

## **NoveList<sup>®</sup> Overview**

### **(Adapted for Maryknoll Library Users, April 2014)**

NoveList is a database of fiction titles, authors, and series and additional content that provides libraries with the best possible information to help connect readers to books. NoveList not only provides you with more than 220,000 fiction titles, it also offers a wide range of content created by librarians and expert educational specialists to expand information for fiction readers. NoveList has an easy-to-use interface designed with readers and librarians in mind.

NoveList Plus contains all the content from NoveList and adds more than 120,000 narrative nonfiction titles in subjects such as Sports, Humor, Politics, True Crime, Food Writing, Business Writing, Travel Writing, and many more. NoveList Plus adds additional supplemental material for non-fiction titles including: Book Discussion Guides, Recommended Reads, Author Read-alikes, Curricular Connections, and Grab and Go Book Lists.

#### **Key Features of NoveList and NoveList Plus:**

- Carousel on home page reflects hand-crafted recommendations for new titles
- Search by appeal factors such as writing style, tone, pace
- Multiple search methods using keywords, title, author, subject, appeal factors, audience, grade level, Lexile range, number of pages, Dewey range, award winner, dates of publication
- Sort results list by relevancy, date, author, title, popularity, volume (reading order for series)
- Links to Goodreads reviews
- Print and Email capability with multiple citation formats available
- Save search results using folders within My NoveList

## Additional Content in NovelList

Type	Description
Author Read-Alikes	Provides suggested authors that are similar to requested author based on author's appeal. Document includes a section on why readers love the author and a section of five additional authors who share similar characteristics.
Book Discussion Guides	Everything that a discussion leader will need to run a book group including robust presentation of information about book and author, questions with answers, and suggested further reading.
Curricular Connections	Content that recommends high-quality books that align with and/or support the achievement of curricular goals. With context/discussion. New Common Core specific content also included (Common Core Connections).
Feature Articles	Informative pieces on subjects/genres of interest. Can cover specific subgenres, trends or series.
Genre Outlines	Quick orientation to a genre, to get library staff up to speed if unfamiliar with the category. Use in schools when teaching about genres.
Grab and Go Book Lists	Lists of vetted, in-print titles on curricular topics at a variety of reading levels for a specific grade range and in a large enough quantity to supply a classroom.
Readers' Advisory Content	Relevant information about topics to help public library staff with RA and librarianship. Information about best practices or working with patrons to help them find books.
Recommended Reads	Lists of books created by librarians at NovelList to help readers of all ages find a book on a genre or topic of interest.

## NoveList® Home Screen

The **Home Screen** is the starting point for using NoveList. From the homepage you can perform searches, find reading recommendations for new hot titles, browse NoveList's articles and lists, and access resources to help enhance your Readers' Advisory skills.



### Toolbar

The top of every NoveList screen contains the following three important links:

- Home button – return to NoveList home page
- Help – Access NoveList Help
- Feedback – Send questions or comments to NoveList staff

Other links on the toolbar include:

- Authors, Series, Subject – browse full index of authors, series, subject headings and appeal factors
- More – access additional indices for additional NoveList content
- Sign in to My NoveList
- Folder – allows you to quickly access saved searches, alerts, and lists
- Ask-A-Librarian – This feature can be set up by your library to allow you to quickly contact their staff. This link may display differently for your site.

### Basic Search Bar

Place where all searches in NoveList begin.

## Carousel

The carousel features a range of current bestselling and popular titles, selected by NoveList librarians. Each book has three title recommendations for readers looking for a similar title. These titles, which are regularly updated, are NYT bestsellers and other hot books that readers are going to be looking for.

## Recommended Reads

From the left side of the homepage you can access the Recommended Reads lists, which are organized by genre and theme. Compiled by experienced librarians and literature specialists, there are more than 600 Recommended Reads that cover a wide variety of genres and topics across all reading levels.

Recommended Reads can be used to:

- Find your next book to read on a topic or genre you enjoy
- Create book displays or reading lists
- Find similar titles by looking at the subject headings for each title
- Print out for a patron

## NoveList Resources

### Looking for...

From the NoveList Resources box on the right side of the homepage, you can access NoveList's full lists of:

- **Author Read-alikes**
- **Book Discussion Guides**
- **NoveList Feature Articles**

You can also access these resources within your search results by clicking on the articles and lists tab.

### Specialized Resources

- **Award Winners** – Popular and prestigious award lists by reader age level including Nobel and Pulitzer for fiction, Hugo Awards, Newbery Medal, Caldecott Medal, and many more, including regional lists.
- **Readers' Advisory Toolbox** – Access training, genre outlines, feature articles, book display ideas, marketing materials, our RA Newsletter, and more.
- **Teaching with Books** – For those who are working with kids and teens, access BookTalks and Picture Book Extenders, curriculum-based Book Lists, our Kids & Books Newsletter, and more.

