

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Graduate School of Library and Information Science

Library and Information Science Building  
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**Fact Sheet: The Center For Children's Books (CCB)**  
Founded 1945 at the University of Chicago; Relocated to UIUC 1992

- Mission:** The Center for Children's Books is dedicated to the evaluation and collection of children's literature. Thousands of new titles for children are published each year, but school and public library collection developers, teachers, and parents have limited purchasing ability. Selection of quality, worthwhile books for children can be ensured by reading *The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books* and by visiting the center's examination collection.
- Services:** *Evaluation.* Eleven times each year, the center produces *The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books*, which is devoted entirely to the review of current books for children. Concise summaries written by a review team of children's literature experts provide information on content, reading level, quality of format, suggestions for curricular use, and critical evaluations of strengths and weaknesses. Most books are reviewed from publisher's galley proofs, providing up-to-date coverage of the most current children's literatures. Organization and individual subscriptions available. The center's Web site receives more than 3,000 hits per month; content features the *Bulletin* and separate, but related, materia about children's literature and the center.
- Examination.* The center keeps an examination collection of more than 14,000 children's titles, plus an additional 800 professional and reference books on children's literature. The center is open weekdays for scholarly and public use of the non-circulating collection. Future goals include Web access to the catalog of the center's examination collection and to archived, searchable, full-text reviews from the *Bulletin*.
- Leadership and education.* Combining their strengths in traditional library research and current technology, center staff and affiliated faculty direct university seminars and edit proceedings on topics like "Evaluating Children's Books" and "Storytelling—From Fireplace to Cyberspace"; teach graduate and undergraduate courses on children's literature; teach storytelling methods and discuss children's literature at seminars, conferences, schools, libraries, and other public service venues including radio programs, teleconferences, and newspapers; assist with review information in censorship debates; conceive and produce additional educational materials, such as the *Storytelling Review* in press in 1998.
- Clients:** *Bulletin* subscriptions are purchased by more than 4,000 parents, teachers, librarians, and others interested in new children's books. The examination collection is frequented by graduate and undergraduate library and literature students and professors, and is open to the public. (The collection will be more accessible when it is integrated into the Graduate School of Library and Information Science building in 2000.) Educators and librarians from across the nation attend center-sponsored seminars and conferences.
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