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Children's literature online

E-books symbolize a paradigm shift that has taken place in society and in education. Information is no longer available only through print resources. In fact, a great deal of information is printed first electronically, and some information occurs only online. Teachers today must be able to access and utilize information in all formats.

The Internet hosts many valuable Websites on children's literature. Discovering the most useful ones can be frustrating and time consuming, especially as search engines are becoming more and more powerful. A recent search for the term *children's literature* on the search engine Alta Vista retrieved over 99,000 sites. Thus, selecting sites proves to be a challenge. The following Websites excel in presenting accurate and relevant information regarding children's literature.

CHILDREN'S LITERATURE WEBSITES

The children's literature web guide

www.acs.ucalgary.ca/~dkbrown/

Developed and maintained by Professor David K. Brown, University of Calgary, Alberta, CA, this site offers one of the best overall guides to Internet resources for children's literature. Professor Brown organizes Websites by topics. It features a plethora of lists—lists of award winning books, children's bestsellers, publishers and booksellers, organizations, etc. Under *More Links*, there are online children's stories and teaching ideas plus variations of the fairy tale **Cinderella**.

Carol Hurst's children's literature site

www.carolhurst.com/

This site features book reviews and professional articles. The extensive book review section describes books, includes a picture of the cover, links to further reading, and for certain books, has activities for teachers. An added feature, is that the books can be accessed by grade level. The professional articles are a compilation of previously published articles by

Carol Hurst, who is a storyteller, author and consultant on children's literature. A primary topic is relating children's literature to subject areas and includes lists of titles. An example, *Color & Children's Literature*, describes a rainbow bulletin board and lists titles to use with each of the six colors.

Vandergrift's children's literature page

www.scils.rutgers.edu/special/kay/childlit.html

Kay E. Vandergrift, professor and associate dean, Rutgers University, maintains a Website abundant with ideas and information on literature for children and young adults. Rather than list Websites, Professor Vandergrift narrates an overview of children and literature. Hyperlinks, throughout the narration, link to other sites or her compilations. In discussing picture books as a child's first look at other cultures, Vandergrift links to a list of books with positive multicultural images. There is a whole section on teaching the fairy tale **Snow White**. Also included are her syllabi for teaching many aspects of children's literature.

Database of award winning children's literature

www2.wcoil.com/~ellerbee/childlit.html

A site that creates a reading list tailored to your requirements. Do you need a book for a 10-12 year old that features a female, Chinese protagonist? This database will return a list of award winning books with that or any other criteria. In addition, you can list the award winning books by author or by year. The Caldecott winners may be easy to locate, but this database includes Carnegie and Kate Greenaway Medal winners, Mildred L. Batchelder, and Michael L. Printz awards, and many others. Lisa Bartle, librarian at California State University, San Bernardino, began this list with just the Newbery winners. It has grown to include over 25 awards.

Children's book council online

www.cbcbooks.org/

The *Teachers and Librarians Page* contains useful facts and information to encourage reading. Especially interesting is

75 Authors and Illustrators Everyone Should Know which gives a one-sentence description of themes or genre, lists two typical books and includes *Meet the Author/Illustrator*, which provides a one-page summary of an author. Although few are currently listed, it is very handy if you do not have access to library resources and may be more current than print editions of *Something About the Author*. This site also provides current information on National Children's Book Week.

The Horn Book, Inc.

www.hbook.com/

Publishers of **The Horn Book Magazine** offer a Website that provides information on the Boston Globe-Horn Book Awards. For the winners in year 2000, hot links jump to their descriptive, evaluative and well-written reviews of the winner and honor books. Also linked are lists, without annotation, of winners going back to 1967. A second notable resource is the *Parent's Page* that lists Children's Classics by presenting a brief annotation and often a picture.

American Library Association

Association for Library Service to Children

www.ala.org/alsc

This site provides links to the Newbery and Caldecott homepages. For the more recent years, a detailed review plus a mid-sized picture of the book cover brings this alive. Links are included for past winners, a list of winners and honor books, criteria for selection, etc. The site for Children's Notable Books lists the books with a brief description and no picture. Under *Special Projects*, ALSC collaborates with PBS *Between the Lions* by providing tip sheets and with RIF by providing a list of 100 Best Paperbacks accessible by age level.

Young Adult Library Services Association

www.ala.org/yalsa

Under *Winning Titles*, this site shares numerous lists such as Alex Awards, Best Books for YAs, and Popular Paperbacks. Some are just lists while others, such as Outstanding Books for College Bound, provide a one-sentence description plus a hyperlink to relevant online resources. At this site is a link to *Teen Read Week*, which provides current information on this fall event.

Libraryland

www.libraryland.com/

While focusing on providing reviews of children's books, this site provides information about an extensive number of authors and illustrators. It provides links to the actual author's homepage, to reviews of children's books, often with activities for teaching, and even links to professional resources such as the abstracts in the **ERIC** database.

CHILDREN'S LITERATURE LISTSERVS

Discussion groups, known as listservs, provide another venue to connect with children's literature. CHILD_LIT and KIDLIT-L are the two primary ones allowing participants to share information and keep abreast of important topics in children's literature. To participate, an individual must subscribe by sending a message to the listserv administrator, leaving the subject line blank, and typing in the body: subscribe [listname] [your first name] [your last name].

CHILD_LIT

listserv@email.rutgers.edu

Hosted at Rutgers University, this discussion group examines the theory and critical analysis of children's literature. A major goal is the sharing of ideas by researchers engaged in original scholarship. Topics include authorship, illustration, publication, promotion, readership, reception, criticism and literature's changing social functions and implications.

KIDLIT-L

listserv@bingymb.cc.binghamton.edu

Discussion group for teachers, librarians, or anyone interested in literature for children and young adults. The emphasis is more on study of children's literature and teaching, especially using children's literature in the classroom.

WEBSITES BY PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Literary organizations devoted to children's literature often design a Website to post information about their organization and their publications. A prime example is the Children's Literature and Reading Special Interest Group and its parent organization the International Reading Association.

Children's Literature and Reading Special Interest Group

www.csulb.edu/org/childrens-lit/

A wonderful resource at this site is the list of *Notable Books for a Global Society*, which is a listing of outstanding multicultural literature for grades K-12. For each year, from its inception in 1996, there is a listing of the selected works including author, title, publisher and date. Although the lists are not annotated, they do cite the month/year when the list appeared in **The Dragon Lode**. For a fee, a reprint of the annotated list can be obtained.

International Reading Association

www.reading.org/

A highlight of this website is the listing of Children's Choices, Teachers' Choices and Young Adults' Choices found by selecting *Choices Booklists*. The lists for 2000 have not yet been annotated. However, for 1999 and 1998, there are annotated lists that are a posting, provided in PDF format, of the pages from **The Reading Teacher**.