

Cyberpunking a Library

Collection assessment and collection

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“A year here and he still dreamed of cyberspace, hope fading nightly. All the speed he took, all the turns he’d taken and the corners he’d cut in Night City, and he’d still see the matrix in his sleep, bright lattices of logic unfolding across that colorless void.”

– *Neuromancer*, William Gibson

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Introduction

During a visit to our LIBR 580 class, North Vancouver City Chief Librarian Jane Watkins learned of our plan to assess and develop a cyberpunk collection. She expressed interest in this topic, and thus our project was born. In the pages that follow, we describe the sub-genre of cyberpunk and outline a collection development plan for North Vancouver City (NVC) Library, including a “wish list” that is compared to the library’s existing collection of cyberpunk and science fiction material. We recommend both print and electronic material, including fiction and non-fiction titles, based on the library’s current collection, its collection development policy, and users. The focus of this document is the adult cyberpunk collection; however, it is recognized that some teen material can be of interest to adult library users, and vice versa.

Description of Subject

History of Cyberpunk

The science fiction sub-genre known as cyberpunk (formed from the combination of the words cybernetic and punk to reflect a combination of high tech and low life) is generally believed to have been created in the early 1980s with the literary works of Bruce Bethke, William Gibson, Bruce Sterling, and others (Buker, 2002 & Wikipedia: Cyberpunk, 2010). The term cyberpunk was coined by Bethke in 1980 as the title of a short story (published in 1983) and applied to the 1984 William Gibson novel Neuromancer (Buker, 2002 & Wikipedia: Cyberpunk, 2010). Gibson is one of the most prominent authors of this genre and his Sprawl Trilogy (Neuromancer, Count Zero, and Mona Lisa Overdrive) is a seminal cyberpunk work. Although the early 1980s is generally accepted as the dawn of the cyberpunk genre, there are notable antecedents such as William S. Burroughs, Thomas Pynchon and Philip K. Dick, whose novel Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep was made into the 1982 cyberpunk film Blade Runner (Wikipedia: Cyberpunk, 2010).

Themes and Common Motifs

Science fiction has traditionally focused on scientists, inventors, explorers, and the military, and presents orderly visions of the future; cyberpunk is a reaction to this vision. Often set in the near future, cyberpunk concerns the lives of disenfranchised members of society (hackers, criminals, rebellious youth, and non-conformists) and their relationship with information technology; the protagonists are generally anti-heroes.

From the early days of cyberpunk, there has been a strong Asian influence within the genre. Information technology and cyberpunk have always had a close relationship: the term “World Wide

Web,” which is now synonymous with the internet and near-instantaneous access to information, was coined by Gibson and used to describe the vast information system central to the novel Neuromancer (Gibson, 1984). Other common cyberpunk themes include the rise of artificial intelligence (Gibson, 1996) and virtual reality (Stephenson, 1992). These concepts are also explored in general science fiction and as a result of these genre-crossing motifs, the cyberpunk label is occasionally misapplied to a work of general science fiction. In order to be considered a cyberpunk, a work must have been created after 1980 and contain some combination of the above-mentioned motifs and themes.

Key subject headings and Call number range

The Library of Congress (LOC) subject headings “Cyberpunk” and “Cyberpunk culture,” either with or without appropriate subdivisions such as “Fiction” or “Comic books, strips, etc.” are the most appropriate subject headings for this collection. Obviously, the simple subject heading of “Science Fiction” is also appropriate. Burgess (1988) offers a myriad of appropriate subjects headings for Science Fiction works, however – likely due to the date of his publication – cyberpunk is not listed. In fact, the LOC authority records for the Cyberpunk subject headings reveal references to cyberpunk starting in 2000. A perusal of catalogs such as LOC and WorldCat reveals that the cyberpunk subject headings appear on more recent works, whereas other subject headings are used for older works (such as “Computer Hackers – Fiction” and “Information Superhighway – Fiction”). Thus, when assessing a cyberpunk collection, one needs to remain aware that there are multiple subject headings used to describe the genre. When considering cyberpunk’s relationship to science fiction, certain LOC subject headings are also key when identifying cyberpunk appropriate non fiction works, including but not limited to: “Science fiction – History and criticism.”

Identifying appropriate call number ranges for cyberpunk fiction material may not be the best way to identify fiction items. Fiction in public libraries is typically organized by genre and author, not by traditional call numbers. However, fiction works are classified in LOC by author and Burgess (1988) does provide a list of science fiction authors and their literature numbers. Call numbers are useful when identifying non-fiction works. For example, according to the Dewey Decimal Classification, the number 809.387 62 is the appropriate classification for the history and criticism of science fiction (Mitchell, 2003, p. 740). Similar classification can occur in LOC. For example, PN3433.4 represents Science Fiction Encyclopedias and Dictionaries (Burgess, 1988, p. 55). Ultimately, we found that subject headings proved the most useful for identifying cyberpunk materials due to the multiple descriptions of the sub-genre and, most importantly, that the collection being assessed is dominated by fiction.