## Basic Search

The Basic Search box is available from the top of every NoveList screen. Select one of the four **radio buttons** to perform a specific search.

You can search by:

- **All** – searches most fields across all records and returns results grouped in tabs by type of record (Books, Series, Authors, Lists & Articles). Note that you can use this search for “Describe a Plot” searching.
- **Author**
- **Title**
- **Series**

Search Other Databases – Allows you to access any of your library’s EBSCO databases without having to return to your library’s website. Clicking this link will take you to a list of the products to which your library subscribes.

#### Notes about Basic Search:

- Limiters are not available at the Basic Search box. Your results can be limited at your Result List.
- If you click the **Novelist logo** or the “Home” link in the top left corner of the screen, you are returned to the Homepage with your search terms *cleared*.
- If you click the **Advanced Search** link, you are taken to the Advanced Search screen with your search terms *carried forward*.
- If your search includes a Boolean operator (and, or, not), it will automatically be searched as the operator unless you place quotation marks around the term.

## Activity: Basic Search

1. The **All** radio button is the default search. Leave **All** selected.
2. Enter the following in the search box – **game of thrones**
3. **Click Search**. Lots of results to work with!
4. Remain on this screen for the next activity.

## Viewing Results

The screenshot shows the NoveList search results page for the query "game of thrones". The page is divided into three main columns:

- Left Column (Clustering):** A "Narrow Results by" sidebar with expandable categories: Genre, Storyline, Pace, Tone, Writing Style, Subject, and Location.
- Center Column (Results Tabs):** A main results area with tabs for "Books", "Series", "Authors", and "Lists & Articles". Below the tabs, it shows "Results: 1-30 of 110" and a list of search results, including "A game of thrones" by George R.R. Martin.
- Right Column (Limiters):** A "Limit your results" sidebar with checkboxes for Audience (Adults, Teens, Ages 9-12, Ages 0-8), Review Available, Award Winner, and Forthcoming. It also includes a "Publication Date" range selector (1881 to 2013) and an "Update Results" button.

- **Left column: Clustering** – The “Narrow Results By” column is a feature, "clustering," which organizes your Result List by the most common Genres, Appeal Factors (Storyline, Pace, Tone, Writing Style), Subjects, and Location Headings (and Publication Type for the Lists & Articles tab) found among your results. By making a selection from the “Narrow Results By” column, you can focus in on the results you are looking for, without having to browse multiple pages of results, or checking individual records to see if they are relevant. The options here will vary depending on your search terms and results.
- **Center column: Tabs and Results** – Contains results in the main window and tabs across the top for type of results (Books, Series, Authors, Lists & Articles).
- **Right column: Limiters** – Most common limiters of audience, review available, award winner, forthcoming, and publication date. (NoveList Plus adds limiter of fiction vs. nonfiction). The Update Results button must be clicked for your selected limiters to be applied.

### Notes About Viewing Results:

- Review Available limiter (right column) – This option will search only titles that include one or more reviews. If you select this option, NoveList will only retrieve titles (Books tab) that have been reviewed by Booklist, Kirkus, Library Journal, School Library Journal, and Publishers Weekly.
- Award Winner limiter (right column) – This option searches only titles that have won awards. If you select this option, NoveList will only retrieve book titles (Books tab).
- Forthcoming limiter (right column) – Select this checkbox to search for forthcoming titles up to 60 days before their scheduled publish date. NoveList will only retrieve book titles (Books tab) with this limiter.

## Activity: Viewing Results

1. Still on the Game of Thrones results screen. Note the layout of the screen as outlined above.
2. **Click on each tab**, and note the number of results for each tab.
3. **Click Books** tab to return to book results. Remain on this screen for the next activity/demo.

# Viewing an Item

The screenshot shows the NoveList interface for the book 'A Game of Thrones (Aug 1996)' by George R.R. Martin. The page is divided into several sections:

- Basic Information:** Located on the left, it includes the book title, author, series ('Song of ice and fire. 1'), description, genre, storyline, tone, writing style, and a persistent link to the record.
- Read-alikes from NoveList:** Located on the right, it displays a list of recommended books with their covers, titles, and authors, such as 'The legend of Broken Carr, Caleb, 1955-' and 'The wise man's fear Rothfuss, Patrick, 1973-'.
- Tabs:** Located below the basic information, it includes 'Reviews', 'More About This Book', and 'Lists & Articles'.
- Search for More:** Located at the bottom right, it provides a search box and a list of filters for finding similar books, including 'Fantasy fiction', 'Multiple perspectives', and 'World-building'.

