

# NoveList Lesson Plan

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## Administrative Information

Class Title: NoveList

Length: 90 Minutes

Audience: Must be able to navigate with a mouse.

## Body of the Class

### Training Objectives:

Inform patrons of the *NoveList* database, including where to locate the database and how to navigate within the database.

### Introduction:

- Introduction of presenter and participants.
- Location of Restroom.
- Inform participants of the training session agenda.

### Lesson Content:

NOTE: The hands-on **PRACTICE TIME** exercises can occur either during or after the presentation.

#### 1. What is NoveList?

The *NoveList* database is an online reader's advisory tool that helps readers find fiction titles based on books they have read or topics in which they are interested. Use *NoveList* to find fiction reading suggestions, lists of award winning books and bestsellers, book discussion questions, answers and book talk scripts.

#### 2. Getting Started

- a. From [www.larl.org](http://www.larl.org), choose **Reference Desk**.
- b. Click on **Good Reading** or **Online Resources**.
- c. Scroll down the Good Reading or Online Resources page and click on *NoveList*. If you are accessing *NoveList* from within a LARL library, you will gain immediate access. However, if you are accessing *NoveList* from home, you will be asked to enter your 14-digit library card number.

**PRACTICE TIME:** Have the patrons find *NoveList* online by using the *Getting Started* instructions above.

#### 3. NoveList Homepage

- a. The information on the *NoveList* homepage changes on a monthly basis. It contains the *NoveList* monthly newsletter, programming ideas for teachers and librarians, and literary information for the public. (Spend a minute pointing out the current links on the homepage.)

- b. From the *NoveList* home page, click the **Start** button to begin searching or browsing for fiction titles. (Have the patron's click the **Start** button also.)

#### 4. Searching NoveList

##### a. Find A Favorite Author

##### i. Simple Search

1. Click the **Find A Favorite Author** link.
  2. Type the name of a favorite author in the box (Atwood) and click **Search**. A list of books written by the author will appear.
  3. To sort the list of books, choose Author, Title, or Publication year and click **Sort** on the upper right side. (Choose **Publication Year** and click **Sort**.)
  4. Books with descriptions are indicated with a red check mark on the right hand side, along with the reading level and the Lexile score.
  5. Click on the title to view information about a book, including publishing notes, subject headings, description, and links to related Web sites.
    - a. From the item record, click the **Find Similar Books** button on the upper right hand side to view a list of subject headings. (Click the **Clear** button and check the boxes for **sisters** and **death**. Click **Search**.)
    - b. Check the subject heading boxes and click **Search**. A list of books will appear, which have the same subject heading as the original book submitted.
- Click the **New Search** button to start a new search.

##### ii. Advanced Search

In addition to the techniques above, patrons may limit their search even more by using the following limits.

1. **Select Reading Level** by checking the appropriate age level: Adult, Young Adult, Children's, or Easy.
  2. Choose a **page range** by entering 1 to 10,000 pages. (Use this for patrons who have short reading spans, or who want a quick read. Or use it to find titles that will keep the patron busy for a while.)
  3. The **Lexile Rating** scale rates the difficulty of the book's content. Use this by...
    - a. Look up a book that the patron felt comfortable reading.
    - b. Look at the Lexile score for that particular book, and enter it into the form when searching for a new title.
  4. Enter the **Publication Year** to limit to a specific publication.
- Click the **New Search** button to start a new search.

**PRACTICE TIME:** Ask the patrons if they have any questions. Give them 2 minutes to practice their own Simple Author Search. Have them practice entering the author's name, pulling up the record, and using the Find Similar Book feature.

**b. Find A Favorite Title**

- i. Click the **Find A Favorite Title** link.
- ii. Enter the title of a favorite book (ask the patrons for a suggestion) and click **Search**.  
- -For more instructions on Find A Favorite Title, see the **Find A Favorite Author** instructions above. - -

**PRACTICE TIME:** Ask the patrons if they have any questions. Give them 2 minutes to practice their own Title Search.

**c. Find A Series Name**

- i. Click the **Find A Series Name** link.
- ii. Enter the title of a favorite series name (Scarpetta) and click **Search**.  
- -For more instructions on Find A Favorite Title, see the **Find A Favorite Author** instructions above. - -

**d. Describe A Plot**

- i. Click on the **Describe A Plot** link. Type in the words to describe a book you would like to read. (Minnesota winter) and click **Search**.
- ii. *NovelList* will perform a keyword search and display a list of books that have subject headings most closely matching the words you typed.

**PRACTICE TIME:** Ask the patrons if they have any questions. Give them 2 minutes to practice their own Plot Search. Have them use the Who, What, Where, When descriptors. Ask them to share their descriptors and results with the rest of the class.

**e. Boolean Search**

- i. Click on the **Boolean Search** link.
- ii. Enter an author name, book title, subject heading, etc.
- iii. Click on the down arrow to choose the corresponding field and click **Search**.
- iv. Ask patrons if they have any questions.

**5. Browse List**

**a. Best Fiction**

- i. Click on the **Best Fiction** link to view a list of categories of award winning fiction genre.
- ii. Keep clicking on the genre links until you get to individual awards and titles.

**b. Explore Fiction**

- i. Click on the **Explore Fiction** link to view a list of categories of fiction genre.
- ii. Keep clicking on the genre links until you get to individual titles.

**PRACTICE TIME:** Ask the patrons if they have any questions. Give them 2 minutes to browse through Best and Explore Fiction.

**6. Read About Popular Titles & Topics**

**a. Author Read-alikes**

- i. Click on **Author Read-alikes** for a long list of favorite authors, and authors with similar writing styles.

**b. Book Discussion Guides**

- i. Click on **Book Discussion Guides** for a list of titles with discussion questions and answers.

**c. Book Talks**

- i. Click on **Book Talks** for sample book talks for children and young adults.

**d. Feature Articles**

- i. Click on **Feature Articles** for in depth articles, author interviews, and shorter pieces on fiction.

**Attachments**

Handouts:

Lake Agassiz Regional Library's Online Resource Collection: [NovelList](#)

Lesson Content:

(What will actually happen in the class?)

Time	Activity	Notes