

Beyond the Book website news archive

ANNA BURRELLS JOINS BEYOND THE BOOK

30/9/05

We are delighted to welcome Anna as our part-time Administrative Assistant on the project. Anna brings both impressive administrative expertise and a genuine interest in reading to Beyond the Book. She is currently working on her PhD in the Department of English at the University of Birmingham. Within the field of European Modernisms, Anna's research interrogates notions of technology within literature of the inter-war period.

TORONTO PROJECT

2/10/05

Julie Van Huyse, our research assistant for the pilot portion of Beyond the Book, is busily planning her own One Book, One Community project. Julie is an elementary education teacher—second grade, to be exact—in an area of Toronto that is home to many new Canadian immigrants. Her One Book project aims to help her students' parents get involved in their children's lives and school through reading the same book. Currently working hard on securing funding, Julie hopes to have the inaugural project up and running by next year.

CHICAGO READS JANE AUSTEN

10/10/05

The ninth "One Book, One Chicago" selection was announced in September: it is Jane Austen's "Pride & Prejudice". Austen's novel is the first non-American book chosen for the event which has previously urged Chicago-ans to read, among others, Lorraine Hansbury's *A Raisin' in the Sun* and Stuart Dybek's *The Coast of Chicago*. What will the residents of Chicago make of this very English eighteenth-century novel? Beyond the Book aims to find out! Watch this space, as we venture to discover how and why *Pride and Prejudice* gets Chicago talking Austen. Living in Chicago? Please take part in our on-line questionnaire!

KENWOOD ACADEMY HIGH ROCKS OUR WORLD!

20/10/05

Thanks to the wonderful students in Mayor Daley's Teen Book Club at Kenwood Academy High School in Hyde Park, Chicago, for sharing their book discussion with us this week. What a great club! The frank interpretations of Austen's novel were refreshing, the intelligence displayed impressive, and the hospitality humbling.

ANOUK LANG JOINS BEYOND THE BOOK

31/10/05

Welcome Anouk! Anouk takes up her full-time position as the Postdoctoral Fellow on the project on 1 November. Anouk brings an impressive set of skills to *Beyond the Book*, including her fluency in French, her experience of working with textual data using quantitative software, and her knowledge of systemic functional linguistics which was developed by her compatriot, Sydney linguist Michael Halliday.

Anouk recently submitted her PhD for examination at the University of Cambridge. Entitled "Reading Nation, race and gender in Canadian and Australian modernist poetry, 1925-1985," Anouk's dissertation adopts a cultural materialist approach to her investigations of literary production in the two nation-states. In particular, she critiques the poetry of Canadian civil rights activist Frank Scott, and that of the Australian environmentalist and Aboriginal rights campaigner Judith Wright.

COUNTDOWN TO CANADA READS

29/11/05

On December 5 the CBC are due to announce the titles and the names of the celebrity participants for Canada Reads 2006, so watch this space for further details! (or check www.cbc.ca/canadareads).

CANADA READS: BOOK TITLES

5/12/05

And the books that "Canada Reads" will be featuring in 2006 are:

Deafening by Frances Itani

Cocksure by Mordecai Richler

Three Day Road by Joseph Boyden

Rooms for Rent in the Outer Planets: Selected Poems, 1962-1996 by Al Purdy

A Complicated Kindness by Miriam Toews

This is only the second time that poetry has been included in the list - the first occasion was the 2002 selection of George Elliott Clarke's long poem Whylah Falls.

You can find out more on the books at www.cbc.ca/canadareads/books.html, and read about the five panelists at www.cbc.ca/canadareads/panelists.html.

THE ADVENTURE CONTINUES...

5/1/06

Bristol's Great Reading Adventure - the first "One Book, One Community" to be organized in the UK to the best of our knowledge - has run successfully for 3 years. On 5 January 2006, the Adventure continues, this time with a program which will run throughout the south west region of the UK. Keep up to date with events via www.swreads.com.

The organizers have selected the Jule Verne classic *Around the World in Eighty Days* as a tie-in to the Brunel bi-centennial celebrations, and hope to involve readers of all ages in activities relating to the book, its themes and ideas.

CHICAGO QUESTIONNAIRE: WE HAVE A WINNER!

17/1/06

We are happy to announce that the winner of our *One Book One Chicago* questionnaire prize is **Arlecia**, from Chicago. She wrote:

" ... when I was a kid reading was my escape. I read all the time so that I would not be so alone. I was the baby of the family and I really had no one but books to keep me company. Even now, I read everything, I mean everything. Books are knowledge and knowledge is power."

