

# Tips For Creating A Reading Map

WVLA Fall Conference 2009



## Choosing A Topic

- Be specific
- Channel local zeitgeist (look for hot books or movies; popular pastimes; anniversaries; etc.)
- Look at your collection – are there especially strong areas? underused areas?
- How long will it be relevant?

## Choosing Titles

- Break down a book by appeal elements (characterization, plot, setting, tone, pacing)
- Think about associations (historical events, activities, VAMPIRES)
- Collaborate with staff members, patrons – take advantage of local “experts”
- Use Novelist (via WV Info Depot)

## Tips

- ANNOTATE!!! – sell your selections
- Keep lists manageable – around ten titles each
- Mix fiction and nonfiction or mix formats – encourage patrons to EXPLORE
- Collaborate
- Give each reading map a unique look but keep the format consistent

## Tech Support

- HTML is best, but Word or PDF files work as well
  - o Try a tutorial – HTML, CSS, etc: <http://www.w3schools.com/default.asp>
- Cascading Style Sheets (CSS) can make your design more consistent.
  - o CSS Techniques: <http://www.alistapart.com/>
- Get to the top of that Google search!
  - o Search Engine Optimization (SEO) Techniques: <http://freelancefolder.com/10-top-seo-techniques/>

## Recommended Reading

Neal Wyatt. Reading Maps Remake RA. *Library Journal*, November 1, 2006, p. 38-42.  
(Full text available in EBSCO via WV InfoDepot)

KCPL Reading Maps: [http://kanawhalibrary.org/advisory/reading\\_maps.html](http://kanawhalibrary.org/advisory/reading_maps.html)

Questions? Comments?

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