Description of Library and Community

NVC Library moved to an award winning, 36,000 square foot new building in the mid-Lonsdale area in September 2008. NVC Library serves a diverse, multi-ethnic, family oriented community, with a population of close to 50,000. The library's collection, media center, teen room, children's room and ESL services are reflective of the needs of the community. The adjacent District of North Vancouver and the City of West Vancouver are similar communities, therefore the three library systems rely heavily on inter-library loans to serve the information needs of their communities (North Vancouver City Library - About Us, n.d.).

The goals of NVC Library's Collection Development Policy reflect the needs of the community and include the promotion of literacy and provision and encouragement of recreational reading and the provision of a "complete array of services and materials that meet the needs of clients of all ages and ethnic backgrounds and is in tune with modern technology" (North Vancouver City Library Collection Development Policy, n.d.).

The library's collection is acquired by the Collections Librarian, Department Heads and senior staff. The library abides by the Canadian Library Association's 1985 Statement on Intellectual Freedom. The scope of the collection reflects the following types of material in their stated order:

1. Popular materials
2. Lifelong learning
3. Literacy
4. Community meeting
5. Community referral
6. Formal learning (North Vancouver City Library Collection Development Policy, n.d.)

The library considers customer requests for material and engages in collection maintenance on an ongoing basis, weeding the collection of damaged, outdated and rarely circulated items (North Vancouver City Library Collection Development Policy, n.d.). The library's scope notes for the fiction collections identify selection criteria and process, genre and formats and more. Most importantly, the scope notes state that "every effort is made to identify and acquire titles which will appeal to the broadest possible range of customers" (North Vancouver City Library 2010 March Scope Notes, 2010). We have used the collection development policy and these scope notes to guide our selection methods and recommendations.

Selection of materials and evaluation

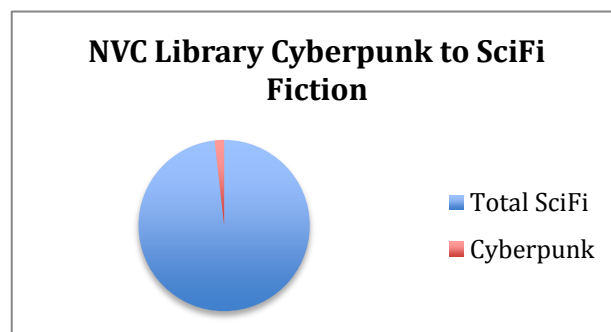
Description of existing collection

The NVC Library's fiction collection, like most public libraries, is arranged by genre and shelved alphabetically by author. The library maintains a science fiction (SF) collection, but not a separate cyberpunk collection. NVC Library's catalogue uses Library of Congress (LOC) subject headings, but LOC cyberpunk subject headings do not appear to be included. However, NVC Library imports user tags from LibraryThing into the catalogue. These tags come from users of LibraryThing and, while not without error, are very helpful in identifying cyberpunk literature in NVC's collection.

Cyberpunk titles at NVC Library are scattered throughout the science fiction paperback collection, the combined science fiction/fantasy hardcover collection, the general adult fiction hardcover and teen collection. The majority of titles are found in the former two collections. There are roughly 270 paperback science fiction titles and 1,050 hardcover science fiction/fantasy titles. Both the paperback and hardcover SF titles were found to be in fairly good physical condition. They ranged from being new to being gently used.

To determine the number and titles of cyberpunk materials at NVC Library, we engaged in the following multi-step process: After compiling a list of 85 cyberpunk titles from a combination of internet and print resources, we cross-referenced our list against titles tagged as cyberpunk in the NVC Library catalogue and then performed individual catalogue searches for the remaining titles on our list; this gave us a list of 26 cyberpunk novels in the collection. There are approximately 20 variations on science fiction subject headings in the NVC Library catalogue that relate to fiction. An analysis of these subject headings reveals approximately 1,540 titles. Our survey of the catalogue discovered some duplication between the different subject headings, so the actual number is approximately 1,320 titles. Based on these figures, we estimate that cyberpunk accounts for approximately two per cent of the NVC Library's science fiction collection.

Further analysis of the cyberpunk titles revealed a healthy selection that represented a variety of authors. The majority of cyberpunk titles is from the past 20-25 years and the titles are in good condition. Additionally, some older cyberpunk titles have been re-published. For example, William Gibson's Burning Chrome was originally published in 1986, but the library has the 2007 edition. In addition to fiction material, there is a small selection of cyberpunk films and graphic novels as well as



general science fiction magazines discuss cyberpunk. Being a public library, the reference/literary criticism collection is not as robust as the fiction or popular film collections. A search in the catalogue reveals a small number of science fiction reference works, including The Cambridge Companion to Science Fiction (an electronic resource) and What Fantastic Fiction do I Read Next? A Reader's Guide to Recent Fantasy, Horror and Science Fiction.