LATEST NEWS ON ONE BOOK, ONE CHICAGO

18/1/06

The next book announcement for **One Book, One Chicago** is scheduled for 15 Feb ... watch this space!

Also of interest - Oprah's Book Club has just selected Elie Wiesel's *Night*, the novel which was chosen as the Spring 2002 selection for **One Book, One Chicago**.

AMY LAURENT JOINS BEYOND THE BOOK

23/1/06

We are glad to welcome Amy Laurent to the Beyond the Book research team. Amy, who is co-ordinating activities for us in Bristol, is a Fine Art graduate practising in Bristol with a great love of books and writing.

CHICAGO AND MOSCOW READ TOGETHER

24/2/06

Sister cities Chicago (USA) and Moscow (Russia) will be reading together this Spring. Chicago Public Library will host an international online book club as part of their Spring 2006 "One Book, One Chicago" program:

"This spring, Chicago and its sister city, Moscow, Russia, will join together for the first international One Book, One Chicago, as residents of both cities read and discuss Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*. Like Chicago, Moscow will present book discussions and dramatic readings featuring this book throughout April." (Richard M. Daley, Mayor of Chicago)

BIGGEST-EVER BOOK GROUP ATTEMPT!

24/2/06

Bristol: Thursday 2nd March @ 7pm. Borders bookshop in downtown Bristol will make a world-record attempt to create the largest book group ever. Anyone who wishes to participate should go along and be prepared to talk about "Around the World in 80 Days" for 5 mins. Organizers claim that you don't need to have read the book, just be prepared to talk about it! This exciting event ties into the "Great Reading Adventure" 2006.

NEA ANNOUNCES THE BIG READ

28/2/06

The National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest in the USA is funding 10 communities to participate in "One Book, One Community" programs as part of a pilot project to promote reading. The NEA project is named "The Big Read." The activities are scheduled to take place from February to May 2006, including read out-loud marathons, film series and book discussions. The program responds to the NEA's 2004 study "Reading at Risk" which showed that literary reading in the US "is in steep decline." NEA Chairman Dana Gioia hopes that a community-wide reading program can "restore reading to its essential place in American culture." The 10 locations will focus on one of four classic novels that have been chosen for "The Big Read": "Fahrenheit 451", "The Great Gatsby", "Their Eyes Were Watching God", and "To Kill A Mockingbird."

PROJECT TEAM GROWS WITH A DASH OF HALIFAX FLAVOUR

24/3/06

We welcome three new members of the project team, Canadians Cathy Collett, Kimberly Walsh and Lesley Mulcahy, who will be working with DeNel in Halifax.

Cathy Collett is currently finishing an Honours Thesis in English at Mount Saint Vincent University. She is the president of the English Society, teaches piano to thirty children and adults a week, and is the Sunday School Coordinator at Grace United Church. Next year Cathy will be moving to Hamilton to complete her MA at McMaster University.

Kimberly Walsh is a mature student entering her final year in the bachelor of public relations (co-operative education) at MSVU. Her prior education includes the University of Toronto where she pursued English and political science. Kimberly is also the founder and managing editor of Halifax's only non-profit literary journal All Rights Reserved.

Lesley Mulcahy hails from Newfoundland where she studied at Memorial University. An avid reader, Lesley enjoys all things books. Along with Kimberly, Lesley is a graduating student in Public Relations. She is also part of the founding team of the literary journal All Rights Reserved.

LOVE LIBRARIES?

27/3/06

...we do. Post your thoughts about libraries at www.lovelibraries.co.uk. This campaign, a partnership among UK libraries, the Reading Agency (a not-for-profit organisation that aims to get more people reading via use of libraries) and several publishers, includes a makeover of 3 libraries in need of some TLC. The makeover will take 12 weeks and can be tracked on the website.

BEYOND THE BOOK THANKS CANADIAN READERS

27/4/06

We're delighted with the overwhelming enthusiasm with which Atlantic Canadians have responded to our call for discussion group participants. All our Halifax groups are now full, although we do still have some room in Wolfville and PEI. We apologise to those Haligonians who wanted to take part and now won't be able to. We hope that you'll send us your thoughts and comments via our online questionnaire instead. This can be accessed through the large Q to the right of our main screen. You're also welcome to email us your thoughts at beyondthebook@contacts.bham.ac.uk.

