

Library Displays: Things to Do and Avoid



libraries.idaho.gov

Do	Avoid
Choose displays that reflect your patrons' interests	Only doing displays of your personal interests
Make a display where items fly off the shelves	Getting frustrated that your display is empty
Make the book, videos, DVDs, audiobooks, etc. the stars of the display	Going overboard with props
Create eye-catching signage that lets people know they can borrow display items	Decorative fonts that are hard to read and detract from your message
Let pop culture, your community, library programs, and current events inspire your displays	Being inflexible and doing the same old thing from year to year
Add value to the display – try adding takeaways	Just putting a pile of books on a shelf
Promote “hidden” or underutilized collections	Always displaying the same items over and over
Cross promote to target audiences	Calling the display as “done” once up
Have fun! It's contagious.	Not having fun. It too can be contagious.

Consider moving beyond tightly themed displays to more general ones that can be used anytime – or continuously:

- Staff Picks
- Patron Picks/ What Your Neighbors Are Reading (Put this sign on a cart of just returned books – they'll fly out of the building and your shelvers will thank you!)
- People You Should Meet (this could work for biographies or for character-driven fiction)
- Greatest Hits of the ____ (insert decade, year, etc.)
- Good Books You May Have Missed (books that had long holds list a few months ago)

Inspired by “Twenty Rules for Better Book Displays” by Susan Brown

www.ebscohost.com/novelist/novelist-special/twenty-rules-for-better-book-displays

Be an American Indian Ally

Things to Do and Avoid



www.sde.idaho.gov/indian-ed

Do	Don't
Use the appropriate tribal name	Dress up like Indians for Halloween
Ask respectful questions	Mistake costumes for traditional clothing
Understand Indians are just like you	Think all Indians are the same
Understand past and present	Characterize Indians as animals, savages, etc...
Acknowledge diversity among Tribes	Think Indians are extinct

Idaho Tribe Websites

Coeur d' Alene Tribe <http://www.cdatribe-nsn.gov/>

Kootenai Tribe of Idaho <http://www.kootenai.org/>

Nez Perce Tribe <http://www.nezperce.org/>

Shoshone-Bannock Tribes <http://www.sbtribes.com/>

Shoshone-Paiute Tribes <http://shopaitribes.org/spt/>

Resources

History of American Indian Education

www.edweek.org/ew/projects/2013/native-american-education/history-of-american-indian-education.html

Teaching about Thanksgiving

<http://www.sde.idaho.gov/indian-ed/files/curriculum/Teaching-About-Thanksgiving.pdf>