According to Fiction/Reader's Services Librarian Lorraine Kelley, NVC Library has automatic approval plans for fifteen science fiction authors including cyberpunk authors Cory Doctorow and William Gibson. Kelley stated that due to time constraints, workload, and other factors, there is not a concerted effort to purchase cyberpunk titles (L. Kelley, personal communication, March 24, 2010).

The following sections discuss the selection method and selected titles of a variety of cyberpunk materials. It is important to emphasize that we used a combination of traditional and non-traditional selection tools due to the unique nature of cyberpunk: this sub-genre is new to the literary world and its discourse primarily occurs in cyberspace. (See Appendix A for consulted selection tools).

Fiction: Selection Method

The most valuable evaluation tool we found is the American Library Association-published reader's advisory on science fiction that makes explicit cyberpunk recommendations. We supplemented the ALA reader's advisory with Book Page, Kirkus Reviews, Publishers Weekly, The SF Site, Amazon.ca, LibraryThing, and the fan website Cyberpunk Review. Once a list of authors and titles was created, these were then checked against traditional review tools.

As part of this collection development exercise, we compiled a list of ten essential cyberpunk novels and five recently published (2008 to 2010) novels.

Fiction: Essential Titles

1. Calder, R. (1995; 1992). *Dead girls* (1 US ed.). New York: St. Martin's Press. (Out of Print)
 2. Chalker, J. L. (1996). *The wonderland gambit*. New York: Del Rey. (Out of Print)
 3. Gibson, W. (1984). *Neuromancer*. New York: Ace Books.
 4. McDonald, I. (2004). *River of gods*. Amherst: Pyr.
 5. Morgan, R. K. (2002). *Altered carbon*. New York: Del Rey.
 6. Rucker, R. (1987). *Software*. New York: Eos.
 7. Scott, M. (1994). *Trouble and her friends*. New York: Tor Books. (Out of Print)
 8. Stephenson, N. (1992). *Snow crash*. New York: Spectra Books.
 9. Sterling, B. (1989). *Islands in the Net*. New York: Ace Books. (Out of Print)
 10. *Mirrorshades: The cyberpunk anthology* (1986). In Sterling B. (Ed.),. New York: Ace Books.
- Out of Print titles were included as titles we would ideally wish to see in the collection.

Dead Girls and The Wonderland Gambit are recommended by the ALA reader's advisory. William Gibson is one of the pre-eminent authors of cyberpunk fiction and is referenced in numerous reviews of other author's works. Trouble and Her Friends by Lisa Mason is highly recommended by the ALA

reader's advisory as a suitable title for reluctant readers, new to cyberpunk. Ian McDonald is a rising star in the cyberpunk genre and distinguishes himself by setting his novels in the near future of what are currently considered emerging global economies. The 2004 novel River of Gods is McDonald's first cyberpunk novel. Altered Carbon is described as a cyberpunk, pulp fiction detective novel, and has earned a strong following while Software is an influential work within the cyberpunk genre and is referenced in reviews of other works.

Both Neal Stephenson and Bruce Sterling are among the most prominent authors of cyberpunk, along with William Gibson, and their titles should be automatically purchased. Snow Crash is a touchstone within the cyberpunk genre and is often used as a standard by which other works are judged. Lastly, the Sterling edited anthology Mirrorshades can provide the casual or curious reader with a good overview of the genre in its early years, as it contains short stories by the most prominent cyberpunk authors of the mid-eighties.

Fiction: New Titles

1. Gibson, W. (2010). *Zero history*. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons. (Sept. 7, 2010)
2. McDonald, I. (2009). *Cyberbad days*. Amherst: Pyr.
3. Rucker, R. *Ware tetralogy, The*. Prime Books. (March 29, 2010)
4. Williams, W. J. (2009). *This is not a game*. New York: Orbit.
5. Doctorow, C. (2008). *Little brother*. London: Harper Voyager.

Both William Gibson and Ian McDonald have been mentioned above and should be considered automatic purchases. The Ware Tetralogy is a collection of four popular cyberpunk novels, the first of which, Software, is recommended by the ALA reader's advisory. Walter Jon Williams' novel has been well reviewed by Publishers Weekly and explores the realm of alternate reality gaming and social networking in a cyberpunk context. Little Brother has won numerous awards, some of which are detailed on the publisher's U.S. website (Macmillan: *Little Brother*, 2008).

Print serials/eJournals: Selection Method

The review tools used to identify serials included *Magazines for Libraries*, *SFSite.com*, and *Locus Online*. *Magazines for Libraries* – a mainstay for library magazine selection – was a useful tool, as it had a section on Science Fiction and Fantasy and its reviews identified whether particular magazines were appropriate for public library collections. Similarly, *SFSite.com* maintains a list of print science fiction magazines. *Locus Online* is the website of *Locus Magazine*, a well-established science fiction and fantasy publication. *Locus Online* maintains a magazine checklist in their Science Fiction Index (the most current index is dated 2007).