BRISTOL QUESTIONNAIRE WINNER!

7/5/06

Congratulations to the winner of our Bristol survey prize: Samantha, from Portishead, just west of Bristol. Isambard Kingdom Brunel, the explorer whose 200th anniversary is celebrated by Bristol's Great Reading Adventure, had numerous links with Portishead. His ship the S.S. Great Western sailed past the headland of Portishead on her maiden voyage. Samantha described the Great Reading Adventure as helping to develop regional identity and a sense of heritage, and also encouraging people to use their library. She receives a book voucher for £50.

NEXT STOP: VANCOUVER

12/5/06

Beyond the Book team members are pleased to announce that Lori Thiessen has joined the project team in beautiful Vancouver, British Columbia. As our new field research assistant, Lori is busy participating in One Book, One Vancouver (OBOV) events and recruiting focus group and online survey participants.

Lori recently graduated from Simon Fraser University with a BA in English and Publishing. Her honours essay was about a fourteenth-century English mystic named Margery Kempe. Lori brings a wealth of organizational skills, experience in publishing, and an infectious bright spirit.

Lori's personal motto? "There is no such thing as too many books--only too few bookshelves." We couldn't agree with you more. Welcome, Lori.

WATERLOO REGION ANNOUNCES ITS FIFTH PICK

18/5/06

Waterloo Region has just announced its latest reading selection for 2006 -their fifth year! This year OBOC organisers are encouraging everyone to read *Three Day Road* by Joseph Boyden. For more info on the book and author, visit the project web site at www.therecord.com/onebook. It looks like the folks in Ontario are planning lots of events around this wonderful book, including a blog so readers can share their thoughts.

And, because we are proud supporters of librarians and readers of all ilks, check out the new reference book *One Book, One Community* (Waterloo Region) project chair Sharron Smith has co-authored: *Canadian Fiction A Guide to Reading Interests*. Here is a link to the publisher's site <http://www.greenwood.com/catalog/LU1664.aspx>.

CANADA READS WINNER

22/5/06

All of us on the Beyond the Book project have been amazed by the response to our Canada Reads survey. Over one thousand Canadians took the time to tell us their thoughts on reading and the CBC programme Canada Reads. Our winner this time is Jody, from Toronto. Her recommendation for the kind of book that is best for Canada Reads? 'Fiction with a contemporary sense of the world (local, cosmopolitan, curious, and compassionate)'.

Our Canada Reads survey has now closed, but Canadian residents who live in Vancouver and the surrounding areas are eligible to participate in the next one. Click on the Questionnaire link above to get started!

CONFERENCE NEWS

20/6/06

We are excited to launch our conference pages on this website with the news that Professor Janice Radway (Duke University, USA) has agreed to be the keynote speaker at our conference on contemporary cultures of the book, 1-2 September 2007. Please explore behind the 'Conference' icon button to find out more!

MORE CONFERENCE NEWS

23/6/06

We are thrilled that Elizabeth Long has agreed to be a keynote speaker at our conference in September 2007. Professor Long's detailed study of women's book groups in Houston, Texas, *Book Clubs: Women and the Uses of Reading in Everyday Life* (2003) has been an important influence upon the design and methodology of the BTB project. Find out more about both of our keynote speakers on the conference pages on this site.

CROSSROADS IN CULTURAL STUDIES CONFERENCE

18/7/06

As our research project nears the end of its first year, we are presenting some of our findings at the Crossroads in Cultural Studies Conference, which this year is being held at İstanbul Bilgi University. Our panel, **Reading Matters: The Commodification of Contemporary Book Cultures in the UK & North America**, comprises a paper from Danielle Fuller on *One Book, One Chicago*, another from DeNel Rehberg Sedo on the business of book clubs, and a third from Anouk Lang on *Canada Reads*.

ONE BOOK ONE VANCOUVER WINNER

18/7/06

One of the (many) perks of this project is that at regular intervals we get to make people happy by bestowing book vouchers upon them. Our most recent winner is Colleen from Vancouver, who filled out our One Book One Vancouver questionnaire. Like many of the readers we've met both virtually and in person, Colleen is a member of a book club, and finds this the best way to hear about new titles. Reading has been a hobby for her since she was very young - an enjoyable way to spend time and to learn about new things.

A BIG THANK-YOU!

