For the sixth consecutive year, the Los Angeles Unified School District Library Services, in partnership with the Children’s Literature and Reading Special Interest Group of the International Reading Association (IRA CL/R SIG), has selected the Los Angeles’ 100 Best Books.

The selections were made from 6,794 juvenile titles published in 2000 which are included on their Focus on Books CD-ROM software, Version 4, available in March 2002. Along with 34 searchable fields for nearly 50 thousand titles, this excellent resource categorically lists the IRA CL/R SIG Notable Books for a Global Society.

The annual LA 100 Best Books list is the result of thousands of hours of reading, writing, and researching. The primary staff contributors are nine educators who have over 200 years of teaching and book evaluation experience and knowledge that spans the curriculum. In writing the annotations, input was taken into consideration from hundreds of library media teachers, administrators, advisors, and other District staff
who shared these new books with their students and provided their personal reactions to the books.

Beyond the general criteria used for book evaluation in selecting their “priority one” books (those which belong in all libraries): that they correlate with state curriculum frameworks and further district curriculum goals and standards; reflect outstanding qualities including high literary merit, rich factual content, and aesthetic design; meet the informational and recreational reading needs of students; and reflect cultural, racial, and ethnic diversity, the staff also considered three additional criteria in selecting the 100 Best Books of 2000:

✓ model of a balanced library collection
✓ strong reader appeal
✓ originality of concept, approach, or point of view

This collection includes a range of genres, reading, and interest levels that span PreK-12. The books are rated for reading and interest levels, using the codes R = Reading level, I = Interest level, A = Adult, ELL = English Language Learner.

PICTURE BOOKS (12)

(Fiction books dependent upon the interaction of text and numerous illustrations to convey meaning)


Ogburn, Jacqueline. The Magic Nesting Doll. II. by Laurel Long. Dial, 2000. Unpaged. ISBN: 0803724144. R=Gr. 5-6, I=Gr. 4-10. Dolls. Fairy Tales. Fiction. Good vs. Evil. Folktales (Russian style). Read Aloud. Armed with only the magic nesting dolls her grandmother gave her before her death and a strong conviction to succeed, Katya lifts the wicked spell that has changed a prince and his kingdom to ice.


developmental stages of the formation of a limestone cave. The author's note commands man to protect and preserve these natural wonders.


LARGE-PRINT, EARLY READER BOOKS (1)
(Fiction books with large print and limited vocabulary, hence useful for the early reader)

EMERGENT-READER TRANSITIONAL BOOKS (1)
(Fiction books with numerous pictures in which the text conveys meaning independent of the illustrations; useful for the newly-fluent reader as a transition to longer books)

FICTION (12)
(Books of prose that may have some basis in fact but which are primarily a product of the author’s imagination)


ence Fiction. Ethics. Identity. Value of the Arts. An autobiographical treatise written from the viewpoint of 22-year-old Siri, a clone of her renowned concert pianist mother Iris who had Siri created when she was thirty and discovered she has multiple sclerosis.


STORY COLLECTION (1)

(A collection of fictional short stories by one or more authors)


200 - RELIGIONS (2)


Pourquoi Tales. Diversity Studies. Folklore Studies. The inquisitive son of the Aztec sun god falls in love with the daughter of the moon goddess when he disobeys his father. When the two lovers again disobey, they become mortal and at their deaths are transformed into mountains.


tion. Alphabetically portrays a variety of vegetables and fruits, displaying various behaviors and attitudes. Factual information included in Did you know? section.

**500 - PURE SCIENCES (11)**


Isadora, Rachel. *123 POP*! Ill. by author (Pop-art style). Viking, 2000. Unpaged. ISBN: 0670888591. R=Wordless, I=Gr. K-5. Counting. Wordless Books. Creative Writing. The numbers from 1-20 and 500, 1,000, and 1,000,000 are presented with bold, colorful illustrations. Each number is pictured with a common association, such as three monkeys depicting “see no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil.”


Relf, Patricia. *A Dinosaur Named Sue: The Story of the Colossal Fossil: The World’s Most Complete Rex*. Ill. with photographs. Scholastic, 2000. 64 pp. ISBN: 0439099854. R=Gr. 6-7, I=Gr. 5-A. Dinosaurs. Fossils. Paleontology. Tyrannosaurus Rex. This book presents Sue, the most complete Tyrannosaurus Rex skeleton ever found. Describes the world during Sue’s lifetime, the excavation, the 7-year legal dispute over ownership, and the restoration of the giant skeleton.

Takes readers on a trip around the world and to the northern and southern hemispheres to look at the weather that people of various cultures are experiencing during the month of March.


600 - APPLIED SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (8)


700 - ARTS (7)
Agee, Jon. Elvis Lives: And Other Anagrams. II. by author (black-and-white drawings). Farrar,
Anagrams. Word Games. Creative Thinking. This collection of English language anagrams provides an abundance of humor as well as a springboard to creative thinking. Children and adults alike will enjoy this play on terminology through hilarious drawings.


800 - LITERATURE (6)


900 - GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY (12)


LA best books 2000


920 - BIOGRAPHY - AUTOBIOGRAPHY (8)


crash, Landau chronicles the life of the son of the 35th president, focusing on his unique winning, unpretentious personality and his mother’s desire for as normal a life as possible for her children.


For the LAUSD Library Services complete 60-page 100 Best Books, 2000: *An Annotated Bibliography* which contains a comprehensive index of keywords, an author/title index, and an order list, send $18.00 to Bonnie O’Brian Nissman, Supervisor, Library Services, Los Angeles Unified School District, 1320 West Third Street, Los Angeles, CA 90017 (213-625-6486 or FAX 213-482-5137).

For LAUSD Library Services 100 Best Books gold stickers or Focus on Books, a CD-ROM which provides a comprehensive electronic data base of nearly 50,000 records searchable by author, title, curricular area, keywords, and more, contact Bonnie O’Brian Nissman at the address or phone numbers above.