Leisure Reading: Validating selection decisions and identifying reader preferences
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Why Study the Collection?
- Focus on data driven acquisitions
- Emphasis on patron driven needs/preferences
- Fewer funds for non-medical texts
- Alignment with user needs, interests

Study Method
- Circulation and publication data
- High/low usage and publication dates
- 1 genre, analyzed primary topic

Engel Collection Purpose
Broaden interests and horizons of medical students

Selection Process
- Initially a single librarian.
- 2004 Resource Selection Committee
- Varied viewpoints
- Different biases as leadership changed
- Popular titles identified by librarians
- NY Times, Amazon, etc. reviews

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Top 10 Topics
- Neuroscience
- Cancer
- Psychology
- Business
- Physicians
- Information science
- Science
- Ethics
- Cultural
- Patient safety

Genres
16 genres pre-2010
- 7 continued, 1 new
- 7 dropped
- Low usage
- Photography, Travel, Music/Art, Religion
- High usage
- Fiction, Political.
- How-to (in recent years)

Genres
7 Genres 2010-2013
- Narrative Creative Non-fiction
- History
- Autobiography
- Science
- Biography
- Essay
- Philosophy/ethics

Conclusions
- Fewer genres & topics recently selected
- Older ones out of scope
- Selection aligned with user preferences
- No impact if multiple campus copies
- Focus on Duke Medicine ease of access
- Reconsider selecting fiction
- Stop collecting self-help titles

Next Steps
- Survey users
- Correlate with NY Times best sellers lists

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