2/8/06

The BtB team would like to thank everyone who has worked with us during project year 1: transcribers, translators, fieldwork assistants, support staff at the Universities of Birmingham & Mount Saint Vincent Univ., our Advisory Board and Nemisys, the creators of this website -- whose names appear in the 'About Us' section of this website. At several points in time, the BtB team has consisted of 10 people working together across the Atlantic in various geographic locations. We couldn't have completed our year 1 goals without all of these talented people: thanks to you all!

BIRMINGHAM BOOK FESTIVAL 2006

4/8/06

4-13 October 2006. Speed reading groups, an all-night writing workshop, events on canal boats and in warehouses, plus many special guests link Brum's Book Festival to the places and communities which make up our city. Beyond the Book will be investigating how the Festival brings reading alive and we hope to discover who takes part - and why!

Brummies: watch this space to find out how you can participate in the next phase of our research.

www.birminghambookfestival.org

THE READING EXPERIENCE DATABASE NEEDS YOU

4/9/06

Visitors to the Beyond the Book website may be interested in the Reading Experience Database, a project organised jointly by the Open University and the Institute of English Studies, University of London, and funded by the AHRC. The RED research team is looking for accounts of the reading experiences of British subjects and overseas visitors to Britain from 1450 to 1945, with the aim of building up a collection of more than 25,000 accounts of these reading experiences - recorded engagements with written or printed texts, beyond the mere fact of possession. Over time, this collected information will be of interest to researchers and scholars in a number of different disciplines (History, English Studies, Sociology, Anthropology), and also to anyone interested in the history of reading.

They write:

RED will only ever be as good as the material that goes into it. And this is where the wider community of readers comes in. If, in the course of your own reading (of biographies, collections of letters, autobiographies, diaries, memoirs and so on), you come across a description of reading from any historical period between 1450 and 1945 (and this can be as cursory as, for example, finding a simple record of an identifiable reader having read a particular book, the newspaper, or an advertisement, or as extensive as a diary which records a person's thoughts on what they read every day), please make a note of it, and pass on that information to us. If you have family records (letters, diaries etc) which mention the reading of your ancestors, we are extremely interested in hearing about these. Please contact either Katie Halsey (Katie.Halsey@sas.ac.uk) or Rosalind Crone (R.H.Crone@open.ac.uk), or fill in one of our online forms, available at <http://reading.open.ac.uk:8282/part1.asp>.

If you're interested in participating, a flyer with more information may be downloaded from our Research Results section. There is also a little more information in our Links section.

WAYNE WIEGAND WEBCAST INTERVIEW ON ONE BOOK ONE COMMUNITY EVENTS

5/9/06

Listen to Wayne Wiegand, F. William Summers Professor of Library and Information Studies at Florida State University, talk about the importance of research into One Book One Community events in a webcast interview with Charley Seavey in August 2006. As well as One Books, they discuss the need to undertake research into libraries in order to understand reading, and some of the reasons to take popular

reading seriously. The webcast is one of a series on the LiS Interactive Webcasting page at the School of Information Science and Learning Technologies at the University of Missouri-Columbia. You can access the interview on the LiS page [here](#).

BIRMINGHAM BOOK FESTIVAL - SURVEY WINNER

29/11/06

Our Birmingham Book Festival survey is now offline, and Christine from Sutton Coldfield is our winner. Christine is a wired reader: she belongs to an online book group and gets some of her book recommendations from Amazon, but she's also in a face-to-face book group too and in fact started up a book group at her former school. A £50 book e-voucher is winging its electronic way to her.

TWO NEW TEAM MEMBERS

2/1/07

Welcome to Sara Beadle and Claire Brown who have both come on board as fieldwork assistants for BtB. Sara will be working with us in Birmingham and Claire in Liverpool during January and February 2007. Both have a strong commitment to the promotion of diverse reading cultures. Sara has been involved in the organisation of the Birmingham Book Festival and many other book events in the West Midlands. Claire has been a volunteer for 'Liverpool Reads', advertised poetry events for *Northend Writers*, and currently facilitates a reading group for people with early dementia.

WELCOME ROSS!

27/1/07

Ross Cohen is working as our new fieldwork assistant in Liverpool, as 'Beyond the Book' gears up to investigate Liverpool's participation in the 'Small Island Read 2007.' Ross, a native Liverpoolian, is a graduate of the American & Canadian Studies department at the University of Birmingham and is hoping to go to film school in the US later this year. His graduating film from ACS about the Beatles in America gained first class marks, and included interviews with many people closely associated with the band, including their former tour manager.

