



Karl E. Mundt Library & Learning Commons
Dakota State University, Madison, SD 57042 605-256-5203
Library home page: <http://www.departments.dsu.edu/library/>
Ask a librarian: <http://www.departments.dsu.edu/library/asklib.htm>

Finding Children's Literature in Libraries

Use the Library Catalog to locate children's literature.... Go to the "Database Quicklinks" dropdown menu in the upper right corner of the Library's home page and select the Library Catalog

A. To find a known **title**

1. Do a "**Title word/s**" search
2. Use keywords from the title
 - a. Example: To find *Little Red Riding Hood*, type:
red riding hood
or
little hood red
Or some other combination of keywords from the title
 - b. Example: To find *The Cat in the Hat*, type:
hat cat
or
cat hat
Or some other combination of keywords from the title

B. To find books by **author**

1. Do an "**Author word/s**" search
2. Use just the last-name or use names in any order
 - a. Example: To find books by **Dr. Seuss**, type:
seuss
 - b. Example: To find books by Beverly Cleary, type:
cleary beverly
or
beverly cleary
or
cleary

C. To find something **similar**

1. Having found an item that you like, use its subject headings to find other items with the same subject heading(s)
2. Example:
 - a. Do a "Title word/s" search for *Henry and Mudge and the Long Weekend*
 - b. Look at the subject headings assigned to this book.
 - c. Click on "Dogs--fiction" (and then on Search General Subject dogs—fiction) to link to other fictional books about dogs.

D. To find books by **subject**

1. Do a "Word/s Anywhere" search
2. Use words that describe the subject; then limit to the "juvenile" collection
 - a. Example: To find children's book about animals, type:
animals
Then, click on the "Limit Search" button and limit to the collection called "juvenile."

E. To find books by **genre**

1. Searching for children's literature in a certain category or genre (for example, realistic fiction) can be difficult when the genre name you are familiar with is not used as a subject heading.
2. To successfully search for literature by genre, you will need to know what subject headings are likely to have been assigned by the library. The library selects subjects from a subject heading list provided by the Library of Congress.
[Note: You can examine this list of subject headings to find alternative subject headings not mentioned below. See *Library of Congress Subject Headings*, a 5-volume set in the library, or the online version at <http://authorities.loc.gov/cgi-bin/Pwebrecon.cgi?DB=local&PAGE=First>]

3. **Picture books**

- a. There may be many picture-books that are not actually given the picture-book subject heading.
For example, *Anno's Journey* (at the Madison Public Library) has the subject headings **Europe--pictorial works** and **Stories without words**

- b. To find picture books, do a "Subject word/s" search of the following subject headings:

picture books for children
stories without words

4. Traditional literature such as **folktales, fairy tales, legends, etc.**

- a. Do a "Subject word/s" search of the following subject headings. [Note: where a subject may also apply to adult literature, use the "Limit Search" button to limit to the juvenile collection]

folklore
folktales
fairy tales
legends
mythology
fables

5. **Fantasy**

- a. Do a "Subject word/s" search of the following subject headings. [Note: where a subject may also apply to adult literature, use the "Limit Search" button to limit to the juvenile collection]

fantastic fiction
fantasy
science fiction

6. **Poetry**

- a. Do a "Subject word/s" search of the following subject headings. [Note: where a subject may also apply to adult literature, use the "Limit Search" button to limit to the juvenile collection]

children's poetry
poetry
[poetry combined with a subject -- example: **friendship and poetry**]

7. **Realistic fiction**

- a. There is no equivalent subject heading. Do a "Subject word/s" search that combines the topic with the headings **stories** or **fiction**.
[Note: where a subject may also apply to adult literature, use the "Limit Search" button to limit to the juvenile collection]

Some examples:

animals and stories

donkeys and stories
friendship and fiction
twins and fiction
self-perception and fiction
motorcycles and fiction

b. However, these searches could also produce items that are not realistic fiction, so you will have to use your knowledge of realistic fiction to judge the items found.

8. **Historical fiction**

a. The subject heading "historical fiction" is only used for materials *about* historical fiction. To find works of historical fiction, do a "Subject word/s" search using names of events or people with the heading **fiction**. [Note: where a subject may also apply to adult literature, use the "Limit Search" button to limit to the juvenile collection]

Some examples:

United States and civil war and fiction
slavery and fiction

9. **Biography**

a. The subject heading "Biography" is also used in the subject headings for items that are individual biographies, so to browse a list of biographies written for children, do a You will need to use a person's name as subject to find biographies of them. [The subject "biography" may sometimes be seen in items about

b. Do a "Subject word/s" search using the person's name.
[Note: where a subject may also apply to adult literature, use the "Limit Search" button to limit to the juvenile collection]

Some examples:

benjamin franklin
helen keller

c. Alternatively, you may search for items using the name of a profession. For example:

Astronauts

10. **Informational books** -- that is, nonfiction

a. Do a "Subject word/s" search on the subject.
[Note: where a subject may also apply to adult literature, limit to children's lit by adding the term "juvenile" or by limiting to the juvenile collection]

Some examples:

moon and juvenile
frogs and juvenile
united states and revolution and battles and juvenile