



ILLINOIS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Because Libraries Matter

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Press Release

The Public Services Departments of Shorewood-Troy Public Library District are the 2022 recipients of the Illinois Library Association Readers' Advisory Service Award. The award, sponsored by the Adult Reading Round Table and the ILA Awards Committee, recognizes excellence in the planning, development, and delivery of readers' advisory service for adults and teens.

After a report showed that 36% of all Shorewood-Troy's checkouts were based on holds rather than browsing shelves, the Public Services Departments focused on how to encourage patrons to look beyond the books which generally garner holds. Staff use three different services to curate suggested reads while focusing on ease of pickup for the patrons:

- **Subscription Boxes:** After patrons told staff their general reading interests, staff developed themed boxes to help readers discover new genres and authors and a small "gift" is included for patrons to keep.
- **Curbside Surprise:** When the library was shut down during COVID, staff provided a personalized shopping service based on interests supplied by the patron.
- **Book Bundles:** Patrons can check out bundles based on genre while keeping the bundle contents a surprise thanks to cross-department cooperation

Recognizing that patrons are looking for quick grab-and-go experiences, staff adapted the readers' advisory interaction to highlight the breadth of the library's holdings. Using language readers understand, they have removed the pressure of selecting new titles or authors while broadening the reading horizons of many patrons.

As a result, the 2022 Readers' Advisory Service Award recognizes the efforts of the following Shorewood-Troy Library staff members: Mara Barbel, Rebecca Goode, Shalyn Rodriguez, Gina Rolando, Sarah Haish, Violet Gusman, Nicole Davis, Lori Freeman, Ana Guzman, Julie Hornberger, Mary Hurtado, and Kimberlee Patton from the Public Services Departments.

The 2022 Readers' Advisory Service Award will be presented at an awards ceremony during the 2022 Illinois Library Association Annual Conference. The conference will take place October 18-20, 2022, in Rosemont, IL.

For further information, contact the Illinois Library Association.

For Immediate Release