

Street Lit and Libraries

An Infopeople Webinar

Wednesday, February 12, 2014
12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m.

Presenter: Francisca Goldsmith
francisca@infopeople.org

Infopeople  *helping libraries think differently*

Agenda

- What it is and where it came from
- Demographic interest and controversies
- Library collections as access option
- Must know authors and titles
- Blogs and other tools for keeping up
- Q & A

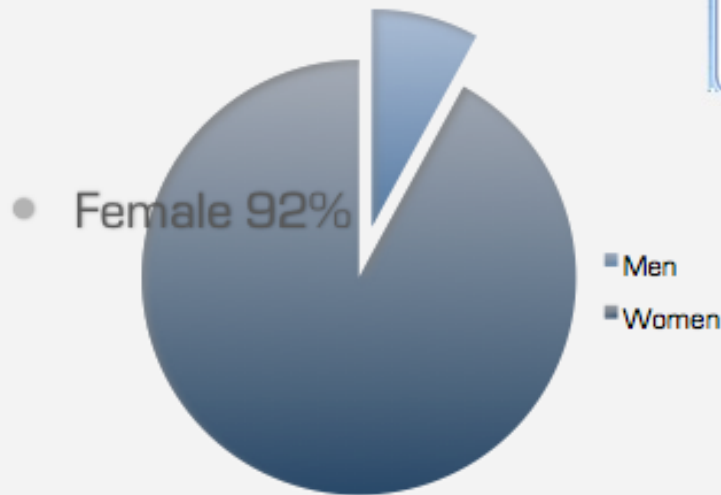
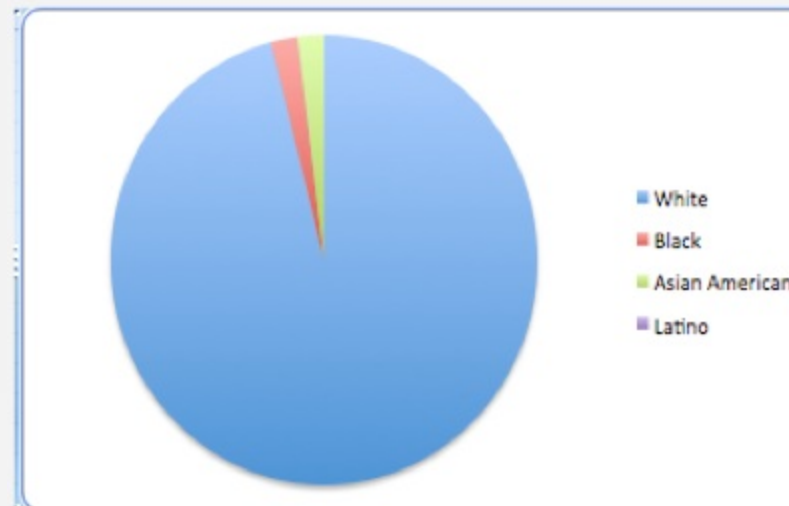
What's street lit?



S. Shah, Columbia University

Why is street lit outside mainstream publishing?

- Professional positions include publishers, editors, editorial assistants and interns



Where does it fit in the history of books and reading?



Demographics and context: authors and readers

- Authors feel comfortable with the stories they have to tell
- Psychology of reader identification with fiction narrators and situations



Wendell Phillips Academy High School
Library Media Center
244 East Pershing Road
Chicago, IL 60653
773/535-1603

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Your child has alerted me that he/she is interested in reading adult books within the Street Lit. genre. Street Lit. is best defined as *stories set in urban settings/cities that feature characters whose experiences span cultural, social, political, geographical, and economic boundaries*. **Some of the books that will be read and discussed have references to sexual behavior, violence, drug use and strong language.** The books selected are cautionary tales that will warn and make students think harder about decisions in their own lives.

Controversies—inside and outside libraries

- Rationalized reasons for and against street lit reading
- Local community library standards, local library standards
- Local community book resources for readers underserved by library collections

Poll

Library collection as potential access point: educate yourself

- Book promotion resources
- Available materials
- Be clear with staff and community about the reason for collecting

Library collection as potential access point: do it for the right reasons

- Recognize reader tastes and expectations of resources are diverse
- Respect other access points instead of expecting to best them
- Serve the community and use the measurable results to tweak first efforts

Library collection as potential access point: Libraries with developed street lit collections

- [County of Los Angeles Public Library](#)
- [Akron-Summit County \(OH\) Public Library](#)

Must know authors

- They come and go, Street lit authorship rarely pays all the bills.

