



Emotion, response & recommendation

The role of affect in children's book reviews in a digital library

Sheri Massey, Ann C. Weeks & Allison Druin
HCIL Symposium 2006
International Children's Digital Library
www.childrenslibrary.org



INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S DIGITAL LIBRARY



Overview

www.childrenslibrary.org

ICDL Demonstration

Simple Search

[ICDL Home](#) > [Read books!](#) > Simple Search

Language:
myICDL Account: [Register](#) / [Sign in](#)

More Choices >

Featured Books

Show books

[Axle the freeway cat](#) [The Iliad for boys and girls](#) [Skeleton man](#)

Keywords: in

Three to Five
Six to Nine
Ten to Thirteen
Make Believe Books
True Books

Rainbow Covers
Red Covers
Orange Covers
Yellow Covers
Green Covers
Blue Covers

Kid Characters
Real Animal Characters
Imaginary Creature Characters
Picture Books
Chapter Books

Short Books
Medium Books
Long Books
Recently Added Books
Award Winning Books
Fairy Tales and Folk Tales

INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S DIGITAL LIBRARY



Research

www.childrenslibrary.org

How might emotional responses to literature inform the development of digital collections for children?

Book reviewing

- Peer recommendations
- Preferences
- Sense of ownership
- Thoughts and feelings

Reader response

- Feelings, beliefs, text, context
- Change frequently and dramatically
- Perceptions, interpretations, and evaluations of the literature.

INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S DIGITAL LIBRARY



Background

www.childrenslibrary.org

Participants and locations

- 3-year longitudinal study
- 12 children, parents, library media specialists, teachers, administration
- 4 locations: New Zealand, Honduras, Germany, USA



Germany



USA



New Zealand



Honduras

INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S DIGITAL LIBRARY




Methodology

www.childrenslibrary.org

Book review forms

1. What is the most **important** thing to you in this book?
2. How does this book make you **feel**?
3. How would you **rate** this book (3, 4 or 5 stars)?
5. Draw a **picture** about something you read or how you felt after reading the story.

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

DIGITAL LIBRARY BOOK REVIEW 

TITLE: Going Back Home AUTHOR: Toyomi Igus

WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING TO YOU IN THIS BOOK?
WHY?
The pictures because I think that they are beautifully drawn and behind each picture a story is told.

HOW DOES THE BOOK MAKE YOU FEEL?

☐ HAPPY
☒ SAD
☐ SCARED
☐ FUNNY
☐ OTHER:
Type a different feeling here.

THIS BOOK MADE ME FEEL THIS WAY BECAUSE... Some parts were a bit emotional.

HOW WOULD YOU RATE THIS BOOK (CHOOSE ONE):

☐ ★★★★★
☒ ★★★★★
☐ ★★★★★

I CHOSE THIS RATING BECAUSE ...
The story could be explained a bit more.

IF I COULD ADD A BOOK TO THE DIGITAL LIBRARY, I WOULD ADD:
Crummy Mummy And Me
I WOULD ADD THIS BOOK BECAUSE...
It is a very funny book

ON A SEPARATE PAPER, DRAW A PICTURE ABOUT SOMETHING YOU READ OR HOW YOU FELT AFTER READING THE STORY.

INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S DIGITAL LIBRARY



Methodology

www.childrenslibrary.org

Data analysis

- Pre-selected books
 - Non-fiction
 - Unfamiliar language
 - Strong emotional response
 - Chapter book
- 68 reviews
- Content analysis of reviews and drawings



INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S DIGITAL LIBRARY



Discussion

www.childrenslibrary.org

Books...

- Mixed emotions
- Text in a familiar language
- Translation or copies of books in multiple languages

“ ...if the book was written in English
so I could understand it then I'm sure
it would be much better. ”

INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S DIGITAL LIBRARY



Discussion

www.childrenslibrary.org

Teaching...

- Create spaces for sharing
- Teach children to value and share emotional responses to literature

“ I find the story *sad* because war breaks out and the storks must go away. At the end I was *glad* because the storks could go home again. ”

INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S DIGITAL LIBRARY



Discussion

www.childrenslibrary.org

Systems...

- Practical considerations
- Shorter picture books vs. longer chapter books

“ The story was all right, if a little
long to read on the computer. ”

INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S DIGITAL LIBRARY



Discussion

www.childrenslibrary.org

Systems...

- Personal emotions vs. recommendation
- Recommendation → search facet

“*Happy*... because of the pictures...everybody was smiling and everything worked out well...
The pictures were good but for me they didn't really tell a story.”

INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S DIGITAL LIBRARY



Discussion

www.childrenslibrary.org

Systems...

Book

Author

Title

Subject

Reviewer

Age

Grade

Country

Feeling
Rating

Reader

Age

Grade

Country

INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S DIGITAL LIBRARY



Take Home

www.childrenslibrary.org

School and digital libraries

- Books in multiple languages, from diverse cultures, in various formats
- Teach children to value and share emotional responses to literature
- Systems that support peer reviewing, faceted recommendations, and reading longer chapter books

INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S DIGITAL LIBRARY



Thank you

www.childrenslibrary.org

Thank you!

- University of Maryland College of Information Studies
- University of Maryland Human-Computer Interaction Lab
- Kidsteams: Germany, Honduras, New Zealand, USA
- National Science Foundation
- Institute of Museum and Library Services
- Microsoft Research
- Kara Reuter, CLIS Ph.D. candidate

INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S DIGITAL LIBRARY



Q&A

www.childrenslibrary.org

Questions?