Emotion, response & recommendation

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

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HCIL Symposium 2006
International Children’s Digital Library
www.childrenslibrary.org
ICDL Demonstration
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.
Participants and locations

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

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.
Data analysis

- Pre-selected books
  - Non-fiction
  - Unfamiliar language
  - Strong emotional response
  - Chapter book

- 68 reviews

- Content analysis of reviews and drawings
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.”
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.
”
Systems…

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

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

- Book
  - Author
  - Title
  - Subject
- Feeling
- Rating
- Reader
  - Age
  - Grade
  - Country

Reviewer
  - Age
  - Grade
  - Country
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
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
Questions?