

Fantasy Reference Sources

Anthologies

Dann, Jack, ed. *Nebula Awards Showcase 2005*. New York: Roc Trade, 2005. ISBN: 0451460154.

The Nebula Awards are presented by the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America, which is an organization specializing in these genres of literature. *The Nebula Awards Showcase* is a collection of works authored by Nebula winners and represents the best fantasy and science fiction material of the year. It covers varying styles of literature from authors such as Neil Gaiman and James Van Pelt.

Datlow, Ellen, Kelly Link and Gavin Grant, eds. *Year's Best Fantasy and Horror 17th ed.* New York: St. Martin's Griffin, 2004. ISBN: 0312329288.

This book provides a compilation of the top fantasy and horror short stories and poetries. It contains over 40 entries ranging from fairy tales to gothic horror. The volume also contains overviews of the year in fantasy and horror publications, as well as sections on comics, anime and manga, and honorable mentions. This is both a reference tool and a good read.

Strahan, Jonathan and Karen Haber, eds. *Fantasy: The Best of 2004*. I Books, 2005. ISBN: 1416504001.

This is a collection of the best fantasy prose written in 2004. It includes some of the greatest writers in the genre of fantasy, and is edited by two well-known and respected editors in the areas of science fiction and fantasy.

Bibliographies

Cawthorn, James and Michael Moorcock. *Fantasy: The 100 Best Books*. New York: Carroll & Graf Publishers, 1991. ISBN: 0881847089.

This bibliography provides a list of fantasy literature from classic authors such as Oscar Wilde and Robert Louis Stevenson, to more familiar fantasy writers, including Tolkien, LeGuin, and Dunsany. This book also contains historical and subgenre information, and is indexed for ease of use.

Lynn, Ruth Nadelman. *Fantasy Literature for Children and Young Adults: an annotated bibliography 4th ed.* New Providence: R.R. Bowker, 1995. ISBN: 0835234568.

The first section of this reference work contains an extensive bibliography, which provides a list of more than 4,800 books, each being recommended in at least two professional journals. The list is divided into various subgenres and the symbols used are easy to spot. The second part of the book is a research guide listing books, dissertations, and articles. This is an essential tool for any librarian or researcher in the area of fantasy.

Biographical

Bleiler, Richard, ed. *Supernatural Fiction Writers: Contemporary Fantasy and Horror*. 2 vols. New York: Scribner, 2003. ISBN: 0684312506 (set).

This edition is an updated version of the first Supernatural Fiction Writers work, published in 1985. The new work contains writers mentioned in the first edition, along with various new authors, including J.K. Rowling and Philip Pullman. This

edition is organized alphabetically by author, providing biographical information, types of work, important themes, selected bibliographies, and web sites if available. There is also an author and title index at the end of the second volume.

Iverson, Douglas. *Dictionary of Literary Biography: 251 Canadian Fantasy and Science Fiction Writers.* Detroit: Gale Group, 2002. ISBN: 0787646687.

This volume of the *Dictionary of Literary Biography* provides comprehensive information on Canadian fantasy and science fiction writers. Each article contains a photo, biographical information, and a bibliography of works. This is an excellent source to refer to when building Canadian collections.

St. James Press Staff. *St. James Guide to Fantasy Writers.* 2nd ed. New York: Saint James Press, 1995. ISBN: 1558624155.

This resource offers biographical information on over 400 authors of heroic fantasy, sword and sorcery, humorous fantasy, adult fairy tales and fables, and some children's fantasy authors whose works are popular with adults. Each entry contains biographical information, a complete list of fantasy works, and a comprehensive list of other works. Although the entries include authors dating back to the 17th century, the main focus of this work is 20th century authors.

Dictionary

Manguel, Alberto. *Dictionary of Imaginary Places: The Newly Updated and Expanded Classic.* New York: Harcourt, 2000. ISBN: 0156008726.

This geographical dictionary contains an alphabetical listing of 1,200 fantastical places. The locales range from Middle Earth, Oz, Homer's Island, Hogwarts, and Utopia. A description, history, and travel tips are given for each entry. At the end of each entry the author, work, and date of publication is given. The dictionary also contains illustrations and maps, and a cross-referenced index.