'SMALL ISLAND' READ

23/2/07

The biggest UK citywide reading event is currently underway in Liverpool, Bristol, Hull and Glasgow where Andrea Levy's 'Small Island' and Benjamin Zephaniah's 'Refugee Boy' have been selected as featured books. For information about events in Liverpool, go to www.liverpoolreads.com. For more information about the 'Small Island' read 4-city extravaganza visit: www.smallislandread.com

UK-WIDE QUESTIONNAIRE WINNER

12/3/07

Another questionnaire, another happy prize recipient of a book voucher. Our most recent winner is Joy from Lincoln, who was one of over 1600 people who shared their thoughts on reading and Richard and Judy's Book Club with us. Here's what Joy wrote about the centrality of reading in her life:

"Reading has always been important to me; it is freeing to be able to let my imagination play in the stories and worlds that can be found inside books. I've always admired writers who could communicate visions beyond the realms of real life, and even those who portray familiar scenes. Non-fiction has also played an important role as I am now a student and guidance books in my area of study are worth their weight in gold as I learn techniques and find inspiration within each page."

THE TEAM WELCOMES DIANA LACHANCE IN HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA

4/4/07

Next stop for the Beyond the Book research team? Huntsville, Alabama, where the city is reading *To Kill a Mockingbird* as part of NEA's The Big Read project. Diana LaChance is our woman on the ground in Huntsville, and she's already busy recruiting participants for focus group discussions and online survey participation. Diana is a freelance writer and editor, and is an active community member. If you're interested in our project, contact Diana at atdeeahn@yahoo.com. Welcome aboard, Diana. We are glad to have you!

LAST STOP: SEATTLE

23/4/07

Our final fieldwork site for Beyond the Book research is the fine city of Seattle, Washington. Helping us there are two keen graduate students whom we are excited to have with us. With a Master of Education degree in hand from Portland State University, and a Oregon licensure in middle school (6-8) and high school social studies and language arts, Felice Atesoglu is working towards a PhD in Educational Policy and Leadership Studies at the University of Washington, Seattle. Mitogo Ondo Ayekaba is a freelance writer and collaborator for journal the Ebano Latinoamerica. He is currently a student at the University of Washington-Bothell, diligently pursuing a Master of Art in Policy Studies.

Both Felice and Mitogo are working hard on recruiting focus group participants for Seattle area focus groups, which will be held in various parts of the city from May 16-19. Contact Felice at atesoglu@u.washington.edu, and Mitogo at mitoha_ondo@yahoo.com if you are interested in talking about books and reading.

SEATTLE READS QUESTIONNAIRE WINNER

28/6/07

Our final survey, Seattle Reads, is now finished, and the winner is David from Ravenna, Seattle. David was lucky enough to see Isabel Allende when she came to Seattle some years back, and and enjoyed seeing her and hearing the questions and reactions of others at the event. We're pleased he elected to receive his gift certificate from the wonderful Elliott Bay Book Company, an independent bookstore in downtown Seattle.

HUNTSVILLE SURVEY WINNER

15/7/07

Clarise from Huntsville is the winner of our Big Read survey, which we ran for residents of Huntsville and Madison County, Alabama, who were reading Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Clarise's favourite kinds of books are history, romances, science fiction and contemporary fiction.

AMELIA CHESTER JOINS THE TEAM

16/7/07

The newest member of Beyond the Book research team is Haligonian Amelia Chester. Amelia is a fourth-year Cultural Studies student at MSVU in Halifax. She's assisting with data coding and transcriptions in between taking a summer course on the history of rock 'n roll, and playing her own gigs around the city. Welcome, Amelia! Good to have you with us.

PROJECT CONFERENCE NEWS

7/11/07

August 31-2 September saw one of the major events for the Beyond the Book project: our conference on **Contemporary Cultures of Reading** which ended our second project year. Sufficient time has now passed for the BTB team to have caught their breath and written up a news item about it! Over 120 scholars and practitioners from a range of countries descended on the University of Birmingham, representing a cross-section of disciplines including English literature, sociology, education, African-American studies, linguistics, performance studies, criminology, library science, publishing studies and cultural studies. Over three days, the topics covered ranged from the circulation of urban fiction among women in US prisons to the effect of blogging on the dissemination of poetry, and from projects using reading to assist in recuperation from brain surgery to online Chinese time-travel romances.