Sybil Barkley-Staples was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan by her mother and her grandparents. Growing up Sybil had two loves in her life. Basketball and writing consumed the most of her time. Her first love, basketball obtained Sybil an athletic scholarship to Alabama State University. During her freshman year, Sybil met and fell in love with her husband. After a year, Sybil transferred to Clark Atlanta University in Atlanta, Georgia to concentrate on her goal of becoming a journalist. Upon graduation, Sybil became employed with The Weather Channel as a Technical Director for their twenty-four hour live weather telecasts.

Sybil's love for writing never faded over the years, she wrote short stories and articles for school publications, as well as, writing for online e-zines in her spare time. Sybil Barkley-Staples is married with one daughter.



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—Kenji Jasper, author of Dark and Dakota Grand



Shawn P. Lytle is a South Carolinian living in his adopted home of Orlando, Florida; where he splits his time between raising his kids and writing. He is an avid reader of fiction and philosophy. He is a graduate of Florida State University where he obtained his bachelor's degree in English. Writing has always been his first love since his adolescent days. He learned to express his emotions through his poetry, his concerns through his essays, and his wild imagination through his stories.



E.N. Joy
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5 Feb

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Must know authors who used to write street lit...or do it while earning elsewhere



ABOUT OMAR TYREE

Long before Omar Tyree was a New York Times Best Selling author, he was a college student at the University of Pittsburgh criticized by his peers for an interest in writing. His teammates at the division one football powerhouse told him "football players don't write." Tyree eventually transferred and has since gone on to become one of a few writers to have best sellers in multiple categories including fiction, business, children, and after selling 2 million books and having an estimated 8 million readers he enters into the world of Mystery/Thriller.

A child of the 70's Tyree grew up in the Delaware and Philadelphia region with a strong stepfather who was a role model and a disciplinary that gave him the freedom to explore and put him in line anytime he strayed. Tyree became a fan of classic films, including kung-fu movies and was known amongst his middle and high school peers for his incredible memorization skills and story-telling abilities. After transferring from the University of Pittsburgh to Howard University Tyree began his writing career selling books out of the back of his car, from his college apartment which had more books than furniture, and simultaneously freelanced with local newspapers to meet ends meet.



Zane

Zane is the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Afterburn*, *The Heat Seekers*, the *Flava* series, and *Dear G-Spot*. Her TV series, "Zane's Sex Chronicles," is featured on Cinemax, and her bestselling novel *Addicted* has been adapted for a major motion picture with Lionsgate Films. She is the publisher of Strebtor Books, an imprint of Atria Books/Simon & Schuster, and lives in the Washington, DC, area with her family. Visit her online at EroticaNoir.com.

Carl Weber is a New York Times and #1 Essence® bestselling novelist.



In addition to his writing, Weber is the founder and publisher of Urban Books and in 2005, he was named Blackboard's Publisher of the Year. He is the owner of the Urban Knowledge chain of book stores and a past recipient of Blackboard's Bookseller of the Year award.

Weber graduated from Virginia State University and holds an MBA in marketing from the University of Virginia.(less)

Who is K'wan?



K'wan has been featured in: *Vibe*, *Pages*, *King*, *The Library Journal*, *Entertainment Weekly*, *The New York Press*, and *Time Magazine*, to name a few.

K'wan was also the recipient of the 2012 and 13 Street Lit Book Award Medals (SLBAM) in adult fiction for *Eviction Notice* and *Animal*.

His credits also include featured commentary in the award winning Documentary *Iceberg Slim: Portrait of a Pimp* (produced by Ice-T) as well as a

reoccurring guest role on TV-One's *Celebrity Crime Files*.

Must know books as starting points

- *The Cartel*, by Ashley and JaQuavis
- *Straight Outta East Oakland*, by Harry Louis Williams II
- *Thugs* series, by Wahida Clark
- *True to the Game*, by Teri Woods
- *Wifey* series, by Kiki Swinson

Poll

Keeping up: blogs, groups, venues

- Fan sites – free, helpful and insight-provoking
- Blogs and online journals providing ongoing critical discussions – let's tour a couple
- Print resources designed for libraries and researchers – see the handout
- YOUR community – only you can do this!

Q & A

Thank You!

Francisca Goldsmith

francisca@infopeople.org

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