

Street Lit and Libraries

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?

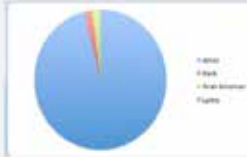


S. Shah, Columbia University

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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

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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

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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](#)











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Must know authors

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



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



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](#)

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Poll

Keeping up: blogs, groups, venues

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

Q & A

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