Postdoctoral research fellow, Anouk Lang, said: 'What was really striking about this conference was that it became clear over the three days that a lot of scholars in different parts of the world are very interested in studying reading and its effects in the social world, but that there aren't always obvious disciplinary or institutional contexts in which to carry out this kind of research. We hope that the conversations and relationships that started at Beyond the Book will be carried forward into new multi-disciplinary and inter-institutional collaborations, as reading is such a complex web of processes that it is difficult to analyse through one disciplinary approach alone.'

Various publications are planned from the conference: an edited volume is already well under way, and there are plans to put together several special issues of journals. Watch this space for more ...

NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO PODCAST ON THE KINDLE

25/11/07

Amazon has just brought out the Kindle, a new e-book reader (with a fairly hefty price-tag) to which you can download e-books, newspapers or other online publications. National Public Radio's On Point programme recently hosted a podcast discussion about it, featuring Sven Birketts and Steven Levy. Interestingly enough, many of the points raised by Birketts, Levy, the On Point host Sheilah Kast and listeners who phoned in overlapped with those which the BTB team have asked readers in our travels around the UK, the US and Canada. How does technology affect the way we choose our books, for example? and does the relationship between oneself, the text, and other readers of that text change when the book becomes an e-book?

The [NPR blurb](#) summarises the discussion thus:

E-read all about it. On Monday, Amazon debuted its much-anticipated e-book reader -- the Kindle -- and set the book world abuzz. The goals of the electronic reading device are simple: to replace bound paper, and to change the way we read and buy books. Lofty, but maybe not impossible goals, for our wired, jacked up, on-demand world. Purists warn against putting books in electronic garb: Beware of the effects on our culture. Read between the lines. We'll do just that, with a concerned critic and a top technology writer.

You can download the podcast [here](#).

STATISTICAL CONSULTANT LINDSAY ENGEL JOINS BTB

26/11/07

The Beyond the Book team is happy to welcome the newest member of our project, Lindsay Engel. Serving as statistical consultant, Lindsay will help us work with the quantitative data collected from the nine different research sites where we posted our online survey. In addition to a fantastic sense of humour, and a zest for the outdoors and books, Lindsay brings much expertise to the project. She has a Masters of Arts in Family Studies and Gerontology and Bachelor of Arts Psychology, plus experience in research project co-ordination for Dalhousie University/IWK Health Center's Departments of Psychiatry and General Pediatrics. She's also held various lead positions in statistical analysis involving both univariate and multivariate analysis on projects in several sociology and social work schools in the Halifax area. Welcome, Lindsay! It's good to have you with us.

PLANS TO ADOPT RICHARD & JUDY BOOK SELECTIONS ON UK A-LEVEL SYLLABUS

14/2/08

Danielle Fuller was interviewed by the Birmingham Post about plans to introduce texts such as those featured on the UK TV show Richard and Judy onto the final-year high school syllabus. You can read about Danielle's praise for the idea [here](#).

RESEARCH INTO READING & NEW TECHNOLOGIES IN CANADA

18/2/08

Those with an interest in digital books and reading will be interested in a research group based primarily in Canada: INKE: Implementing New Knowledge Environments (formerly the HCI-Book Strategic Research Cluster). Their key research objectives, as stated on their [website](#), are to:

- understand and describe the basic principles of humanistic interaction with knowledge objects (digital and analog alike)
 - articulate core strategies for the design of humanistic knowledge objects, especially electronic books, based on this understanding
 - suggest basic principles necessary for evaluating and implementing current technologies, and exploring future ones.
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LIVERPOOL READS ... MAL PEET

23/2/08

Readers in the 2008 City of Culture can join in with Liverpool Reads 2008, which is themed around two books by Mal Peet. *Tamar* is a tale of spying and intrigue set in part during World War II, while *Keeper* is a football story, which follows a South American goalkeeper who eventually wins the World Cup.

This is what Mal Peet had to say about Liverpool Reads:

Books are free travel passes for journeys through space and time, and it's a brilliant, radical idea on the part of Liverpool Reads to distribute them to the people of Liverpool. And I feel hugely honoured that in 2008, the National Year of Reading and the year in which Liverpool is the European Capital of Culture, my books have been chosen as the City Reads. All it will take now for my happiness to be complete is either Liverpool or Everton winning the Premiership and the Cup. (One each would do.)

