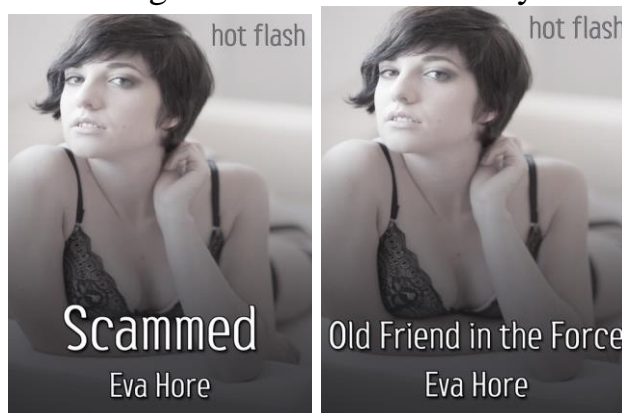Genre Selection (Samma's Method)

1. Create carts for each selection area (I cover 5)
2. Check for relevant sales categories (you might be surprised!)
    a. Sort by: Most Recent Street Date
3. Check Top 200 Titles not in collection
    a. Filter: Not In Collection, Format, Audience, Subject (genre), Language
    b. Filter by Street Date
4. Check Top 200 Series
    a. Filter by same as above.
5. Search by BISAC (Suggestion: keep a list handy of your basics)
    a. Searching by the BISAC tends to yield me the best results for current titles and I can easily see where and when I left off from the previous month when sorting by street date. You can also try selecting specific street dates as well.
    b. Example: Fiction / Science Fiction
    c. Filter: Format, Holdings, Language, Audience, Release Status
    d. I filter to show only released books as I don't generally do pre-orders. HOWEVER, if I know something is coming up for release in the coming days before the cart will be purchased, I may instead filter by Street Date
    e. Sort by: Most Recent Street Date
6. Don't be afraid of indie publishers (this is now a filter!)
    a. Be aware: Draft2Digital and Smashwords authors will sometimes release the same book to each distributor, at different price points.
    b. Ingram and Inscribe Digital are the other two big ones
    c. Many authors will price to incentivize libraries to purchase, so don't look down on low price points.
    d. Look for good cover art. Don't buy books with "stock covers".

Example: This author uses this cover for EVERY BOOK THEY

PUBLISH. Not only is that incredibly lazy, it also makes it very difficult for readers to know whether they have previously read the book before. (This happens to be an INscribe Digital author).

e. Many indie authors practice "rapid releasing". Make sure that you're buying up previous books in a series, OR going to check if you've purchased previous titles by an author who seems to have a lot of them.

f. Don't be afraid to go back and check if other books by an author are circulating. If the check-out seem lackluster for the author's backlog…don't buy more. The money is probably better spent elsewhere.

g. Many indie published books won't have reviews. GoodReads or Amazon are a decent place to check reviews (if you're inclined). I tend to go by quality of cover, backlog of books and circulation history, and my general knowledge of my areas as a personal interest.

7. Keep an eye out on who your pricey publishers are (Example: MacMillan is always $60 a copy, 24 Months-One User. Bold Strokes Books are always $35 but OC/OU).

8. Be aware of cross-over titles. Example: Carina Press publishes romance and specifically is publishing a lot of LGBTQIA romance BUT not all of it is, and not all of a series may be LGBTQIA. If you have the funds, err on the side of caution and throw it in your cart anyway.

9. Other General Tips
   a. Have a specific day you want to get your carts done by (I try for the 15th)
   b. Set aside a specific amount of time that you can focus on purchasing; I usually have 1 day a month that I spend most of the afternoon working on my Overdrive orders
   c. Don't be afraid to play with the filter functions to help you find what you need
   d. I keep a separate spreadsheet of my spending; this is helpful in case I forget to enter it in the official one OR if someone accidentally overwrites or clears my totals (this has happened to me!)
   e. People like series! Don't be afraid to throw older titles into your cart if they're going to help complete a series. A LOT of people like to start at the beginning.
   f. Keep a list of "go back and check" titles or authors that you take a chance on to see if your selection was a good one.