Interestingly, our research revealed that many magazines and ezines specific to the cyberpunk culture are no longer active. While the majority of magazines selected are in the general genre of science

fiction, they offer a discussion of the subgenre cyberpunk and related topics. Publications for scholarly audiences, such as Extrapolation and Science Fiction Studies, were not included because NVC's collection development policy emphasizes popular reading items.

Print serials/eJournals: Recommended Titles

1. Analog Science Fiction & Fact, Dell Magazines
2. Fantasy & Science Fiction, Spilogale, Inc.
3. SFRevu, Independent <http://www.sfrevu.com/>
4. Tokyo Cyberpunk Quarterly, Northern Quarterly Publishing <http://tokyocyberpunk.com>
5. Infinity Plus <http://www.infinityplus.co.uk/index.htm>

Described by Magazines for Libraries as “one of the leading science fiction magazines today,” Analog offers short stories, book reviews, and letters to the editor (Katz, 2006, p. 452). Fantasy & Science Fiction includes short stories and novellas as well as reviews and columns. Magazines for Libraries states this magazine “deserves a place in libraries that support and serve readers” (Katz, 2006, p. 453). A search of the magazine's website (hosted by SFSite.com) reveals that cyberpunk items are regularly reviewed and written about. An online zine with an international scope, SFRevu is listed by both Locus Online and Sfsite.com. A search for cyberpunk items revealed substantial articles and reviews. Soon to be published, Tokyo Cyberpunk Quarterly will hopefully start addressing the dearth of cyberpunk specific magazines and zines. The publication promises to feature “cutting edge fiction from new and established authors from around the world” (“About TCQ,” 2010). The publication's website should be checked in May 2010 to assess its new content. Online since 1997, Infinity Plus publishes sci-fi, fantasy, and horror fiction, reviews features, and interviews. A search of the site confirms there is plenty of cyberpunk material including Behrke's original cyberpunk short story.

Graphic Novels: Selection Method

We decided to include a short section on graphic novels, due to the popularity of this format among science fiction and cyberpunk fans. The primary selection tool for this format was Michael Pawuk's (2007) Graphic novels: a genre guide to comic books, manga, and more. While this tool does not have a specific cyberpunk section, its science fiction section has multiple sub-headings that are appropriate for identifying cyberpunk graphic novels, including: “Computers and Artificial Intelligence,” “Psychic Powers and Mind Control,” and “Robots, Androids, and Cyborgs.” The items chosen create a select list, and are for adult or older teen readers.

Graphic Novels: Recommended Titles

1. Masamune, Shirow (1995-2009). *Ghost in the Shell*. Dark Horse Comics.
2. Otomo, Katsuhiro. (2000-2002). *Akira*. Dark Horse Comics.
3. Izubuchi, Yutaka and Momose, Takeaki. (2004). *RahXephon* VIZ Media, LLC.
4. Various. (2003-2005). *The Matrix Comics*. Burlyman Entertainment.

Pawuk (2007) describes Ghost in the Shell (a three volume series) as “one of the most influential manga cyberpunk stories” and recommends its placement in a core collection (p. 256). Akira, a Japanese anime, has won multiple awards and was the “inspiration for the cult-hit anime movie” of the same name (Pawuk, 2007, p. 250). RahXephon carries all the characteristics of the cyberpunk trope, including the futuristic setting of Tokyo and the subversive use of technology to overcome authority. Lastly, the Matrix Comics series is based on the cyberpunk Matrix trilogy of films.

Reference/Literary Criticism: Selection Method

We expanded the category of reference work to include literary criticism, to broaden the collection beyond fiction. NVC Library concentrates on collecting popular reading material. For this reason, we have kept our list to a minimum. We used the Internet Public Library’s Literary Criticism website to find literary criticism on specific cyberpunk authors. We also consulted Amazon.ca for a number of reference and literary criticism titles. There were, at first glance, appropriate selection tools available to us via UBC Library, however we felt that these tools were outdated for our purposes. For example, Keith Justice’s Science fiction, fantasy, and horror reference : an annotated bibliography of works about literature and film was published in 1989. Seeing that we were trying to expand the science fiction/cyberpunk collection to include literary criticism, we consulted both the UBC Library Catalogue and WorldCat. We checked titles found in the catalogues in Amazon.ca: Books to read the reviews and ensure that they were suitable for NVC Library’s collection.

Reference/Literary Criticism: Recommended Titles

1. Barron, N. (2005). Anatomy of Wonder: A Critical Guide to Science Fiction. Connecticut: Libraries Unlimited.
2. Butler, A.M. (2000). The Pocket Essential Cyberpunk. Harpenden: Pocket Essentials.
3. Cavallaro, D. (2000). Cyberpunk and Cyberculture: Science Fiction and the Work of William Gibson. New Brunswick: Athlone Press
4. Olsen, L. (1992). William Gibson: A Reader’s Guide. Maryland: Borgo Press.
5. Slusser, G. (1992). Fiction 2000: Cyberpunk and the Future of Narrative. Athens: University of Georgia Press.

