

## How Libraries Beat Redbox and Netflix Movie Advisory in the Public Library

### Useful Sites and Books

#### The two sources you can't do without.

*Internet Movie Database.* [www.imdb.com](http://www.imdb.com)

This is the most comprehensive web site for information about movies, television, documentaries, you name it. The links to movie reviews are particularly useful when deciding on purchasing a movie or when preparing for a movie discussion. The ability to link the name of performer with another name is useful for identifying a movie when the patron thinks they remember who was in a movie, but not the name of the movie.

*Videohound Golden Movie Advisor.* Annual

Videohound uses bones to indicate their review on movies. Rating range from 4 bones to WOOF (for movies they consider real dogs.) Their lists at the back of the book are useful for putting together movie lists since they indicate those movies which *Videohound* has awarded three or more stars.

### Other book resources

*101 [ ] Movies You Must See Before You Die.*

This series of current books published by Barron's covers horror and gangster movies and several other genres. These are useful when building a collection in a specific genre or when educating yourself about a specific genre. The books are arranged chronologically so if you decide your population won't watch anything from before 1980, you can skip right to that part of the book.

*America's Film Legacy: The Authoritative Guide to the Landmark Movies* by Daniel Eagon. New York: Continuum, 2010.

This is a useful list of movies in the National Film Registry and is useful for building a deep and sophisticated collection. It is also useful for background information for movie discussion groups.

*Leonard Maltin's [annual] Movie Guide.*

*Maltin's* awards ratings from 4 stars to BOMB. This is a nice counterpart to *Videohound*. Although ratings between the two are often comparable, there are sometimes varying opinions. The two guides represent an average taste that most of your patrons will agree with. I usually use an average score of 3 or higher when I am deciding about adding older titles to the collection.

*The Rough Guide to [ ].*

This series is no longer in print, but are current enough to still be useful. They include lists of "essential" movies in the specific genre covered in individual volumes as well as "essential" actors and thematic articles. Some of the genres included are chick flicks, westerns, and gangster movies. These, too, are useful in collection development or self-education.

*A Short History of Film* by Wheeler Winston Dixon and Gwendoly Audrey Foster, Brunswick New Jersey: Rutgers University Press, 2008.

This is an accessible history of film for those who really want to learn the history and international development of film.

*The Young Oxford Book of Movies*. David Parkinson. Oxford, NY: Oxford University Press., 1995.

The movie history book for the rest of us. This brief history includes international film development and chapters on popular genres with “films to watch” sidebars.

### **Net Resources**

American Film Institute AFI’s “Greatest” lists.

These lists tend towards the obvious and are not very adventurous. That being said, the lists are probably fairly reflective of the taste of the general public. However true lovers of any of the genres will find plenty to argue with. [I mean, really, *Top Hat* number 15 on the musicals list after both *All That Jazz* and *Chicago*? I think not.]

[www.movieretriever.com](http://www.movieretriever.com)

This is the online counterpoint to the *Videhound*. Their lists are quirky and fun.

[www.filmspottingnet](http://www.filmspottingnet)

Another site of very quirky lists from a locally produced podcast and NPR radio program.

### **Help on Movie Discussion Groups**

“How to offer more than a movie” by Alan Jacobson. Posted at [americanlibrariesmagazine.org](http://americanlibrariesmagazine.org) on July 27, 2011.

This article gives the nuts and bolts of offering a movie discussion group.

Reel to Reel Film Programming: A Guide” by Mark Gladstone. *Public Libraries*, Sept/Oct, 2010

Another how-to guide for movie discussion groups with information about proper licensing, etc.

### **Additional Resources**

“Film Format Pandemonium” by Benjamin Malczewski

*Library Journal*, November 15, 2010

Reassuring view of why we shouldn’t sweat the movie steaming trend.

“Timeless Reels: Classic Films on DVD” by Lucy Roihrig and Gregory Roehrig  
*Library Journal* September 1, 2011

A good place to start to check your collection against a list of essential movies any collection should have.

“Top 10 Movie Recommendations Engines” by Don Reisinger

[www.cnet.com](http://www.cnet.com). posted March 19, 2009.

A round-up of movie recommendation sites and how to use them.