

John Rieder

The Mass Cultural Genre System

Science fiction, the detective story, the modern romance, the Western, horror, fantasy, and other similar genres, collectively comprise a field of genres, or a genre system, distinct from the pre-existing classical and academic genre system that includes the epic, tragedy, comedy, satire, romance, the lyric and so on; this more recently formed genre system is an important historical phenomenon worthy of, and in need of, further study.