

Using Novelist

The ERL subscribes to a number of databases which provide a wealth of information about books for children and young adults. You can find them by going to the ERL homepage – www.oakland.edu/erl - and clicking on the black button which is labeled “Search External Book Reviews and databases”. *Novelist* is a database provided to all Michigan schools, libraries and residents for free and it is a great tool for finding information about children’s books, identifying appropriate titles and “read-alikes” and reading reviews.

There are many ways to craft searches and limit by reading levels, genres, characteristics or publication dates. Each record for a book provides general publication information and most often suggests a reading level or lexile for that particular title. Along the right side of the screen there will be a list of titles identified as similar or “read alike” Near the bottom of the entry you will see checkboxes that you can use to identify specific characteristics that you like about this book, and then use them to search for more books.

The help menu can be found at the top right of the screen, and there are many useful tutorials and instructions for how to navigate and use this powerful resource. Novelist is easy to use and great to teach your students to use for themselves. As they look for their own “just-right” books, they are also reading and thinking.

The screenshot shows the Oakland University ERL homepage. A navigation bar at the top includes links for ACADEMICS, FUTURE STUDENTS, CURRENT STUDENTS, ALUMNI, ARTS AT OU, GIVING, and ATHLETICS. On the left, a sidebar titled "Educational Resources Lab" contains links such as Hours, Staff Directory, Technology Reservation Form, Course Reserve Form, Circulation Policies, About the ERL, Award Books, Curriculum Resource Links, Bibliographies, Curriculum Links, Featured Websites, Frequent Catalog Searches, Booktalks and Displays, Starred Reviews, Help Documents, TeachingBooks.net Access, and Textbook Examination Center. The main content area is titled "ERL External Children's Literature Databases" and "Oakland University subscribes to the following databases which review literature for children and young adults:". It features three database entries: CLCD, The Horn Book Guide Online, and Novelist K-8 Plus. Each entry includes a brief description and a list of features. Annotations with blue arrows point from the "Educational Resources Lab" sidebar to the "SEARCH EXTERNAL BOOK REVIEWS & DATABASES" button, the CLCD logo, and the Novelist K-8 Plus logo.

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY

ACADEMICS FUTURE STUDENTS CURRENT STUDENTS ALUMNI ARTS AT OU GIVING ATHLETICS

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Welcome to the Educational Resources and services that support the School of Education and Human Services. We strive to make ERL resources available to you in whatever degree possible, of the highest quality, and not interfere with the primary mission of the University.

SEARCH EXTERNAL BOOK REVIEWS & DATABASES

Schedule an appointment to print the SMART Board or Interactive Whiteboard

ERL External Children's Literature Databases
Oakland University subscribes to the following databases which review literature for children and young adults:

Children's Literature Comprehensive Database (CLCD)

- Contains both fiction and non-fiction selections for children and young adults as well as some professional materials.
- Entries include awards and notables listings, reviews, reading levels and lexile codes.
- Reviews include:
 - Bulletin for the Center of Children's Books (BCCB)
 - Cooperative Children's Book Center (CCBC)
 - KIRKUS
- If you are off campus, you can access the CLCD via Kresge Library. You will need your Grizzly ID to log in.

The Horn Book Guide Online

- Published each spring and fall.
- Includes short, critical reviews of virtually every hardcover trade book published in the US for young people.
- The reviews are rating the books on a scale of one to six, 1 or 2 being the highest rating.
- Searches can be refined by author, illustrator, title, subject, and bibliographic data, as well as by rating assigned the book in the original Horn Book Review.
- If you are off campus, you must login through Kresge Library to access the Horn Book Guide. You will need your Grizzly ID to log in.

Novelist K-8 Plus

- A database about books specifically for K-8 readers.
- Includes both fiction and non-fiction selections.
- Entries include reviews, awards, reading levels, series information, read-alike suggestions, curriculum connections, and much more.
- Searches can be limited in a variety of ways including by age, interest, genre, and literary style.
- If you are off campus, you must login through Kresge Library to access Novelist. You will need your Grizzly ID to log in.

Something About The Author (Online)

- Provides electronic access to all volumes of *Something About the Author* and *Something About the Author: Autobiography Series*.
- Multiple search and browse options are combined with an easy format that matches the look and feel of the print originals.
- Entries include personal life, career, writings, adaptations, additional sources, photographs, and illustrations.
- Illustrated biographical profiles of children's authors and artists for more than 15,000 individuals.
- If you are off campus, you must login through Kresge Library to access Something About the Author. You will need your Grizzly ID to log in.