

Fact Sheet

Reading, Reading Groups and Book Clubs

Websites, with news of books and authors, and online book clubs have become very popular. A quick search on the Internet will find a huge range of online book clubs catering for a variety of tastes and interests.

Those who enjoy sharing their love of books and reading in person may prefer the more traditional book club with regular meetings and a social atmosphere.

Local libraries are good providers of book clubs and reading groups.

Listed below are contact details for both a selection of reading websites, online book clubs and some local library based reading groups.



This fact sheet has been produced by

Islington Central Reference Library
2 Fieldway Crescent, London N5 1PF
E: centralref.library@islington.gov.uk
T: 020 7527 6931
F: 020 7527 6939
W: www.islington.gov.uk/libraries

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Readers Online

<http://www.whichbook.net>

'whichbook.net' lets readers search for books in new ways by using a combination of terms e.g. "I want a book that is unpredictable, very romantic and a bit sad" will suggest titles matching these criteria.

<http://www.reader2reader.net/>

Website that allows readers to share their opinions about books they love or hate. Really good for helping you find the perfect book.

<http://www.readerville.com/>

Readerville 'is founded on the idea that literature – and discussion thereof – is one of life's finest pursuits'. Allows everyone who loves reading to discuss everything, from favourite books to the latest literary news.

<http://www.fantasticfiction.co.uk>

Site that specialises in science fiction, fantasy, horror and mystery. Searchable by title and author, but not by category.

<http://reviewsofbooks.com>

Very good website that brings together full-length reviews from major online media sites for a particular title. It saves you from having to register at a site or pay to read reviews.

<http://www.bookcrossing.com>

Unique site that encourages sharing of books by leaving them in a public place for others to find. Signing in lets you track the book's journey as it changes hands. Members can share their enthusiasms for books and authors via the online discussion forums.

<http://www.librarything.com/>

The primary feature of Library Thing is the automatic cataloguing of books by importing data from booksellers and libraries. Members can catalogue personal collections, keep reading lists and meet other users. There are many reading groups, including Fantasy and Historical Fiction.

Children and Parents

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/bluepeter/getinvolved/bookclub>

The ever-popular BBC children's TV programme has its own book club with news of new books, author interviews, opportunities for children to send in contributions and an annual book award.

<http://www.channel4learning.com/sites/bookbox/>

Bookbox lets children see and hear their favourite authors, poets and illustrators. There is a Toolkit for young writers, and a Secret Passages section includes stories about talking animals.

<http://www.bookaboo.co.uk>

Bookaboo is a CITV children's TV show which encourages parents to share books with their pre-school children by using celebrities to read top class picture books.

<http://www.booktrust.org.uk>

Booktrust is a national programme that encourages people of all ages and cultures to enjoy books. It encourages reading for pleasure and family reading from an early age. Booktrust's creative campaigns promote books of all kinds – children's books, teenage fiction, short stories, translated novels, books about London – as well as writing projects and picture book illustration.

<http://www.bookstart.org.uk>

Parents and carers can get lots of great ideas on how to choose and share books with their pre-schooler plus information about the free Bookstart Packs they can get from their health visitor, children's centre and nursery.

Young People

<http://www.grouphing.org>

'Grouphing', produced by the Reading Agency, is a networking website for teenagers (13 up to 18), based on reading and words. Members can post their own writing, read other people's work and get advice from professionals. 'Grouphing loves all forms of reading and words: magazines, non-fiction, manga, graphic novels, plays, scripts, music (lyrics), short stories, film, games, websites, blogs, journalism, fiction, poetry, spoken word and non-fiction'.

<http://www.spinebreakers.co.uk/Pages/Home.aspx>

Spinebreakers is Penguin's online book community for teenagers. It includes author interviews, reviews, alternative endings, illustration, short stories and poems. Opportunities to submit short stories and poems for publication on the site.

Book Clubs and Reading Groups Online

<http://www.bookbite.org.uk>

A website from the Book Trust intended especially for older people. Topics include reading and writing for pleasure, discovering poetry, family history research and a discussion forum.

<http://books.guardian.co.uk/readinggroup>

The Guardian online reading group gives members the chance to read and discuss books with other book lovers. This site also features book reviews, extracts and interviews with selected authors.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/arts/bookclub/>

The Radio 4 Book Club website allows listening to audio editions of previous broadcasts and gives information on current and forthcoming books and authors.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/home/books/article-315268/Welcome-brilliant-Daily-Mail-Book-Club.html>

The Daily Mail Book Club website features book reviews, a newsletter and the chance to talk to other readers online.