Encyclopedias

Allen, Judy. *Fantasy Encyclopedia.* Kingfisher, 2005. ISBN: 0753458470.

This encyclopedia will be released in October of 2005. It is aimed at adolescents aged 9 to 12. Written by an award winning author, it will explore the history and origins of fantasy, as well as fantastical creatures such as goblins, dragons, little people, and more. It will contain up to 400 illustrations and pictures, as well as cross-references directing readers to popular books and films that contain fantastical characters.

Clute, John and John Grant. *The Encyclopedia of Fantasy.* New York: St. Martin's Press, 1999. ISBN: 0312198698.

This is a comprehensive encyclopedia of the fantasy genre authored by well-known contributors to the field. This work contains over 4,000 entries covering fantasy literature, film, television, art, comics, and more. Articles are concise and clearly written and contain extensive cross-referencing. It covers authors and characters from across the board, from Tolkien to Santa Claus. This is an essential work for anyone serious about fantasy.

Pringle, David. *The Ultimate Encyclopedia of Fantasy: The Definitive Illustrated Guide.* New York: Overlook Press, 1999. ISBN: 0879519371.

Though not as comprehensive as the above encyclopedia, this reference work provides information on well known fantasy authors, types, characters, movies, television, games, and worlds. The book is visually appealing with coloured illustrations and an attractive cover.

Rose, Carol. *Spirits, Fairies, Leprechauns, and Goblins: An Encyclopedia.* New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 1998. ISBN: 0393317927.

This alphabetically arranged encyclopedia covers fantastical characters from around the world in over 2,000 entries. Although it does not focus on fictional fantasy characters, many characters from fantasy novels are based on mythical creatures from the human experience. This work gives an excellent background to these creatures. This reference work was chosen by Library Journal as a best reference source.

Rose, Carol. *Giants, Monsters, and Dragons: An Encyclopedia of Folklore, Legend, and Myth.* New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2001.

This reference work, by the same author as above, focuses more on fictional characters from fantasy novels, covering characters in the works of authors such as Tolkien and Rowling. Entries give basic descriptions of each creature as well as its activities, region, culture, and historical period. Each entry is both cross-referenced and referenced to a selected bibliography.

Guides to Literature

Buker, Derek M. *The Science Fiction and Fantasy Readers Advisory: The Librarian's Guide to Cyborgs, Aliens, and Sorcerers.* Chicago: American Library Association, 2002.

This reference source is part of the ALA reader's advisory series, which is especially useful for librarians who are unfamiliar with the genres of fantasy and science fiction. The book is divided in two parts, the latter dealing with fantasy. This section is further divided into the subgenres of fantasy, with annotated lists and recommended titles for each section. The recommendations are largely based on young adult literature, making this an excellent tool for a YA librarian.

Burgess, Micheal and Lisa R. Bartle. *Reference Guide to Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror.* Portsmouth: Libraries Unlimited, 2002. ISBN: 1563085488.

This literature guide provides information on a wide variety of information sources in the named genres, from the 1950's into 2001. In addition to the standard reference tools such as bibliographies, encyclopedias, and dictionaries, this work also includes online sources and core collections lists for public, academic, and research libraries. Entries are annotated and are very comprehensive. This is an excellent starting point for libraries building a fantastical collection.

Gates, Pamela S. *Fantasy Literature for Children and Young Adults*. Lanham: Scarecrow Press, 2003. ISBN: 0810846373.

This book begins with a definition of fantasy and the criteria for successful stories. The genre is then broken down into subgenres, providing impressive bibliographies at the end of each chapter. A professional bibliography is included at the end of the book, along with an index. This is an excellent source for librarians or educators.

Herald, Diana Tixier. *Fluent in Fantasy: A Guide to Reading Interests*. Portsmouth: Libraries Unlimited, 1999. ISBN: 1563086557.

This literature guide begins with a definition and history of the fantasy genre. The following chapters provide descriptions of 15 fantasy subgenres, accompanied by annotated book lists. The author of this literature guide is a specialist in genre fiction and a former readers' advisory librarian. She currently serves as chair of the ALA Young Adult Services Association.