We found a variety of good reference sources specifically on cyberpunk including The Pocket Essential Cyberpunk, Cyberpunk and Cyberculture: Science Fiction and the Work of William Gibson and Fiction 2000: Cyberpunk and the Future of Narrative. William Gibson: A Reader’s Guide is an out of print book, however, there is currently one copy available on Amazon.com, so we decided to include this on our list. Of the general SF sources on our list, Anatomy of Wonder: A Critical Guide to Science Fiction includes a chapter on cyberpunk.

E-resources

E-books: Selection Method

Fictionwise.com was used to identify cyberpunk ebooks. Recommended by SFSite.com, Fictionwise.com carries a large selection of science fiction ebooks, and its catalogue can be searched with the keyword cyberpunk. The fiction ebooks selected, positively received by reviewers and readers, complement and add diversity to the print book collection.

E-Books: Recommended Titles

1. Effinger, G.A.(2003) *Budayeen Nights*. E-Reads.
2. Morgan, R.K. (2004) *Broken Angels*. Random House Ballentine Books.
3. Morgan, R.K. (2005) *Woken Furies*. Random House Ballentine Books.

A recognized cyberpunk author, Effinger is a Hugo and Nebula winner. *Budayeen* is a collection of nine works, all set in the Muslim city of Budayeen in the near future. A Book List review asserts that “Effinger’s world will appeal to both fans of cyberpunk and fans of ... cultural SF” (Johnson, 2004). The inclusion of Morgan’s two titles will complete the Takeshi Kovacs Series that began with *Altered Carbon*, one of our Essential Title recommendations. According to reviews, this series has a strong fan following and Publisher’s weekly positively reviews all three novels, describing *Broken Angels* as “a superior, satisfying cyberpunk noir adventure” (“Broken Angels,” 2004).

Websites: Selection Method

In addition to the already discussed selection tools, we consulted the University of Wisconsin-Madison’s Scout Report and The Association of College and Research Libraries’ Science fiction and fantasy: A guide to resources on the Web to select appropriate cyberpunk websites. The ACRL guide was used with care as it was last published and updated in 2002. However, many of the resources identified in the guide remain current and useful. Many cyberpunk websites identified in some selection tools and via internet searches have not been updated in many years, therefore, despite being specific to the topic, we felt the currency was not acceptable and they were not included in our recommendations. Ultimately, we decided that the sites already identified as helpful selection tools would be the most appropriate. These sites are rich in cyberpunk materials and, most importantly, are current.

Websites: Recommended Sites

1. Locus Online <http://www.locusmag.com/>
2. Cyberpunk Review <http://www.cyberpunkreview.com/>
3. SFSite.com <http://www.sfsite.com>

Locus Online houses the digital version of Locus Magazine and much more, including indexes, links to blogs, and news. Magazines for Libraries states that *Locus* magazine is a “vital resource for authors, publishers and enthusiasts of Science Fiction and Fantasy” (Katz, 2006, p.454). A search of the

website demonstrates that this source is rich in cyberpunk reviews and other resources. Cyberpunk Review is a comprehensive, current, and active fan website that offers cyberpunk commentary and book and film reviews and additionally covers a diverse list of cyberpunk categories including games, history, arts, and essays. (Users should be aware that some of the language on the site may not be appropriate for children.) Based in Canada, SFSite.com has an editor and regularly contributing writers. It is full of current reviews of fiction and non-fiction works, interviews, and fiction experts. Cyberpunk material can be identified in a variety of ways including through a simple search or by accessing author lists.

Databases: Selection Method

Using selection tools and resources already discussed, as well as The University of Washington Holland Library's Science Fiction Research Bibliography, we identified two databases that can be useful to cyberpunk readers. Both are freely accessible via the Internet and offer information that is useful for readers wanting to discover new cyberpunk titles and supporting information.

Databases: Recommended Titles

1. Internet Speculative Fiction Database <http://208.100.59.10/cgi-bin/index.cgi>
2. The Science Fiction and Fantasy Research Database <http://sffrd.library.tamu.edu/>

The Internet Speculative Fiction Database is a collaborative bibliographic database that can be searched by title, author, series and more. Cyberpunk and post cyberpunk are active tags in the database. Readers can search for items by title, author, keyword, and more. One very useful feature of this database is its comprehensive author bibliographies. The Science Fiction and Fantasy Research Database is offered freely through the Texas A&M University Libraries and "provides indexing to articles, books, news reports, obituaries, motion picture reviews and other material about science fiction and fantasy" ("New Users," n.d.). Cyberpunk (and of course, Science Fiction) readers can use the database as a current awareness tool. While the database does contain information from scholarly resources, popular periodicals Science Fiction Times, Locus, and Science Fiction Chronicle are among the publications indexed. Cyberpunk and Cybernetics are subject headings in the database.

Other Resources (a/v, multimedia, microforms): Selection Method

In keeping with the library's collection development policy, we decided that motion pictures would be the most appropriate type of "other resource". We started by using Publisher's Weekly and Educational Media Reviews Online to identify some of the more popular cyberpunk titles. We also checked our chosen titles against those listed in WorldCat and The Cyberpunk Review. Though slightly dated, we also consulted SciFi on Tape by James O'Neill.

