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Greetings, salutations, and welcome back to another “are the days getting stranger, or just shorter” edition of the High Demand Hold Digest – your source of a smattering of things requested, recommended, or needed by our beloved patrons.

So... September 2021, eh? For those hip enough to get the reference – this is the darkest timeline.

But rather than performing my normal monthly dance of traipsing down the hole of oblivion and nihilism, yet finding salvation for my immortal soul at very brink of hopelessness thanks to the unending gifts of the public library, I’m pausing for a single moment of reflection.

Recently, I was running through some journals, notes, and other random brain dumps that filled an old backup drive. I came across the journal entry that I wrote the very day I was offered my first professional position in a library. At the time, I was a lost mid-20-something with no goals, no direction, and even less sense of what came next. I read the words I wrote that evening, gushing over how I had an honest to godness offer from a real live library (Providence Public Library, for those who may be wondering). I was curious how it would be, what it would be like to behind the desk, what I would find when I walked through the doors of a place I loved and spent so much time in, yet knew nothing of the inner-workings. Would I hate it? Would I love it? In that journal entry, I wrote that I didn’t know what was going to happen next, but I knew the world was going to change.

The journal entry was dated September 10, 2001.

True story.

So here I stand, twenty years, eleven job titles, seven libraries, a few dozen rejections, a couple thousand war stories, and a few million circulations of materials I’ve purchased later. Have I learned anything? Of course – yet among the mightiest of lessons are a) the vast majority of people are good and trustworthy b) no matter how weird, obscure, or outside-the-norm the resource, there will always be a user c) library workers come in all shapes, sizes, and philosophies, yet somehow share a common dream and drive d) I will never be able to answer the reference question “What’s my email password” and e) I will never be done learning new things about public libraries and the people who inhabit them.

It has been a fantastic ride, and one I’m curious to see what comes next. I’ve done more than I ever could have imagined, and yet still confront every day with the unending list of things to get started and new ideas to run after. Through it all, I know that I am in the wonderful company of so many others who are seeking to quietly (and sometimes loudly) make this world a slightly better place to live in.

So, to those who have worked alongside me physically, remotely, philosophically or spiritually... to all those who have suffered me at my arrogant worst yet still allowed me to return day after day... to all those who have sent along kind words as I tried to figure things out or tried something new... to the many who came before and guided my way... all I can say is “thank you”.

But getting back to the issue at hand, below are the most requested items in the Minerva system of libraries where there are at least twice as many holds as there are copies available in the system. For those who may have found this list printed out and stuffed between the seats of a commuter bus, if they do not wish to subscribe to the various list-servs where it is “published”, may contact me to be added to a direct distribution list for this monthly data download.

As we move through this desperate season into the true darkness of the season of the witch, I hold the words spoken by the late, great Michael K. Williams close to my heart:

A man gotta have a code.

Be well, best of luck between now and then, and I’ll see you in the stacks.

Josh

Books

- 1) The Madness of Crowds (Penny) – 423 holds on 87 items
- 2) Dead by Dawn (Doiron) – 226 holds on 111 items
- 3) The Last Thing He Told Me (Dave) – 205 holds on 64 items
- 4) Billy Summers (King) – 148 holds on 54 items
- 5) The Paper Palace (Crowley Heller) – 144 holds on 47 items
- 6) A Slow Fire Burning (Hawkins) – 108 holds on 24 items
- 7) I Alone Can Fix It: Donald J. Trump’s Catastrophic Final Year (Leonning) – 86 holds on 27 items
- 8) We Are the Brennans (Lange) – 57 holds on 19 items
- 9) We Were Never Here (Bartz) – 55 holds on 22 items
- 10) Beautiful World, Where Are You (Rooney) – 53 holds on 9 items
- 11) Lightning Strike (Krueger) – 52 holds on 22 items
- 12) Once There Were Wolves (McConaghy) – 48 holds on 22 items
- 13) The Heron’s Cry (Cleeves) – 42 holds on 9 items
- 14) Enemy at the Gates (Mills) – 42 holds on 8 items
- 15) The Coldest Case (Walker) – 35 holds
- 16) The Man Who Died Twice (Osman) – 32 holds on 4 items
- 17) Foul Play (Woods) – 29 holds on 7 items
- 18) The Maine House (McEvoy) – 28 holds on 10 items
- 19) The reckoning : our nation's trauma and finding a way to heal (Trump) – 25 holds on 10 items
- 20) The Night She Disappears (Jewell) – 25 holds on 5 items

Pre-order

- 1) Apples Never Fall (Moriarty) – 107 holds
- 2) Better Off Dead (Child + Child) – 107 holds
- 3) State of Terror (Clinton + Patterson) – 103 holds
- 4) Cloud Cuckoo Land (Doerr) – 80 holds

- 5) The Dark Hours (Connelly) – 66 holds
- 6) The Judge's List (Grishman) – 64 holds
- 7) Forgotten in Death (Robb) – 60 holds
- 8) Harlem Shuffle (Whitehead) – 47 holds
- 9) The Lincoln Highway (Towles) – 45 holds
- 10) Game On: Tempting 28 (Evanovich) – 42 holds