<http://www.firstchoicebooks.org.uk/>

First Choice Books is a free online searchable database that contains titles appropriate for emergent readers, such as Quick Reads.

<http://readers.penguin.co.uk>

The Penguin Book Club website has lots of information on how to start a reading group, other reading groups and suggests titles and authors to enjoy.

Book Clubs and Reading Groups in Libraries and Bookshops

Islington

Central Library

2 Fieldway Crescent

N5 1PF

T: 020 7527 6900

E: centrallending.lib@islington.gov.uk

Group meets on the penultimate Monday of each month from 6.00pm to 7.30pm in the Gallery on the first floor.

Finsbury Library

245 St John's Street

EC1V 4NB

T: 020 7527 7960

E: Finsbury.library@islington.gov.uk

Reading group meets every five weeks from 6.30pm to 7.30pm

John Barnes Library

275 Camden Road

N7 0JN

T: 020 7527 7900

E: johnbarnes.library@islington.gov.uk

The group meets on the first Thursday of each month from 6.30 to 7.30pm.

Lewis Carroll Children's Library

166 Copenhagen Street

N1 0ST

T: 020 7527 7936

E: lewiscarroll.library@islington.gov.uk

"Teenage Kicks" is a reading group for ages 11-16. It meets usually on the first Monday of every month from 4.30pm to 6.00pm. Forthcoming dates for 2010 are October 4, November 8 and December 6. There is also a book club for children aged 7-11 that meets usually on the first Tuesday of the month

from 4 – 5 pm. Forthcoming dates are October 5, November 2 and December 14.

North Library

Manor Gardens

N7 6JX

T: 020 7527 7840

E: north.library@islington.gov.uk

The North Library reading group meets on the third Tuesday of every month, from 6.30pm - 7.45pm. Just drop in to take part.

Islington Comic Forum

Meets every last Tuesday of the month at the North Library, from 6.30pm to 7.30pm. A great opportunity to look at and discuss comic and graphic fiction. Contact North Library (details above) for more information.

South Library

115-117 Essex Road

N1 2SL

T: 020 7527 7860

E: south.library@islington.gov.uk

South Library reading group meets once a month on Mondays from 6.30pm – 7.30pm. If you wish to join, please contact the library for more details.

West Library

Bridgeman Road

N1 1BD

T: 020 7527 7920

E: west.library@islington.gov.uk

West Library's reading group meets from 6.15pm-7.45pm, normally on the last Tuesday of the month. If you wish to join, please contact the library to find the date of the next meeting and the title of the next book being read.

Details of reading groups in Hackney, Haringey, Camden and the City of London can be found at the following websites:

Camden

<http://www.camden.gov.uk/ccm/content/contacts/categories/contact-reading-groups-in-camden.en>

Hackney

<http://www.hackney.gov.uk/cl-libraries-whats-on.htm#>

Haringey

http://www.haringey.gov.uk/index/community_and_leisure/libraries/libraries_watson.htm

City of London

http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/Corporation/LGNL_Services/Leisure_and_culture/Libraries/City_of_London_libraries/reading_groups.htm

Every attempt has been made to ensure the information included is accurate. We cannot accept responsibility if an organisation no longer exists or if information has changed.

Islington Library & Heritage Services

Archway Library T: 020 7527 7820	Hamlyn House, Highgate Hill N19 5PH E: archway.library@islington.gov.uk
Central Library T: 020 7527 6900	2 Fieldway Crescent N5 1PF E: centrallending.library@islington.gov.uk
Finsbury Library T: 020 7527 7960	245 St John Street EC1V 4NB E: finsbury.library@islington.gov.uk
John Barnes Library T: 020 7527 7900	275 Camden Road N7 0JN E: johnbarnes.library@islington.gov.uk
Lewis Carroll Library T: 020 7527 7936	166 Copenhagen Street N1 0ST E: lewiscarroll.library@islington.gov.uk
Mildmay Library T: 020 7527 7880	21-23 Mildmay Park N1 4NA E: mildmay.library@islington.gov.uk
N4 Library T: 020 7527 7800	26 Blackstock Road N4 2DW E: n4.library@islington.gov.uk
North Library T: 020 7527 7840	Manor Gardens N7 6JX E: north.library@islington.gov.uk
South Library T: 020 7527 7860	115-117 Essex Road N1 2SL E: south.library@islington.gov.uk
West Library T: 020 7527 7920	Bridgeman Road N1 1BD E : west.library@islington.gov.uk