Other Resources (a/v, multimedia, microforms): Recommended Titles

1. Longo, R. (Director). (1995). *Johnny Mnemonic* [Motion Picture]. United States: Columbia TriStar Home Video.
2. Oshii, M. (Director). (1995). *Ghost in the Shell* [Motion picture]. United States: Manga Entertainment.
3. Otomo, K. (Director). (1988). *Akira* [Motion Picture]. United States: Pioneer Entertainment.
4. Scott, R. (Director). (1982). *Blade Runner* [Motion Picture]. United States: Warner Home Video.
5. Wachowski, A. and L. (Directors). (1999). *The Matrix*. United States: Warner Home Video.

These five selections constitute a core collection of cyberpunk films, beginning with Blade Runner, released in 1982 and spanning the late 1980s with Akira, through to the end of the 1990s (Ghost in the Shell and Johnny Mnemonic in 1995 and The Matrix in 1999).

Marketing and Promotion

William Gibson is due to release a new novel, Zero History, in September 2010. The release of this novel presents an opportunity to create a cyberpunk book display, featuring Zero History as the centrepiece. The display can also include classics by William Gibson and other seminal cyberpunk authors, as well as a small selection of cyberpunk non-fiction, and perhaps a serial publication and a movie title. A display will help distinguish cyberpunk as its own sub-genre of science fiction and will attract people already familiar with Gibson's work. The hope is that creating a display around this novel's release will also draw in interested patrons who may not be familiar with cyberpunk. Zero History will pique the curiosity of readers new to this subject area, and the display will encourage them to explore the sub-genre beyond William Gibson.

In addition to creating a cyberpunk display, the library could try to arrange a book signing with William Gibson when the novel is released. Though he is an internationally acclaimed author, the fact that his home is on Vancouver's North Shore may make him amenable to the idea. These two marketing ideas, whether employed separately or in tandem, will create awareness about cyberpunk, attracting devoted fans and patrons who may be cyberpunk fans in the making.

Evaluation of the Existing Collection and Recommendations

While the collection does not contain all the works of Gibson, Sterling, Stephenson, and McDonald it does contain at least some works of each of these authors. Other notable authors, such as Cory Doctorow, Nicola Griffith, and Richard K. Morgan are included in the collection. A comparison of our "wish list" to the current collection does reveal gaps in all categories except for motion pictures (Appendix B). For example, of the ten essential titles we have selected, only Neuromancer and Snow Crash by Gibson and Stephenson respectively appear in the collection.

In addition to our recommended ten essential fiction titles, there are some omissions in the collection that we believe should be addressed. To this end, we have created this additional list of additional titles for the library's consideration.

Fiction: Additional Recommended Titles

1. Edelman, D. L. (2006). *Infoquake*. Nottingham: Pyr.
2. Gibson, W. (1986). *Count zero*. New York: Arbor House.
3. Gibson, W. (1988). *Mona Lisa overdrive*. Toronto ; New York: Bantam Books.
4. Gibson, W. (1993). *Virtual light*. New York: Bantam Books.
5. Gibson, W. (1999). *All tomorrow's parties*. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons.
6. Mason, L. (1990). *Arachne*. New York: Harper Perennial.
7. Nylund, E. (1999). *Signal to noise*. New York: Eos.
8. Rucker, R. (1994). *The hacker and the ants*. New York: William Morrow.
9. Stephenson, N. (1995). *The diamond age*. New York: Bantam Books.
10. Sterling, B. (1994). *Heavy weather*. New York: Bantam Books.

Titles two through six were published before William Gibson was added to the NVC Library's automatic purchase list; we believe these titles should be included both because of the author's stature and to ensure complete book series within the collection: for the sake of providing breadth, only his first novel is listed as an essential title. Titles nine, and ten are by authors who could be placed on the library's automatic purchase list. Infoquake is a recent release that has garnered much positive attention. Titles six, seven, and eight are also highly recommended by the ALA reader's advisory and could arguably be included in an essential title list.

We feel that the inclusion of several of our identified reference titles, specifically The Pocket Essential Cyberpunk, Cyberpunk and Cyberculture: Science Fiction and the Work of William Gibson and Fiction 2000: Cyberpunk and the Future of Narrative, would be appropriate additions to the existing science fiction reference titles. In addition, the fact that William Gibson: A Reader's Guide is out of print would make it a valuable addition to the collection.

All five of our suggested cyberpunk films are currently in NVC Library's collection, and as such, we feel that they have a comprehensive film selection that meets the needs of the patron community.

The collection of serials, graphic novels, and Eresources is also relatively strong, considering that the cyberpunk is a sub-genre. The graphic novel collection could be improved by ensuring complete series of Akira and Ghost in the Shell are available. Additionally, the many digital resources identified in the document could be made available to library patrons through a subject resource guide. The electronic magazines, websites, and databases identified are all freely accessible and will prove valuable, especially as reader advisory tools for patrons and librarians.