Large Print

- 1) Dead By Dawn (Doiron) – 70 holds on 27 items
- 2) The Madness of Crowds (Penny) – 68 holds on 4 items
- 3) Billy Summers (King) – 41 holds on 8 items
- 4) The Judge's List (Grisham) – 31 holds on 2 items
- 5) The Cellist (Silva) – 28 holds on 11 items
- 6) The Noise (Patterson) – 26 holds on 4 items
- 7) Complications (Steel) – 23 holds on 6 items
- 8) A Slow Fire Burning (Hawkins) – 23 holds on 3 items
- 9) Malibu Rising (Reid) – 22 holds on 5 items
- 10) The Paper Palace (Crowley Heller) – 18 holds on 5 items

Graphic Novels

- 1) Demon slayer. Volume 16, Undying – 5 holds on 2 items
- 2) Demon slayer. Volume 18, Assaulted by memories – 5 holds on 1 items
- 3) Demon slayer. Volume 15, Daybreak and first light – 4 holds on 2 item
- 4) Demon slayer. Volume 17, Successors – 4 holds on 1 item
- 5) Demon slayer. Volume 19, Flapping butterfly wings – 4 holds on 1 item
- 6) My Hero Academia, Vol. 29. – 4 holds on 0 items
- 7) Celestia (Fior) – 2 holds on 1 item
- 8) Did You Hear What Eddie Gein Done? (Schecter) – 2 holds on 1 item
- 9) Twins (Johnson) – 2 holds on 1 item

Audiobooks

- 1) The Madness of Crowds (Penny) – 45 holds on 18 items
- 2) The Heron's Cry (Cleeves) – 7 holds on 3 items
- 3) A Slow Fire Burning (Hawkins) – 7 holds on 2 items
- 4) The Judge's List (Grisham) – 5 holds on 1 item
- 5) The Body Keeps the Score (Van der Kolk) – 4 holds on 1 item
- 6) Apples Never Fall (Moriarty) – 3 holds on 1 item
- 7) Beautiful World, Where Are You (Rooney) – 3 holds on 1 item
- 8) A Good Dar for Chardonnay (Jones) – 3 holds on 1 item
- 9) Lightning Strike (Krueger) – 3 holds on 1 item
- 10) 56 Days (Howard) – 2 holds on 1 item

Movies

- 1) The Truffle Hunters (DVD) – 16 holds on 5 items
- 2) Peter Rabbit 2 (Blu-ray) – 8 holds on 4 items
- 3) Til Death (DVD) – 6 holds on 2 items
- 4) A Quiet Place Part 2 (Blu-Ray) – 5 holds on 2 items
- 5) Minari (Blu-Ray) – 4 holds on 2 items
- 6) Downeast (DVD) – 3 holds on 1 item
- 7) The Night (DVD) – 3 holds on 1 item
- 8) The Courier (Blu-ray) – 2 holds on 1 item
- 9) Promising Young Woman (Blu-ray) – 2 holds on 1 item
- 10) The Bing Crosby Collection (DVD) – 2 holds on 1 item
- 11) Boss Level (DVD) – 2 holds on 1 item
- 12) A Confession (DVD) – 2 holds on 1 item
- 13) Habit (DVD) – 2 holds on 1 item
- 14) Murder She Baked: Complete Movie Collection (DVD) – 2 holds on 1 item
- 15) Out for Justice (DVD) – 2 holds on 1 item
- 16) The Perfect Candidate (DVD) – 2 holds on 1 item
- 17) Rampant (DVD) – 2 holds on 1 item
- 18) Rewind This! (DVD) – 2 holds on 1 item
- 19) Rogue hostage (DVD) – 2 holds on 1 item
- 20) Woman of the Year (DVD) – 2 holds on 1 item

TV Series

- 1) The Brokenwood mysteries. Series 7 – 11 holds on 5 items
- 2) Leif G.W. Persson's Backstrom. Series 1 – 9 holds on 3 items
- 3) Heartland: Season 13 – 6 holds on 1 item
- 4) Murdoch Mysteries: Season 14 – 5 holds on 1 item
- 5) Traces: Season One – 4 holds on 1 item
- 6) 19-2, Season 3 – 2 holds on 1 item
- 7) Blue Bloods: Season 11 – 2 holds on 1 item
- 8) Mayans M.C.: Season 2 – 2 holds on 1 item
- 9) Pennyworth – Season 2 – 2 holds on 1 item

Music CDs

- 1) Long Lost (Lord Huron) – 2 holds on 1 item
- 2) The Time-Life Treasury of Christmas – 2 holds on 1 item

Video Games

- 1) The Legend of Zelda: Skyward Sword (Switch) – 11 holds on 3 items
- 2) Miitopia (Switch) – 4 holds on 1 item

- 3) PAW Patrol the movie: Adventure Calls (Switch) – 3 holds on 1 item
- 4) PAW Patrol: On a Roll (Switch) – 3 holds on 1 item
- 5) Bakugan: Champions of Vestroia (Switch) – 2 holds on 1 item