
NEWS & NOTICES

Australian Children's Literature Digital Resources Project

The online database *AustLit: the Australian Literature Resource* (<http://www.austlit.edu.au/>) has recently secured funding from the Australian Research Council to embark on a number of projects to enhance the services provided to researchers, teachers and the general public. Among these is the **Australian Children's Literature Digital Resources Project**, which will form a key outcome of the AustLit children's literature research community. Led by researchers and librarians at Queensland University of Technology, Deakin University, The University of Queensland, and University of Sydney, the project aims to digitise approximately 1000 early Australian children's literature alongside relevant critical works over the next two years. Access to AustLit is via subscription, but there is a free browse facility.

The purpose of the project is to provide a centralised access point to information about Australian children's literature and writers and a growing body of full text resources. As well as digitising primary and secondary material, the project will locate and provide pathways to existing online resources (e.g. Project Gutenberg and the Internet Archive) to expand the usefulness of AustLit's Children's Literature subset. One important aspect of the project will be a survey of narrative texts spanning the arrival of Europeans in Australia to 1945 across a range of forms and formats, including picture books and novels that contain

significant Australian content. This survey will complement the work undertaken by Deakin University on indexing and digitising the Victorian School Readers.

The completed project will be a valuable research tool for students and academics working in children's literature and other related disciplines.

The project team invites feedback on current or anticipated research within our scope to supplement our own survey of the topic. For further information, please contact the Project Officer – Amy Cross: Ph: +61 7 3138 3795 or Email: amy.cross@qut.edu.au

IRSCL Congress 2009

The 19th Biennial Congress of the International Research Society for Children's Literature will be held at Frankfurt, Germany, August 8-12, 2009. For information go to the Congress website: <http://www.irscl2009.de/jom/index.php>

Astrid Lindgren: Internationality and Intermediality International Conference

Växjö University, Sweden, 18-20 September 2008

Speakers include Eva-Maria Metcalf, Maria Nikolajeva and Boel Westin. For information go to: <http://www.vxu.se/hum/forskn/konferens/LindgrenIntermediality/>