To aid patrons searching for cyberpunk in the NVC Library's catalogue, we also recommend the adoption of the LOC subject heading cyberpunk with the appropriate subdivisions (i.e. Cyberpunk –

Fiction). While NVC Library does not do original cataloguing, perhaps a discussion can be held with the vendor who catalogues and process items for the library to see if cyberpunk headings can be applied from this point forward. Lastly, when evaluating the titles listed as cyberpunk, we discovered that LibraryThing users have inappropriately tagged some science fiction titles as cyberpunk. Conversely, “Little Brother” by Cory Doctorow should be identified as cyberpunk. These titles should not, at any point, receive a LOC cyberpunk subject heading:

1. Bester, A. (1956). *The stars my destiny*. New York: Vintage.
2. Dick, P. (1968). *Do androids dream of electric sheep?* New York: Vintage.
3. Dick, P. (1977) *A scanner darkly*. New York: Vintage.
4. Stephenson, N. (2004). *The system of the world*. New York: William Morrow.
5. Stephenson, N. (2009). *Anathem*. New York: Harper.
6. Vinge, J. (2004). *Dreamfall*. New York: Tor Books.

We do not recommend any weeding or deselection of the current NVC Library’s cyberpunk collection. The items available are appropriate, current and provide an excellent base on which to build an even stronger collection base on the suggestions above. Furthermore, no item in the collection meets the library’s weeding/deselection criteria. Lastly, it is our opinion that NVC’s Collection Development Policy and accompanying fiction collection scope notes are comprehensive, appropriate, and properly reflect the mandate and size of NVC Library.

Appendix A: Selection Tools Consulted

Title	Print/Electronic	Author	Publisher	Year
Amazon.ca	http://www.amazon.ca/			
Booklist	database via UBC			
Bookpage	http://www.bookpage.com/index.php			
Bookwire	http://www.bookwire.com/			
Collection Development Resources/Literature and Fiction/Science fiction and fantasy	http://www.sols.org/links/clearinghouse/collectiondev/literaturefiction.htm#Science		Southern Ontario Library Service	
Cyberpunk Review	http://www.cyberpunkreview.com/			
Cyberpunk Works	http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=List_of_cyberpunk_works&oldid=349595494		Wikipedia	2010
Educational Media Reviews Online	http://libweb.lib.buffalo.edu/emro/search.html			
Fictionwise.com	http://www.fictionwise.com/			
Graphic novels: a genre guide to comic books, manga, and more	print	Pawuk, Michael	Libraries Unlimited	2007
Internet Public Library Online Literary Criticism Guide	http://www.ipl.org/div/litcrit/guide.html			2008
Kirkus Reviews	http://www.kirkusreviews.com/kirkusreviews/index.jsp			
Locus Online	http://www.locusmag.com			
Locus Online Magazine Index	http://www.locusmag.com/index/yr2007/0start.htm			2007
Magazines for Libraries	print	Katz W. A. (Ed.)	CSA	2006
Publisher's Weekly	database via UBC			
Reference Guide to Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror	print	Burges s, Michael	Libraries Unlimited	1992
Science fiction and fantasy readers' advisory: The librarian's guide to cyborgs, aliens, and sorcerers.	print	Buker, D. M.	American Library Association	2002
Science Fiction Research Bibliography	http://www.wsu.edu/~brians/science_fiction/sfresearch.html		Holland Library, Washington State University	2008
Science fiction and fantasy: A guide to resources on the web	http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/publications/crlnews/2002/oct/sciencefiction.cfm	Arant, W., & Hall, H. W	C&RL News	2002
SFSite.com	http://www.sfsite.com/			
The Scout Report	http://scout.wisc.edu/index.php		University Wisconsin-Madison	
Wikipedia: List of Cyberpunk Works	http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=List_of_cyberpunk_works&oldid=349595494			
LibraryThing	http://www.librarything.com/			
Sci-fi on tape : a complete guide to science fiction and fantasy on video		O'Neill, James	Billboard Books	1997

