

## **FINDING FICTION AT SWEM LIBRARY AND AT NEARBY LIBRARIES**

### **Fiction at Swem Library**

Swem Library purchases contemporary fiction by writers who are studied as part of the University's curriculum, as well as writers who are recognized as making important contributions to the field of literature. This includes prize winners and major authors whose works appear in core bibliographies and literary reference guides. The library also buys selected "best sellers" and other notable titles that receive media attention.

### **Selecting a Book to Read**

The opening page of the library's online catalog has links to recommended reading and best seller lists. These lists include publication details about each title and tell you if the library owns a copy and if it is available.

### **Browsing in the Book Stacks on the Third Floor**

Works of fiction at Swem Library are cataloged and arranged on the shelf using the Library of Congress Classification System. Under the LC system, fictional works are grouped by nationality and shelved with non-fiction, literature-related materials. English (British) fiction is in the PR ranges and American fiction is in the PS ranges on the third floor of the library.

Within the PR and PS sequences, works by individual authors are grouped by time period—19<sup>th</sup> century, 20<sup>th</sup> century, etc.—and then arranged alphabetically by the author's last name. For example, PS 3550 – 3576 includes works of American writers who established their reputations after 1961, starting with those whose last name begins with A and continuing through the Z's.

Books about the writer and his or her work are shelved with the works of fiction. The primary pieces (novels, short stories, poems, etc.) are shelved first, followed by biographies of the author and selections of commentary and criticism. If you are not looking for a particular title or author, the best method is to go to the shelves and browse, keeping in mind the author's nationality and time period arrangements.

### **Using the Catalog to Find Fiction**

The web address for the Swem Library homepage is [swem.wm.edu](http://swem.wm.edu). From the library homepage, select the link for the library catalog from the green bar near the top of the page. If you looking for a particular author or know the title of the book that you want, doing a "Begins with"/Author or Title search in the online catalog would be the best way to find the book. Enter the author's last name first, e.g. Faulkner, William.

If you don't have complete information, you can combine the terms that you do know, such as key words from the title or the author's last name and a word from the title using the advanced search template.

Types of fiction (along with bibliographies and commentary) can be located by doing a "Keyword/Everything" or "Keyword/Subject" (more restrictive) search using the word *fiction* and a subject term. Examples include: *vampires and fiction*, *crime and fiction*, *war and fiction*, *family and fiction*, *love and fiction*, *sports and fiction*, *psychological and fiction*, etc.

Collections of short stories can be found by doing a “Begins with”/Subject” search using the term *short stories*. You can also use terms like *ghost stories* or *sports stories*.

### **Displays in the Lobby**

New books, including works of fiction, are placed on the “Popular Reading” display shelves in the library lobby near the media wall. Call numbers for the novels in English will begin with the letters PR and PS.

A voluntary book exchange is also available on shelving in the “Read and Relax” area on the first floor near the government documents stacks. You are invited to take books from this collection and to replace them with books that you no longer want.

### **Borrowing Fiction**

If you are currently a faculty, student, or staff member at William and Mary, you can use your ID card to borrow books. Other individuals should inquire at the circulation desk for options, including joining Swem’s Friends of the Library group or, if you are a student at a nearby university, seeing if you are eligible for a consortium borrowing card.

### **Recommending that the Library Purchase a Book**

You can recommend that the library purchase a book by using the electronic request form available on the homepage at: [swem.wm.edu/contact/](http://swem.wm.edu/contact/).

### **Fiction at the W & M Law Library**

The William and Mary Law Library maintains a small collection of current works, featuring novels that depict the lawyer in popular culture. The fiction of such writers as David Baldacci, Patricia Cornwell, John Grisham, and Scott Turow is included. The latest additions to the collection are kept on the first floor outside the administrative office and adjacent to the circulation desk. Patrons with a William & Mary Law School borrower’s card or a current W & M ID card (all College faculty, staff, and students) may borrow books. All of the law school titles appear in the Swem Library catalog.

### **Fiction at the Williamsburg Regional Library**

The Williamsburg Regional Library (WRL) has a large fiction collection, including current trade and mass market titles, as well as classics. At their web site ([www.wrl.org/](http://www.wrl.org/)), you can search their catalog to see if the book you want is available. Under the link “Library Services.” there is a link called bookweb ([www.wrl.org/bookweb/](http://www.wrl.org/bookweb/)), which provides reading lists, notations about new books at WRL, and Internet resources for readers. There are also printed book lists on a variety of topics available at the library.

Works of fiction at the regional library are shelved separately in a “fiction section” and arranged alphabetically by the author’s last name. The public library also features changing book displays. Some of these are organized by genre, such as mysteries or science fiction. Browsing in the fiction section and among the displays is a good way to find a book that you might enjoy. William and Mary students can obtain library cards at the public library free of charge by presenting a picture identification card.