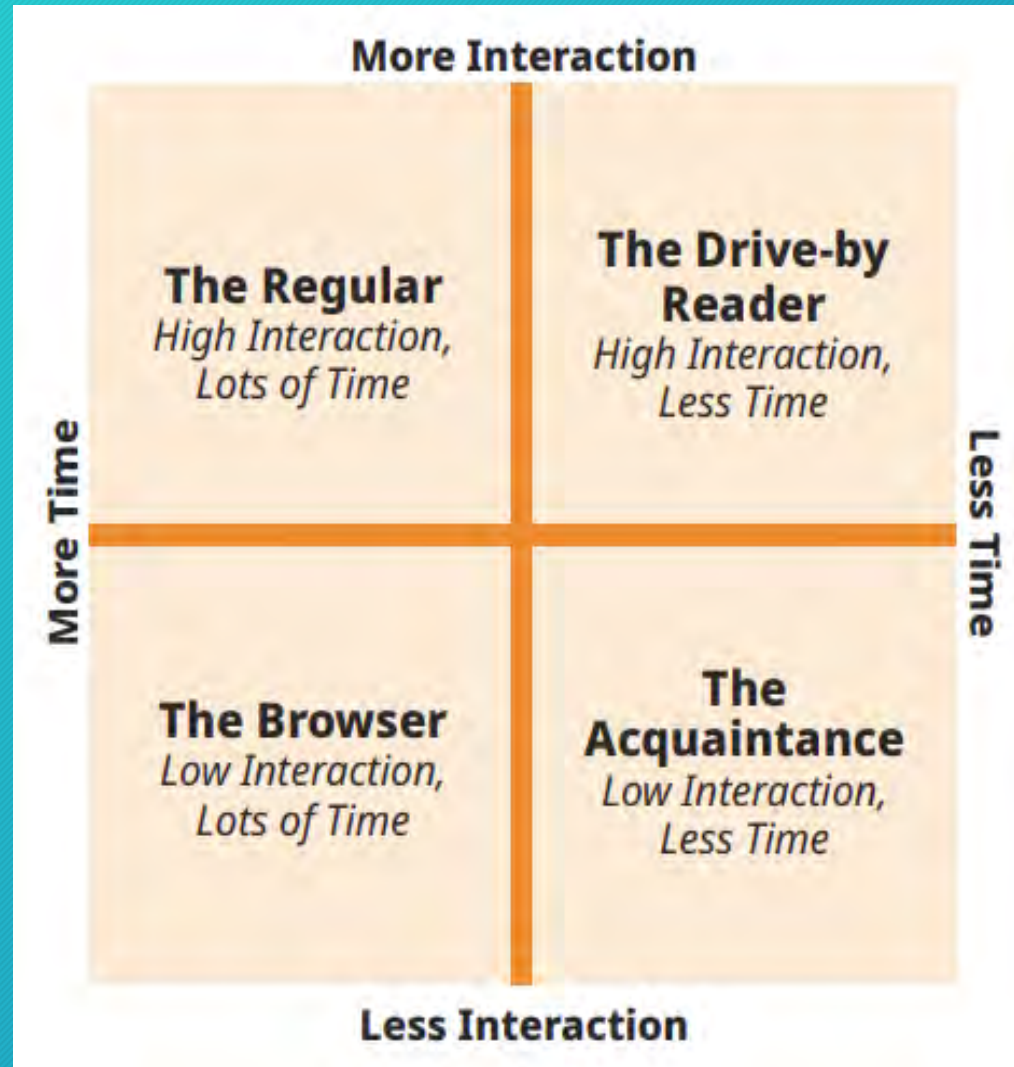
Readers' Advisory

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What is Readers' Advisory?

- Author Diana Tixier Herald “the act of putting people together with the books they love.”
- Making book suggestions for patrons to meet their wants, interests, and needs



Readers' Advisory Interviews

- Be Approachable
- Show Interest
- Actively Listen
- Conduct Interview
- Search
- Give Answers
- Follow-Up

Be Approachable

- Smile
- Give a friendly greeting
- Treat all patrons as equally important
- Reduce physical barriers

Show Interest

- Maintain appropriate eye contact
- Make attentive comments in a pleasant, relaxed tone
- Eliminate distractions
- Note non-verbal clues

Actively Listen

- Give patrons a chance to explain themselves without interruption or you jumping to conclusions
- Ask clarifying questions

Interview

- Restate or paraphrase the question/need
- Adapt style of speaking to patron - use common vocabulary
- Use open-ended questions as much as possible

Question Examples

- What do you like to read about?
- Do you like realistic stuff or imaginary stuff?
- What is your preferred length of book?
- Is there anything you would avoid when choosing a book? (foul language, violence, magic, death, etc.)
- **What is a book that you couldn't stand to read? What was it about that book that you didn't like?**

Search

- Keep patrons informed of progress - this is especially important if the item cannot be checked out that day
- Offer to help search with the patron - helps teach information literacy
- **Offer other resources that patrons can use for readers' advisory** (listed later)

Answer

- Identify possible options and share them with the patron

Follow-Up

- Make sure patron is satisfied with the answer/options given
- Ask patron if they have any further questions/requests in the moment
- Encourage patrons to return with any further questions/requests in the future

Remember about Feels

- Books are more than just genres.
- The way a book makes someone feel often overpowers other aspects of the writing.
- Aspects that affect feelings
 - Pace, including short versus long chapters
 - Humor
 - External dialogue versus internal dialogue
 - Visual descriptions

Online Tools

- [NoveList](#)
- [Goodreads](#)
- [Fantastic Fiction](#)
- [Literature Map](#)
- [What Should I Read Next](#)
- [Read Up Next](#)
- [Which Book](#)
- [Storygraph](#)
- [BookTok](#)
- [Bookstagram](#)

Indirect Readers' Advisory

- **“Staff Picks” suggestions displays**
- Recommended Reads displays
 - Different themes, such as holidays (both ridiculous and more serious!)
- Digital displays
- Reading lists (Bookmarks)
- Social media book talks
- Book clubs
- Author visits
- Newsletters
- **Patrons’ suggestions (Book Recommendations on sticky notes)**

Reading Challenges

- Beanstack
- Community Reading Campaign
 - Challenge community to read the same book; have activities that tie into it
- The 52 Book Club's 2024 Reading Challenge
 - Prompts
 - A Revenge Story
 - Non-fiction Recommended by a Friend
 - **The Word “Secret” in the Title**

“Mystery” Books

- Blind Date with a Book
- **Don't Judge a Book by Its Cover**
- Subscription Boxes of Books
 - Often contain activities, as well
- Book Bundles/Grab and Go Bags of Books

Beyond Books

- Movies, music, podcasts, televised series, etc.

Tips and Tricks

- Read/watch/listen widely yourself
- Read blogs, listen to podcasts, explore social media, etc.
- Use others around you
 - Co-workers
 - Friends and family
- Especially with kids, browse the shelves together; ask what sticks out to them and what they **don't** find interesting
- Practice! Practice! Practice!

Sharing Time!

- What have been some of your most memorable **experiences with readers' advisory?**
- What tips and tricks can you offer colleagues?

Questions or Comments?

References

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