

library to reach more people and gain the endorsement of influential persons, who may become strong advocates and supporters of the library. Most importantly, public libraries will fulfill their missions more completely by having a comprehensive understanding of local needs and input from community members as to how to best meet those needs. Thus, the benefits are reciprocal. As the library reaches out to extend its services, it will continue to cultivate a relationship with the community that is based on trust and stewardship. This relationship will not only grow support for the library; community members also will begin to feel ownership and become advocates and contributors to their local lifelong learning institution, the public library.

#### References

- <sup>1</sup> Census 2000.
- <sup>2</sup> "Conclusions and Recommendations," 2, from "Survey of Library Needs for North Carolina Hispanics," Rincon and Associates, <<http://statelibrary.dcr.state.nc.us/hispanic/summary.pdf>>.
- <sup>3</sup> <<http://www.bnv.bib.ve>>.
- <sup>4</sup> *Hispanic Plan of Forsyth County* (1999).
- <sup>5</sup> <<http://statelibrary.dcr.state.nc.us/hispanic/index.htm>>, "The Hispanic Services Project of the State Library of North Carolina is a three-year project that will result in public librarians having the skills and resources necessary to provide appropriate services for North Carolina's rapidly increasing Hispanic and Latino communities. Primary beneficiaries of this project will be the growing number of Hispanic and Latino individuals in North Carolina. Public library staff will also benefit from this project since the skills they learn as part of this project will be useful in designing library services to any special population."
- <sup>6</sup> "Building Community Relationships," May 2000, 23.
- <sup>7</sup> "So I Made Up My Mind: Introducing a Study of Adult Learner Persistence in Library Literacy Programs," by John T. Comings and Sondra Cuban, October 2000, 2. For the past four years, the Greensboro Public Library has been participating in a national project funded by the Wallace Reader's Digest Foundation to expand and study adult literacy programs based in public libraries.
- <sup>8</sup> See Jim Meier's article, "I'm Not Surfing: This is My Job," in this publication.
- <sup>9</sup> <<http://cbs.sportsline.com/index.html>>.
- <sup>10</sup> <<http://www.espn.go.com>>.
- <sup>11</sup> <<http://www.awezome.com>>.

## Sideline:

# Sports Fiction

compiled by Suzanne Wise

Sports fiction has many faces. It ranges from the mysticism of Bernard Malamud's *The Natural* to the action adventure of the latest Dick Francis racing mystery, from Mark Harris' classic *Bang the Drum Slowly* to Dan Jenkins' outrageous *Semi-Tough*. There is something for everyone, and it is an easy sell if you know your merchandise. A friend's son was converted to the joys of reading when he discovered that there were stories about his passion, skiing. The library periodical literature offers many guides to new sports publications (*Booklist's* September 1 issue annually highlights new adult's and children's sports titles, *Library Journal* features a "Spring Baseball Lineup" each February, and Bill Ott often includes sports books in his *American Libraries* "Quick Bibs" column), but they are primarily devoted to non-fiction.

The resources below will help readers' advisors identify and promote sports fiction. The bonus is that readers enjoy a baseball novel from the 1950s just as much as one published last month, and the older fiction in the collection circulates.

- Beauregard, Sue-Ellen, and Hazel Rochman. "Playing the Game: Sports Fiction." *Booklist* 83 (March 1, 1987): 1009-1010. Annotated list of young adult and adult titles.
- Brodie, Carolyn S. "Nothing But Net: Basketball Materials." *School Library Media Activities Monthly* 12 (January 1996): 46-47. Includes a list of nine novels suitable for grades three through seven+.
- Burns, Grant. *The Sports Pages: A Critical Bibliography of Twentieth-Century American Novels and Stories Featuring Baseball, Basketball, Football and Other Athletic Pursuits*. Metuchen, NJ: Scarecrow Press, 1987. Lengthy annotations of sports fiction.
- Grobani, Anton, ed. *Guide to Baseball Literature*. Detroit, MI: Gale, 1975. The entries for fiction, humor, and drama, verse, and ballads include titles suitable for both children and adults.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Guide to Football Literature*. Detroit, MI: Gale, 1975. The football version of the work above.
- Harrah, Barbara K. *Sports Books for Children: An Annotated Bibliography*. Metuchen, NJ: Scarecrow Press, 1978. Arranged by type of sport. Many sections contain a list of fiction.
- Messenger, Christian K. *Sports and the Spirit of Play in Contemporary American Fiction*. NY: Columbia University Press, 1990. The bibliography of primary works cited is quite useful for identifying sports fiction.
- Oriard, Michael V. *Dreaming of Heroes: American Sports Fiction, 1868-1980*. Chicago: Nelson-Hall, 1982. Outstanding survey and analysis of sports fiction in the U.S. The appendix includes a lengthy checklist of the genre. Oriard is a professor of English and former professional football player.
- Perry, Phyllis J. *Exploring the World of Sports: Linking Fiction to Nonfiction*. Englewood, CO: Teacher Ideas Press, 1998. Curriculum ideas using fiction "to bring students from the world of imagination into the world of fact." Includes baseball, basketball, football, soccer, swimming, and track and field. A great starting point for collaboration between teacher and librarian.
- Rueth-Brandner, Teri. "Sports Fiction for Young Women: Not Enough of a Good Thing." *VOYA: Voice of Youth Advocates* 14 (June 1991): 89-90. Guide to sports fiction for girls.
- Wise, Suzanne. *Sports Fiction for Adults: An Annotated Bibliography of Novels, Plays, Short Stories, and Poetry with Sporting Settings*. NY: Garland, 1986. Exhaustive annotated guide arranged by sport.