Find out more at www.liverpoolreads.com.

BTB CONFERENCE PUBLICATIONS

7/3/08

We are really excited to be working with a number of journals to publish some of the great work that came out of the conference. We are pleased to be working with:

New Review of Children's Literature and Librarianship

Edited by Sally Maynard

Particip@tions (online journal of audience and reception research)

Edited by Martin Barker

Popular Narrative Media

Edited by Nickianne Moody & Joanne Knowles

Convergence: The International Journal of Research into New Media Technologies - Debates Section

Edited by Julia Knight & Alexis Weedon

We look forward to some very exciting special issues.

Delegates from the conference should have been emailed this week with a combined CFP menu. If you were a delegate at the conference and didn't receive the email, please get in touch with Anna at burrealz@adf.bham.ac.uk

BOOK SWAPS

1/5/08

For those interested in ways technology is changing the way we access books, the Guardian has a story on online book-swapping sites, which are not only saving trees, and money, but connecting people with books they would not normally read. These sites bring people together, according to the founder of one, ReadItSwapIt.co.uk, who comments "Our forum is a great social tool. People who like books tend to like each other." Jeanette Winterson's take on the sites? "In the music industry, this kind of thing would be called 'file sharing', and technically illegal". Judge for yourself: the article can be found [here](#).

BTB FIELDWORK SITES ON GOOGLE MAPS

9/5/08

Here at BTB some of us are just as enamoured of new technologies as we are of books. Anouk Lang has [put our fieldwork sites onto Google Maps](#) so the geographic coverage of the Beyond the Book fieldwork sites can be seen below in an instant.

Those with Google Earth should be able to follow [this link](#) to open the sites in Google Earth.

WHICHBOOK.NET

15/5/08

Another day, another new technology for mediating our relationships with books ...

[Whichbook.net](#) is an intriguing little tool from Opening the Book Ltd which allows you to specify the kind of features that you enjoy meeting in the books you read (safe or disturbing? optimistic or bleak? funny or serious?) using a series of sliders. It then delivers to you a short list of books published since 1995 which match the parameters you've specified. As the site says,

The standard way of organising books for choice, on shelves in a library or a bookshop, or on the web, starts from the products available - the authors, titles, publishers or genres. Whichbook enables, for the first time, the choice of book to start from the individual reader and what they are looking for.

Readers in the UK can then use the service to click through to libraries where they can borrow the book. [Give it a go](#).

MAP OF BOOKS PUBLISHED AROUND THE WORLD

2/6/08

WorldMapper is a site which produces cartogram maps (representations in which a country's area is altered in proportional to some external variable such as population) on a wide and compelling range of topics. Their [map of books published around the world](#) is surprising for what it shows about the nations publishing the most books. Also intriguing is the [world map of books borrowed](#).

THANKS AND ON TO THE NEXT PHASE...!

12/12/08

Recently, Danielle Fuller (principal investigator for BTB and project manager) filed the final report for the funded phase of 'The Beyond the Book' project to the Arts & Humanities Research Council. Thanks to all the people who have contributed to that very intense research phase (1 Sept 2005-31 Aug 2008), not least the core team: Drs Rehberg Sedo, Lang and Anna Burrells. Over 34 part-time workers in 3 countries participated in the project as research assistants, fieldworkers, translators, transcribers and conference assistants: thanks to all of you and to the support and IT staff at the University of Birmingham and Mount Saint Vincent U, Canada. Information regarding forthcoming and future publications, outputs and reports will continue to be added to this site for at least 3 years.

PUBLICATIONS FROM THE BTB CONFERENCE

15/12/08

Two special issues of journals which include revised papers from the 2007 Beyond the Book conference are now available. Click through to 'research results' to see full references for the volumes of *Journal of Popular Narrative Media* and *Particip@tions!* Special thanks are extended to the editors and guest editors of those journals.

UPDATE ON RESEARCH RESULTS

18/3/09

We recently completed our data deposit which consists of raw data from our questionnaires, metadata and collateral documents. These can be accessed via the University of Birmingham electronic repository, UBiRA at: <http://epapers.bham.ac.uk/64/>. We would very much like to hear from you if you decide to use this material.

BTB OUT AND ABOUT

27/6/09

Members of the original BTB team have been busy this summer conference season presenting their analyses of various aspects of the project at meetings in Germany and Canada. See 'publications - papers' for more details.
