

LibraryCrunch

Service for the Next Generation Library - A Library 2.0 Perspective by Michael Casey

Article: Urban Fiction Goes From Streets to Public Libraries

by MICHAEL CASEY on OCTOBER 22, 2008

It's not the kind of literary fare usually associated with the prim image of librarians. But public libraries from Queens, the highest-circulation public library system in the country, to York County in central Pennsylvania are embracing urban fiction as an exciting, if sometimes controversial, way to draw new people into reading rooms, spread literacy and reflect and explore the interests and concerns of the public they serve.

"We've got people who are reading for the first time. We've got people coming into our building asking for Teri Woods" — the creator of Angel — "who have never come here before," said Lora-Lynn Rice, the director of collections at the Martin Library in York County, which held a symposium on urban fiction during National Library Week in April. "Why would we not embrace this?"

Why not, indeed! [Read the entire article on the New York Times website, here.](#)

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