

**ICDL FAQs**  
FOR  
**PUBLISHERS, AUTHORS, ILLUSTRATORS, AND OTHER RIGHTS HOLDERS**  
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**What is the International Children's Digital Library (ICDL)?**

The International Children's Digital Library (ICDL) is a research project funded primarily by the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS), and Microsoft Research to create a digital library of outstanding children's books from all over the world. The project was introduced at an international celebration at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. in November 2002. The collection's focus is on identifying materials that help children to understand

the world around them and the global society in which they live. The materials in the collection, all presented in the original languages in which they were published, reflect similarities and differences in cultures, societies, interests, and lifestyles of peoples around the world. At the end of the initial research period, it is anticipated that the ICDL collection will include approximately 10,000 materials in at least 100 languages.

### **Who created the ICDL?**

The ICDL was created by an interdisciplinary research team at the University of Maryland in cooperation with the Internet Archive. Members of the team include computer scientists, librarians, educational technologists, classroom teachers, graphic designers, and graduate students from the University of Maryland's (UMD) College of Information Studies (CLIS) and the UMD Human-Computer Interaction Lab (HCIL), a leader in children's interface design.

Other important contributors to the research are the members of the Maryland KidsTeam, a group of six children, ages 7-11, who work regularly with the adults in the Lab. The approach used is called *cooperative inquiry*, a unique partnership between children and adults to develop and evaluate computer interface technologies that support searching, browsing, reading, and sharing books in electronic form.

### **What are the research goals of the ICDL?**

The ICDL project has five primary goals:

- to create a collection of more than 10,000 books in at least 100 languages that is freely available to children, teachers, librarians, parents, and scholars throughout the world via the Internet;
- to collaborate with children as design partners in the development of computer interface technologies that support children in searching, browsing, reading, and sharing books in electronic form;
- to better understand the concepts of rights management and “fair use” in a digital age;
- to evaluate the impact that access to digital materials may have on collection development and programming practices in school and public libraries; and
- to develop a greater understanding of the relationship between children's access to a digital collection of multicultural materials and children's attitudes toward books, libraries, reading, technology, and other countries and cultures.

### **Who is the intended audience for the ICDL?**

The ICDL collection has two primary audiences. The first audience is children ages 3-13, as well as librarians, teachers, parents, and caregivers who work with children of

these ages. The second audience is international scholars and researchers in the area of children's literature.

### **What kinds of materials are included in the ICDL?**

The materials selected for inclusion in the ICDL are those that:

- Support the understanding of similarities and differences among and within countries, peoples, and cultures;
- Promote tolerance and acceptance;
- Are considered relevant to children in today's world;
- Have a high degree of appeal for children of an age between 3 and 13;
- Meet professionally accepted quality standards in terms of content, format, and presentation; and
- Can be presented effectively in a digital format.

At this time, "born digital" books are not included in the ICDL. Only physical books that have been published and that have received some type of recognition in their country of publication are included in the collection. These materials may be:

- currently available in print and within copyright;
- out of print but within the copyright protection of the country in which they were published; or
- freely available in the public domain.

All works are presented in their entirety and in the original languages in which they were published. Works originally published as abridgements or adaptations of other works may also be included in the collection.

The majority of the collection consists of contemporary materials that are in copyright. The remainder of the collection is made up of important historical materials that are in the public domain. Historically important literature and contemporary, award-winning titles are added to the collection as they become available.

### **What are the benefits of having a book included in the ICDL?**

Books included in the ICDL benefit from increased exposure to children, librarians, teachers, parents, and scholars around the world. The ICDL provides exposure to a worldwide market. It may promote and highlight up-coming authors and illustrators; expand markets; facilitate publishing or co-publishing opportunities; encourage translation; create global awareness of titles and series; and identify interest in out of print titles, which may be considered candidates for re-printing. Publishers and other rights holders may request information regarding the number of times that specific titles are accessed through the collection from the ICDL Research Team.

The ICDL also provides a means of preserving quality children's literature that might otherwise be lost to the world. As the collection expands, it will offer access to historical materials heretofore available only in special collections in libraries and institutes throughout the world.

### **Will the ICDL provide a link to sources where potential customers may purchase a print version of the book?**

The ICDL will provide links to the web sites of publishers, authors, illustrators or other rights holders who contribute books to the collection. However, because the primary audience for the collection is children, ages 3-13, we do not offer direct support for purchasing print books through the project's web site.

### **What kinds of permissions does the ICDL seek from rights holders?**

The ICDL seeks only the non-exclusive right to reproduce digital versions of the books and make them freely available for public display through the International Children's Digital Library web site located at [www.icdlbooks.org](http://www.icdlbooks.org).

### **How does the ICDL protect the interests of rights holders?**

The ICDL includes a copyright notice and an acknowledgment of the rights holder's license with the University of Maryland in all displays and publications for each book in the collection.

The ICDL also employs technological measures that are designed to prevent the downloading, printing, and unauthorized further display and/or distribution of the books in the collection. Rights holders may choose the security levels they prefer for each title, ranging from minimal security measures that require no additional software to read the books, to encrypted images that require ICDL-developed Java readers, to maximum security through Adobe Acrobat Reader.

### **What is needed to include a book in the ICDL?**

The ICDL Research Team requires three items in order to include a book in the collection:

- a [Copyright License](#) agreement (or Public Domain License) signed by all parties;
- original digital files or digital scans of the entire book (please see the [Scanning Instructions](#) for information on how to scan books for the collection); and

- bibliographic metadata (please see the [ICDL Metadata Instructions](#) for complete information about the type of data needed).

**Where can I get more information about the ICDL?**

The ICDL Research Team welcomes participation from international publishers, authors, libraries, and others interested in contributing books or sharing their experiences in using these digital resources.

Please visit the web site at [www.icdlbooks.org](http://www.icdlbooks.org) or e-mail [icdl-info@cs.umd.edu](mailto:icdl-info@cs.umd.edu) for further information about contributing to or participating in the International Children's Digital Library!