

## Street Lit Web Resources for Libraries

### African American Urban Fiction ("Street lit") Authors page, Akron-Summit County (OH) Public Library

[ascplpop.akronlibrary.org/favorite-fiction-booklists/african-american-fiction/african-american-urban-fiction-street-lit-authors/](http://ascplpop.akronlibrary.org/favorite-fiction-booklists/african-american-fiction/african-american-urban-fiction-street-lit-authors/)

An extensive list of authors, each hyperlinked to the library's holdings of his or her titles, with the library records including cover scans as well as full bibliographic record and an underused option for community tagging. Adding even more value is the inclusion of large print editions noted for each author.

### Black Pearls Magazine Urban Lit Interviews and Book Previews

[www.blackpearlsmagazine.com/urbanviews.htm](http://www.blackpearlsmagazine.com/urbanviews.htm)

One element of the **Black Pearls** site, which also provides guidance for book clubs, literary blogs and more, this page delivers just what it says: interviews with authors and previews of street lit titles (mostly a year to three years old).

### Feagin, Joe R. "Debating Black 'Street Lit,' New Urban Fiction." *Racism Review* (31 May 2008)

[www.racismreview.com/blog/2008/05/31/debating-black-street-lit-new-urban-fiction/](http://www.racismreview.com/blog/2008/05/31/debating-black-street-lit-new-urban-fiction/)

Professor Feagin discusses the distinctly political aspects of the popularizing and marketing of street lit, including economic realities and controversial depictions of white stereotyped Black Americans.

### Gaston, DK. "Black People Do Read: Urban Fiction's Impact on Black Literacy!" *Chronicles of Harriet* (21 June 2013)

[chroniclesofharriet.com/2013/06/21/black-people-do-read/](http://chroniclesofharriet.com/2013/06/21/black-people-do-read/)

Addressing the role of street lit and urban lit in the reading development of teens over the past half century, this thorough discussion is an excellent starting place for libraries uncertain about whether reading street lit is "good for you."

### Hazelwood, Janell. "Queen of Street Lit' Wahida Clark Continues Her Publishing Reign." *Black Enterprise* (30 May 2012).

[www.blackenterprise.com/career/queen-of-street-lit-wahida-clark-continues-her-publishing-reign/](http://www.blackenterprise.com/career/queen-of-street-lit-wahida-clark-continues-her-publishing-reign/)

This interview provides a window on the entrepreneurial aspects of maintaining status as a name among street lit authors and readers.

### Horne, David L. "The Politics of Street Lit." *Our Weekly* (24 October 2013)

[t.ourweekly.com/news/2013/oct/24/politics-street-lit/?page=1](http://t.ourweekly.com/news/2013/oct/24/politics-street-lit/?page=1)

In under a thousand words, Professor Horne, Executive Director of the Pan African Public Policy and Ethical Institute, presents the narrative and publishing roots of street lit, names best known current writers, and lists awards to track.

### Patrick, Diane. "New Film Looks at Controversy Over Street Lit" *Publishers Weekly* (9 May 2011).

[www.publishersweekly.com/pw/by-topic/industry-news/page-to-screen/article/47141-new-film-looks-at-controversy-over-street-lit.html](http://www.publishersweekly.com/pw/by-topic/industry-news/page-to-screen/article/47141-new-film-looks-at-controversy-over-street-lit.html)

*Behind Those Books*, made by a pair of young urban black film makers, who are also urban lit authors, explores the attendant controversies on the topic that are found in the black community. The review provides an overview of these concerns as well as some suggested resources for collection shaping.

### Street Fiction.org

[streetfiction.org/](http://streetfiction.org/)

In addition to reviews, hype about forthcoming titles, and a comprehensive directory of street lit authors and publishers, there is a very wide spectrum of subgenre coverage here. There is also a portal for authors and a number of subject booklists focus on such popular reader topics as “Books with Athletes.”

### Street Lit Review

[streetlitreview.com/](http://streetlitreview.com/)

This online journal provides book and music reviews, interviews and news pieces related to books and Black America, including street lit collections in public libraries, new book stores in traditionally black urban neighborhoods, and niche genre areas such as Christian street lit.

### Urban Book Source

[theubs.com/](http://theubs.com/)

A diverse portal, this provides excellent editorials, including such topics as the paucity of black literary agents, as well as reviews, interviews, and book purchasing access.

### Urban Fiction News

[platinumstarz.wordpress.com/](http://platinumstarz.wordpress.com/)

A well-organized blog to keep up to date on publishing, both for readers and authors. Features include links to new publishing houses, how to find a good literary agent, and a book club.

### WorldCat Genres: Urban Fiction

[www.worldcat.org/genres/urban-fiction.html](http://www.worldcat.org/genres/urban-fiction.html)

In addition to listing authors, titles, and materials in print and audiobook formats, this site provides links to character names, geographic settings, related genres and images of covers. There is also a link to WorldCat's display of the [Urban/Street/Hip-Hop Fiction list developed by Fort Vancouver \(WA\) Regional Library](#) ([www.worldcat.org/profiles/FVRL\\_booklists/lists/1319766](http://www.worldcat.org/profiles/FVRL_booklists/lists/1319766)).

## **Street Lit Social Media Resources for Libraries**

### Facebook. [Black Literature Magazine](#).

[www.facebook.com/BlackLiteratureMagazine](http://www.facebook.com/BlackLiteratureMagazine)

Authors and publishers have their own pages, of course. This one is suggested as a place to get started seeing whom and where you might want to “friend” to follow.

### Goodreads. [“Popular Street Lit Books”](#)

[www.goodreads.com/shelf/show/street-lit](http://www.goodreads.com/shelf/show/street-lit)

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As you should expect with Goodreads, the nearly 800 titles listed here include many that are not street lit per se, but instead reflect themes of urban life, written and published in the mainstream and frequently as young adult novels. However, it's a good resource to check for popularity and includes older titles as well.

Shelfari. Street lit groups.

[www.shelfari.com/search/groups?Keywords=street%20lit](http://www.shelfari.com/search/groups?Keywords=street%20lit)

There are more than 300 “groups” using Shelfari to share their reading which are tagged as “street lit” and many of them are excellent connection points for both seasoned and new genre readers. In addition to book collections and reviews, there are book discussions, authors’ presence and administrative presence that is genre friendly. You might start with the group “We love urban & street literature” ([www.shelfari.com/groups/38878/about](http://www.shelfari.com/groups/38878/about)).

Twitter.

Follow street lit authors, publishers and/or any of the journals and journalists or institutions mentioned elsewhere in this Resource. Choose about five for starters and then edit and/or add in a week or two.

### **Street Lit Professional Print Resources for Libraries**

Gifford, Justin. Pimping Fictions: African American crime literature and the untold story of black pulp publishing (Temple University, 2013).

This literary history provides context for the rise of street lit, stretching through the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and Chester Himes, through the crime and excon-dominated authors first published by Holloway House.

Honig, Megan. Urban Grit: A guide to street lit; “GenReflecting Advisory” series. (Libraries Unlimited, 2010).

The first librarian-authored book published for readers’ advisory practitioners interested in street lit.

Morris, Vanessa Irvin. The Readers’ Advisory Guide to Street Literature; “ALA Readers’ Advisory” series. (American Library Association, 2011)

Although it arrived a year after Honig’s book, librarian Morris’ offers a vantage point that differs enough to make it as useful.

Norris, Keenan, editor. Street Lit: Representing the Urban Landscape (Scarecrow Press, 2013).

Professor Norris brings together essays by academics, librarians, publishers and other critics to detail the current state of the genre.