

How to Use the Catalogue to Find Picture Books

A couple of typical reasons students come to find picture books are to use in a K-12 classroom with kids or perhaps for one of their university classes to illustrate a point related to their school work.

First thing to know about the picture book collection, it includes both **Juvenile fiction** AND **Juvenile literature**.

We make a distinction between these phrases in the catalogue.

Juvenile fiction: picture books that are stories.

Juvenile literature: represents non-fiction (or information books) written for children, preschool to grade 12.

So, how do you FIND these gems?

1. We suggest that you start with a basic catalogue search. Typing in a keyword related to your topic will usually retrieve a few records. Look for **PIC BK** in the call number and Doucette Picture Book in the Location field of a citation.

The screenshot shows a library catalogue record for the book "FAMILIES" by Susan Kuklin. The record includes the following information:

- Item Information** | **A Look Inside** | **Catalogue Record**
- Families**
Kuklin, Susan.
- In frank, funny, and touching interviews, children from 15 different families talk about the ups and downs of life in America, this book is a celebration of all families. Full color.
- Publisher:** Hyperion Books for Children,
Pub date: c2006.
Pages: 36 p. :
ISBN: 0786808225
- A Look Inside:** [Review](#) [Summary](#) [CLCD Review](#)
- Holdings** [Change Holdings Display](#)
- University of Calgary** --> [Guide to locations](#)
- | Copy | Loan/Material Type | Location |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 306.85 KUF 2006 PIC BK 1. | Two Week Loan (Doucette) | Doucette Library - Picture Books |

Call number shows PIC BK Location indicates picture books

2. Adding the words **juvenile fiction** or **juvenile literature** will limit your search to books written for children, which will typically include books from the picture book collection. However, a search with these terms attached will also retrieve citations for books from all parts of our collection. Eg. 'Schools Juvenile fiction' retrieves stories found in both the picture books and novels.

- Picture books can be found by setting a location limit on the advance search screen in the catalogue.

Advanced Search

words or phrase And

author And

title And

journal title And

subject And

medical subject And

series

Library:

University of Calgary branch:

language:

format:

specialized format:

loan/material type:

location:

publication year: (e.g. >2002)

search type:

sort by:

Location menu allows you to change the default to a specific Location, in this case Picture Books.

This search is for picture books about spiders and will retrieve both fiction and nonfiction titles found only in the Doucette’s collection of picture books. If I had searched ‘spiders juvenile fiction’ the catalogue would have retrieved a list of only stories about spiders from the picture book collection.

Some tips and tricks to help:

- Be aware that this catalogue uses American spellings not British. For example, if you are looking for books about colour -- TYPE in color juvenile fiction OR for books about behaviour – TYPE behavior juvenile literature.
- Sometimes truncating a word can help increase the number of hits in a search.
Truncating a word looks like this: child\$
It will retrieve everything about this topic with the prefix ‘child’ including: children, children’s, child, child’s, childless, childish, etc.
- Some of the terms used in the subject catalogue will not be intuitive which is why we recommend using keyword searching instead of subject searching.
For example, finding books about Natives in Canada. The official subject heading used is: Indians of North America. The word Indian is not used much today so most people would use natives, aboriginals, or First Nations. Use the word(s) you know first and see what comes up. If you get a few hits, check out the subjects that are attached to this record on the screen Catalogue Record (blue tab at top of page). Always, feel free to come to the

Reference Desk and ask our help if trying to come up with research terms. We can usually save you time and a lot of hair pulling when it comes to this.

4. Some special types of children's books to be aware of and the keywords to use in the catalogue search:
 - a. Bilingual books – books written in two languages namely English and something else like Spanish, Russian, Punjabi, Croatian, etc.
 - b. Stories without words – picture books with very little to no text, just pictures.
 - c. Toy and movable books – books with added features such as sound chips, pop-up books, die-cut pages, games, etc.
 - d. Pattern books – books that have lots of repetition of language: “Brown Bear, Brown Bear, what do you see?”
 - e. Stories in rhyme

5. We encourage MT students to use children's books for class presentations to illustrate points that might be seen in case study, field work or Pro Sem. Just a reminder kids' books are written with kids in mind and the situations that are often related to their lives. For example, kids' books are written about bullying or a domineering teacher not about 'power or authority in the classroom' or 'tone of teaching'. 'Diversity in the classroom' reflected in a kids' book might look at a newly arrived immigrant child and settling into school or a handicapped child making friends at a new school. Come to the Reference Desk for help in 'translating' ed-speak into kids' books.