

# Online Resources for Book Groups

Book Group Gathering  
King County Library System  
Service Center  
September 26, 2009

## On the KCLS Website

### **KCLS Home Page**

<http://www.kcls.org/>

### **KCLS Catalog**

KCLS > Catalog

<http://catalog.kcls.org/>

### **Books and Reading**

KCLS > Books & Reading

<http://www.kcls.org/booksandreading/index.cfm>

This section of the KCLS website provides links to Books We Like, New Reads, BookTalk, book lists, services for Book Clubs, resources for readers, and much more.

### **BookTalk**

KCLS > Books & Reading > Library Talk:BookTalk

<http://blogs.kcls.org/librarytalk/booktalk/>

Have you ever had a great recommendation from a librarian and wondered what else she/he is reading? Our BookTalk blog will allow you to find out the newest suggestions from a group of our terrific librarians.

### **Book Club Resources**

KCLS > Books & Reading > Book Club Resources

[http://www.kcls.org/booksandreading/bookclub\\_resources.cfm](http://www.kcls.org/booksandreading/bookclub_resources.cfm)

This part of the Books & Reading section of our website provides tips for starting a club, as well as links to helpful websites and discussion guides, web-based resources for book groups, sources of book reviews, local and national book groups, and online book stores.

### **Book Clubs Pages**

KCLS > Books & Reading > Book Clubs & Readers' Resources > Book Clubs at KCLS

Find a local book club by searching this database of clubs that are affiliated with KCLS branches.

## KCLS Databases

KCLS > Databases > Reading

OR

[http://www.kcls.org/databases/subject\\_categories.cfm#Reading](http://www.kcls.org/databases/subject_categories.cfm#Reading)

### **Booklist Online**

Book reviews from the American Library Association. Includes 100,000+ reviews and thematic features dating back to 1992.

### **Fiction Connection**

Recommendations for a wide range of fiction. Search by topic, genre, setting, character, location, and timeframe to find the perfect match.

### **Novelist**

Fiction recommendations for adults, teens, and children. It includes read-alikes, book reviews, and discussion questions

### **Proquest**

Proquest can provide access to book reviews from many different publications, all with a single search. In the search terms box, type the title of the book in quotation marks, along with the word review\* outside the quotation marks. (Adding the \* at the end of review ensures that items with the word reviews or reviewing will also be selected.)

For example, a search using the terms

“art of racing in the rain” review\*

would bring up reviews of Garth Stein’s novel, *The Art of Racing in the Rain*.

Depending on the originating publication, the results could be a full-text review or only a citation. Any search may also bring up unrelated items.

## KCLS eBooks

KCLS > Downloads

Download books and media to your computer, player or other portable devices. We have audio and print books, music, and videos that can be “checked out”. If you are looking for electronic audiobooks but don’t have a player, try our Playaway audio devices.

## The Coolest Thing since the Card Catalog

### Good Reads

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

While Good Reads can serve as an online catalog, the real focus is on sharing information about books. Become friends with other individuals, join groups, and rate and review books. Easily find authors who have joined up and see what they are reading (and writing).

### Library Thing

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

This site allows you to easily create your own online library catalog. It will compare your collection to other collections and provide a list of other readers who share your books. There are also a book recommendation feature, editorial reviews, reviews and ratings by members, and groups formed to discuss particular topics.

### Shelfari

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

Another online library catalog, Shelfari provides much the same information as Library Thing, but in a slightly different format. Member reviewers are more prominent, and the social networking feature includes the ability to specify your friends as well as joining groups.

## Blogs

### BookTalk

<http://blogs.kcls.org/librarytalk/booktalk/>

Book suggestions for adults from KCLS librarians.

### Bookslut

<http://www.bookslut.com/blog/>

“A monthly web magazine and daily blog dedicated to those who love to read.”

### Dovegreyreader Scribbles

<http://dovegreyreader.typepad.com/>

Blog of “a Devonshire based bookaholic, sock-knitting quilter who used to be a community nurse in her spare time.”

### The Literary Saloon

<http://www.complete-review.com/saloon/>

Blog of the Complete Review (see description in next section)

### Paper Cuts

<http://papercuts.blogs.nytimes.com/>

Blog of the New York Times Book Review

## **Book Lists, Reviews, Study Guides and Book Club Services**

### **Book Clubs Resource**

<http://www.book-clubs-resource.com/>

Book Clubs Resource has a well-organized and thorough collection of links, but little original material. Topics include running a book club, online book clubs, reading group guides, and additional resources for the reader, such as links to books you can read online. Sponsorship from Doubleday Book Club is present on each page.