Writing Guides

The Writer's Complete Fantasy Reference: An Indispensable Compendium of Myth and Magic. Cincinnati: Writer's Digest Books, 2000. ISBN: 1582970262.

Terry Brooks writes the introduction to this reference source, which is essentially a guide to creating and writing fantasy novels. The book contains ten chapters, which deal with issues such as traditional fantasy cultures; magic; witchcraft; commerce, trade and law in contemporary fantasy; fantasy races and creatures; arms, armor and armies, and the anatomy of a castle.

Card, Orson Scott. *How to Write Science Fiction and Fantasy*. Cincinnati: Writer's Digest Books, 2001. ISBN: 158297103X.

Written by one of the biggest names in science fiction and fantasy, this book provides information and counsel for constructing a fantasy or science fiction story and creating magical worlds. It provides information on the characteristics of science fiction and fantasy, how to create and structure the story and its characters, and how to get published and appeal to the market.

Dullemond, Tom and Darin Park. *The Complete Guide to Writing Fantasy*. Calgary: Dragon Moon Press, 2003. ISBN: 1896944094.

This book contains contributions from new and award winning fantasy writers. It takes a more advanced look at fantasy writing and looks at issues such as religions, world building, herbalism, and incorporating horror and mystery into the plot. It will help the reader avoid common mistakes when developing a fantasy world, and provides excellent tips that even published fantasy writers may find useful.

Martin, Philip. *The Writer's Guide to Fantasy Literature: From Dragons Lair to Hero Quest*. New York: Watson-Guption Publications, 2002. ISBN: 0871161958.

This reference work is not so much an instruction guide as it is an overview of fantasy styles and successful authors. It provides information and interviews with writers such as Tolkien, J.K. Rowling, C.S. Lewis, Ursula LeGuin, and gives reasons for their success. It also provides some useful tips for planning, writing, and submitting fantasy work.

Professional Organizations

Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America, 532 LaGuardia Place, #632, New York, NY 10012-1428. www.sfw.org.

This organization was founded in 1965 by Damon Knight. It has over 1,200 fantasy and science fiction writers, artists, editors, and professionals as members. There are varying levels of membership available, with different qualifications required for each. The organization publishes a bulletin, a handbook, and anthologies. There is also a web forum available for member discussion. Each year the organization presents the prestigious Nebula Awards for the best science fiction or fantasy short story, novelette, novella, and novel of the year.

Magazines

Print Journals

***Fantasy & Science Fiction. Spilogale Inc., 2005.* ASIN: B00006KDW3.**

<http://www.sfsite.com/fsf/>.

This is one of the largest running fantasy and science fiction magazines and is highly regarded by writers and readers. It contains short stories, interviews, novelettes, book and film reviews, and criticism of work related to fantasy and science fiction. This magazine is the original publisher of Stephen King's *Gunslinger*, among many other classics in these genres.

Realms of Fantasy. Sovereign Media, 2005.

ASIN: B00006KUMO.

<http://www.rofmagazine.com/>.

This is a bi-monthly magazine dedicated entirely to fantasy. It covers topics of general fantasy, Arthurian sagas, ancient myths and contemporary fantasy. It also features fantasy art and artists, movie reviews, new computer games, as well as role playing, card, and board games. Readers can submit art and short stories to be published in the magazine.

Electronic Magazines

Strange Horizons. 2005.

www.strangehorizons.com/.

Strange Horizons is a weekly online magazine that has been nominated for a Hugo award. The zine is free and covers issues in speculative fiction, i.e. fantasy, science fiction, magic, realism, etc. It offers an art gallery, articles, columns, reviews, editorials, short fiction, and poetry. There is also a discussion forum, workshops, and links to other related web resources. The site is updated weekly.

***Planet Magazine. Andrew G. McCann, 1993-2001.* ISSN: 1526-1840.**

<http://www.etext.org/Zines/planet/>.

This free award-winning online magazine is issued quarterly. It has been online since 1994 and is associated with the SF site (The Internet Speculative Fiction DataBase). The goal of the magazine is to encourage emerging writers and illustrators to submit their work and to have fun. The zine contains editorials, stories, poems, and letters. Back issues are available as far back as 1994 and are searchable using a basic keyword search. The site also provides links to other resources.