Appendix B: Cyberpunk Wish List Compared to NVC Library Collection

Author Last	Title	Year	Publisher/ URL	Material Type	NVC	BC Digital Library
Barron, N	Anatomy of Wonder: A Critical Guide to Science Fiction	2005	Libraries Unlimited	Reference	no	
Butler, A.M.	The Pocket Essential Cyberpunk	2000	Pocket Essentials	Reference	no	
Calder, R.	Dead Girls	1995	St. Martin's Press.	Essential title	no	
Cavallaro, D.	Cyberpunk and Cyberculture: Science Fiction and the Work of William Gibson	2000	Athlone Press	Reference	no	
Chalker, J.L.	The Wonderland Gambit	1996	Del Rey	Essential title	no	
Doctorow, C.	Little Brother	2008	Harper Voyager	New title	yes	
Edelman, D.L.	Infoquake	2006	Pyr	Additional title	no	
Effinger, G.A.	Budayeen Nights	2003	E-Reads	E-book	no	no
Gibson, W.	Neuromancer	1984	Ace Books	Essential title	yes	
Gibson, W.	Count Zero	1986	Arbor House	Additional title	no	
Gibson, W.	Mona Lisa Overdrive	1988	Bantam Books	Additional title	no	
Gibson, W.	Virtual Light	1993	Bantam Books	Additional title	no	
Gibson, W.	All Tomorrow's Parties	1999	Putnam's Sons	Additional title	no	
Gibson, W.	Zero History	2010	Putnam's Sons	New title	no	
Izubuchi, Y. & Momose, T.	RahXephon	2004	VIZ Media	Graphic novel	no	
Longo, R. (Director)	Johnny Mnemonic	1995	Columbia TriStar Home Video	AV	yes	
Masamune, S	Ghost in the shell Vol 1	1995-2005	Dark Horse Comics	Graphic novel	yes	
Masamune, S.	Ghost in the shell Vol 2: Man-Machine Interface	1995-2005	Dark Horse Comics	Graphic novel	no	
Masamune, S.	Ghost in the shell Vol 3: 1.5	2008	Dark Horse Comics	Graphic novel	no	
Mason, L.	Arachne	1990	Harper Perennial	Additional title	no	
McDonald, I.	River of Gods	2004	Pyr	Essential title	no	
McDonald, I.	Cyberbad Days	2009	Pyr	New title	no	
Morgan, R.K.	Altered Carbon	2002	Del Rey	Essential title	no	
Morgan, R.K.	Broken Angels	2004	Random House Ballentine Books	E-book	Yes/print	no
Morgan, R.K.	Woken Furies	2005	Random House Ballentine Books	E-book	no	no
Nylund, E.	Signal to Noise	1999	Eos	Additional Title	no	
Olsen, L.	William Gibson: A Reader's Guide	1992	Borgo Press	Reference	no	
Oshii, M. (Director)	Ghost in the Shell	1995	Manga Entertainment	AV	yes	
Otomo, K.	Akira Vol 1	2000-2002	Dark Horse Comics	Graphic novel	no	
Otomo, K.	Akira Vol 2	2000-2002	Dark Horse Comics	Graphic novel	yes	
Otomo, K.	Akira Vol 3	2000-	Dark Horse Comics	Graphic novel	no	

		2002				
Otomo, K.	Akira Vol 4	2000-2002	Dark Horse Comics	Graphic novel	yes	
Otomo, K.	Akira Vol 5	2000-2002	Dark Horse Comics	Graphic novel	yes	
Otomo, K.	Akira Vol 6	2000-2002	Dark Horse Comics	Graphic novel	no	
Otomo, K. (Director)	Akira	1988	Pioneer Entertainment	AV	yes	
Rucker, R.	Software	1987	Eos	Essential title	no	
Rucker, R.	The Hacker and the Ants	1994	William Morrow	Additional title	no	
Rucker, R.	Ware Tetology	2010	Prime Books	New title	no	
Scott, R.	Trouble and Her Friends	1994	Tor Books	Essential title	no	
Scott, R. (Director)	Blade Runner	1982	Warner Home Video	AV	yes	
Slusser, G.	Fiction 2000: Cyberpunk and the Future of Narrative	1992	University of Georgia Press	Reference	no	
Stephenson, N.	Snow Crash	1992	Spectra Books	Essential title	yes	
Stephenson, N.	The Diamond Age	1995	Bantam Books	Additional title	no	
Sterling, B.	Islands in the Net	1989	Ace Books	Essential title	no	
Sterling, B.	Mirrorshades	1986	Ace Books	Essential title	no	
Sterling, B.	Heavy Weather	1994	Bantam Books	Additional title	no	
Various	The Matrix Comics	2003-2005	Burlyman Entertainment	Graphic novel	no	
Wachowski, A. & L. (Directors)	The Matrix	1999	Warner Home Video	AV	yes	
Williams, W.J.	This is Not a Game	2009	Orbit	New title	no	
	Analog Science Fiction & Fact		Dell Magazines	print serial	yes	
	Cyberpunk Review		www.cyberpunkreview.com	Website	NA	
	Fantasy & Science Fiction		Spilogale, Inc.	print serial	no	
	Infinity Plus		Independent / www.infinityplus.co.uk/index.htm	emagazine	no	
	Internet Speculative Fiction Database		http://208.100.59.10/cgi-bin/index.cgi	Database	NA	
	Locus Online		www.locusmag.com	Website	NA	
	SFRevu		Independent / www.sfrevu.com	emagazine	no	
	SFSite.com		www.sfsite.com	Website	NA	
	The Science Fiction and Fantasy Research Database		http://sfrd.library.tamu.edu	Database	NA	
	Tokyo Cyberpunk Quarterly		Northern Quarterly Publishing / http://tokyocyberpunk.com	emagazine	no	

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