### **The Book Movement**

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

The goal of Book Movement is to help groups select books by providing information on what other groups are reading. The site has tools to help with the logistics of selecting a book and running the book club. Several e-mail newsletters are available.

### **BookBrowse.com**

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

Book Browse provides reviews and excerpts of about 20 new books per month. Some content is available only with a paid subscription. Free info includes book group tips like how to create your own discussion guide. Also features author interviews and an e-mail newsletter.

### **The Complete Review**

<http://www.complete-review.com>

Best described in their own words: “A selectively comprehensive, objectively opinionated survey of books old and new, trying to meet all your book review, preview, and information needs.”

### **IndieBound.org**

<http://www.indiebound.org/>

This site has replaced BookSense and is the website of independent booksellers. Information includes indie best-seller lists, an online community, and a tool to find your local indie store.

### **Reading Group Choices**

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

This site includes primarily original information on starting and leading a group. There are free reading guides for books that are included in their annual publication, *Reading Group Choices*, browsable by subject and volume. Guides include summary, author notes, and questions to consider.

### **Reading Group Guides**

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

Advice and ideas include how to start and run a discussion group, tips for selecting books, and discussion questions for use when there is no guide available. Publisher-provided book guides include summary, questions, and reviews. There are also monthly surveys of book group-related issues.

## Web Sites of Book Groups

**Movie Stars Book Club:** <http://www.geocities.com/moviestarbookclub/index.htm>

This website is great fun to read due to the short bios on each member, complete with photos of the actresses they have selected to play the part of each member should a movie ever be made about the club. The other great feature is their book list, which includes ratings from each member.

**Mostly We Eat:** <http://www.mostlyweeat.org/>

This book group, made up of couples, meets over dinner. Visitors to their website can consult their book list that includes links to readers' guides, if available, and a description of the kind of food the group ate while discussing the book. They are an irreverent bunch, and the website is a fun read as well as a good resource.

**Brookworms:** [http://freespace.virgin.net/brookworms.reading\\_group/](http://freespace.virgin.net/brookworms.reading_group/)

This British group's website provides an interesting view into what is popular with book groups "across the pond".

## Book Discussion Guides from Publishers

**Beacon Press:** <http://www.beacon.org/>

**Harper-Collins:** <http://www.harpercollins.com/readers/index.aspx>

**MacMillan:** <http://www.macmillanlibrary.com/index.php?a=groups>

**Random House:** [http://www.randomhouse.com/reader\\_resources/browsetitle/](http://www.randomhouse.com/reader_resources/browsetitle/)

**Simon & Schuster:** <http://community.simonandschuster.com/>

**WW Norton and Company:**

<http://books.wwnorton.com/books/reading-guide-list.aspx?tid=3288>

## National Reading Group Month

October is National Reading Group Month, sponsored by the Women's National Book Association.

<http://www.nationalreadinggroupmonth.org/>

## Online Discussion Forums

**The Book Group List:** <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bookgrouplist/>

**New York Times Books Forums:** <http://www.nytimes.com/books/forums/>

**Reading Groups Online:** <http://www.readinggroupsonline.com/>

The Book Clique Café has sixteen groups that discuss a variety of genres using chat rooms, bulletin boards, email or web pages. New groups can join by providing some detailed information and there is an option for having a chat room and bulletin board set up for your group. Groups must be open to the public.

## Booksellers' Book Clubs

**Amazon:** <http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/browse/-/292203/104-4035531-5572750>

**Barnes & Noble.com:** <http://bookclubs.barnesandnoble.com/bn>

## Online and Electronic Books

**Classic Bookshelf.com:** <http://www.classicbookshelf.com/>

**Google Books:** <http://books.google.com/>

**KCLS e-books:** Go to [www.kcls.org/ecollection/](http://www.kcls.org/ecollection/)

**Project Gutenberg:** [http://www.gutenberg.org/wiki/Main\\_Page](http://www.gutenberg.org/wiki/Main_Page)

## Information that Comes to You

**Email newsletters:** Options abound for email newsletters. Sign up for email notifications from publishers, authors, booksellers, and your local library.

**RSS Feeds:** Use an aggregator such as Google Reader to collect RSS feeds from your favorite sites automatically. <http://www.google.com/reader>

All sites on this handout were live as of September 23, 2009.

Questions? Contact Lisa Fraser, Reference Librarian, Bellevue Regional Library