Challenging Destiny. Crystalline Sphere Publishing, 2005.

<http://home.golden.net/~csp/cd/index.htm>.

Challenging Destiny is a Canadian fantasy and science fiction short story magazine that publishes authors and illustrators from all over the world. It was a print magazine, but is now in electronic format. Each issue typically contains six stories, an editorial, a review column, and an interview with a Canadian author.

Tangent. Tangent Online, 2004.

www.tangentonline.com/.

Tangent is an online magazine that reviews short fantasy and science fiction publications, including *Fantasy and Science Fiction* and *Realms of Fantasy*. It has been in existence since 1993 and has been online since 1997. The reviews are searchable using a simple keyword search. It also allows browsing by print or e-market categories, which are then subdivided by how often the publication is issued (weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, etc.).

Databases

Science Fiction and Fantasy Research Database. Hal W. Hall, 2002.

<http://lib-oldweb.tamu.edu/cushing/sffrd/>

This database provides indexing to articles, books, news reports, obituaries, motion picture reviews and other material about the science fiction and fantasy genres. There is also some coverage of horror, gothic and utopian literature as well. Fiction, such as novels or short stories, and book reviews are not indexed in this database. The project is supported by the

Texas A&M University Libraries and was developed by a team of librarians and web developers. The database contains over 67,000 items and is updated regularly. It is searchable using a quick or advanced search. It provides a help page, a list of sources consulted when adding a record, and a thesaurus.

Listservs

Science Fiction and Fantasy Listserv. Library of Congress. SF-LIT@loc.gov.

This web forum is open to anyone interested in discussing fantasy and science fiction. SF-LIT provides an opportunity for members of the international community to participate in discussions related to reference, research, analysis, and other library and information center activities in the field of science fiction and fantasy.

Websites

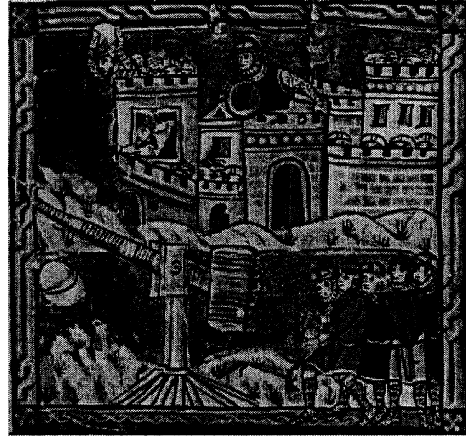
SFF Net. SFF Net, 1996-2005. www.sff.net.

SFF Net is the world's premier site for genre fiction, i.e. science fiction, fantasy, horror, romance, mystery, and young adult fiction. SFF Net is a large, online community of authors, publishers, editors, and readers. This site is the official home of the *Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America*. There is some information available for free on this site, but membership is also available, which allows access to even more on the subject of fantasy and other genres.

The Internet Speculative Fiction DataBase.

SF Site, 1996-2005. www.sfsite.com/home.htm.

This site is dedicated to the best in science fiction and fantasy, in print, media, and online formats. The site includes news, reviews, interviews with authors and artists, links to online resources, and more. The site contains over 12,000 author bibliographies, it displays the content listings of more than 3,800 magazines, has an extensive list of forthcoming books, nearly 15,000 award entries, and has a series of top 100 lists based on award information. This site has been nominated for the Hugo and World Fantasy Awards.



Linköping Science Fiction & Fantasy Archive.

sf.www.lysator.liu.se/sf_archive/.

This is an archive of fantasy and science fiction texts that have been collected by the creator of the site since 1985. The texts are mostly reviews of books and bibliographic lists of authors' works, with some biographical information included. There are also some texts covering fantasy and science fiction movies, although it is mostly literature based. The site contains an art gallery and various clipart pictures. The archive is maintained by Mats Ohrman, who is a science fiction and fantasy collector from Sweden. The site is updated fairly regularly and is recommended by the American Library Association.

Which Fantasy/SciFi Character Are You?

<http://www.tk421.net/character/>

This site prompts you to answer several questions to a personality test, then tells you what fantastical book or movie character you are most like.