## Basic Information – Basic information about the title

- **Tabs** – Tabs for Reviews, More About This Book, and Lists & Articles appear if content is available for the title.
- **Search for More** – Search for similar books based on the genre and appeal terms for the book you are viewing.
- **Read-alikes from NoveList** – You will find up to nine title recommendations for the title you are viewing. Recommendations can be found for titles at all reading levels. Each recommendation will display a book jacket image (if available), the title of the book, and the author. Hover over the book jacket for more detailed information about the recommendation including the reason for the recommendation. You can easily print these recommendations out!

## Notes About the Basic Information Section:

- A blue ribbon icon appears if a title is an award winner
- If using the persistent link (permalink) any user who clicks the link must authenticate into NovelList. The persistent link for titles changes within different databases (NovelList, NovelList Plus, NovelList K-8, NovelList K-8 Plus).
- Popular titles are starred to indicate high demand. NovelList popularity information is gathered from thousands of libraries and retail outlets nationwide and is based on over 10 years of ordering information received by Baker & Taylor. Popularity for authors and series is based on the sum of the popularity ratings for all books by the author or in the series. If a book meets the popularity criteria, a series of one to five stars will be displayed to indicate the popularity factor for that title. Even when you haven't read the book, you now have a way to guide your readers to the most widely read book in any genre or on any topic.

## Activity: Viewing an Item

1. Still on the Books tab on the Game of Thrones results screen, select **A game of thrones (Aug 1996)**
2. Explore each section of the item detail

## How NovelList® Read-Alikes/Recommendations Are Chosen

NovelList draws on a variety of strategies and content to generate recommendations that reflect all of the aspects of why a particular author, title, or series is enjoyed. This approach produces recommendations that cover the range of reasons that a book is read and enjoyed, and provides readers with choices that are tightly focused on the author, title, or series in question. The recommendations also provide options that open new possibilities for enjoyable reading.

A wide-range of sources and approaches are used to generate the recommendations found in NovelList. The starting point for many recommendations is NovelList's Author-Read-Alikes, Book Discussion Guides, and Recommended Reads book lists. Each of these documents is created by leading readers' advisory experts to provide reading recommendations for readers. NovelList pulls the recommendations contained in these rich documents and presents them directly to the user. The Readers' Advisory librarians who create these documents for NovelList combine their personal reading experience with research about the author, title, or series in question to make each recommendation.

NovelList's recommendations may also come from direct input from NovelList librarians and librarians across the country. These hand-crafted recommendations state the reason for recommending an author, title or series. This includes citing elements such as topic, characterization, tone, location, or writing style. Note that hand-crafted recommendations will include the name of the professional who wrote the recommendation.

For more information on the recommendations found in NovelList see: Reading Recommendations in the NovelList Databases <http://support.ebSCO.com/uploads/kb/indepthrr.pdf>



## Thumbs Up/Thumbs Down

Novelist encourages our users to send feedback using the “Thumbs Up, Thumbs Down” graphics located at the bottom of the hover for every author, title, or series recommendation in the “Novelist Also Recommends” section. When you click on either the “Thumbs Up” or “Thumbs Down” icon, you have the opportunity to share why you agree or disagree with the recommendation. Novelist reviews this feedback weekly and uses it to inform the recommendations process.

**Add to folder**

**Title:** Always October (Aug 2012)  
**Author:** Coville, Bruce  
**Description:** Best friends Jake and "Weird Lily" enter the monster-filled land of Always October, made famous in Jake's grandfather's books, to save a foundingling who becomes a monster during the full moon.  
■ Ages 9-12 ■ Fiction  
**Reason:** In each high-action adventure, girl/boy duos work together to overcome evildoing -- by monsters from a parallel world (Always October) and kidnappers who may have infiltrated their family (Trust No One). -- Kathy Stewart

Agree with Recommendation?

[More Info](#)

[Always October](#)  
Coville, Bruce

[Search](#)

## Recommended Additional Resources

To learn more about Novelist, check out the following resources.

- ✓ How are appeal factors used in Novelist?  
[http://support.ebsco.com/knowledge\\_base/detail.php?id=4793](http://support.ebsco.com/knowledge_base/detail.php?id=4793)
- ✓ Novelist Help Sheet: Basic Searching  
[http://support.ebsco.com/knowledge\\_base/detail.php?id=5246](http://support.ebsco.com/knowledge_base/detail.php?id=5246)
- ✓ Reading Recommendations in the Novelist Databases  
<http://support.ebsco.com/uploads/kb/indepthrr.pdf>
- ✓ Find additional Help sheets at <http://support.ebsco.com/novelist>