New Media Resources
Multi-Cultural Apps & Digital Resources for Diversity

New Media presents a unique opportunity for content curators to recommend more diverse books in app or eBook formats. It also has opened up the door for consumers, educators, librarians and other professionals to advocate for more multicultural storytelling for children.

The flip side of this wonderful opportunity, however, is a digital tidal wave of content that is also painfully diverse in quality. There were a number of barriers for a new author who wanted to enter traditional picture book publishing in the 20ᵗʰ century, with an average of 5,000 titles published each year for children vs the staggering new media content numbers, totaling more than 2,000 apps a day (in all categories).

These figures can mean hundreds of children's book apps are published each week in the iOS App Store alone, which would be more than a 10-fold increase in content available in just a decade's time. While this content explosion can mean diverse content has a better chance of being created, it has an overall more difficult chance of being discovered and a lot of the additional content flooding new media is poorly developed, edited and/or created with profit as the only incentive. The challenge is to dig up the very best of this new diverse content, encourage/empower our diverse communities to tell their own stories in digital, agree on basic minimum standards for quality and think outside-the-box in a 21ˢᵗ century way about content creation in general.

It is imperative that we include criteria for diversity to any rubric being used to evaluate library materials, just as we would include criteria for developmental needs. Like all new things, new media is evolving, so there are still not enough good content options for certain populations, languages and cultural experiences. This means it is also useful to know about apps that are a blank slate for creating children's stories, especially if no quality picture book apps or eBooks match the storytelling needs of children of color.

Book App Recommendations:

The very best list to date was created in 2014 for the annual ALA conference in Las Vegas by **Marianne Martens**, Ph.D. - Whet Your APPetite: Multicultural Apps for Young People - This 6-page .pdf document has detailed information about 18 multi-cultural storybook apps: https://littleelit.files.wordpress.com/2014/07/martens-whet-your-appetite-mc-annotated-list.pdf

Other good resource sites to use include **CommonSenseMedia.org** using keywords or lists like this one on "Cultural Appreciation Games, Apps, and Websites" https://www.commonsensemedia.org/lists/cultural-appreciation-games-apps-and-websites

Digital-Storytime.com has a robust search engine for their 900+ book reviews, so using keywords can also be helpful, plus they have a category listing for apps with "Diversity or Multi-Cultural Themes" that is updated with new reviews regularly: http://digital-storytime.com/top10.php?id=132

Many individual apps also contain multicultural stories, like **Kite Reader - Multicultural Collection**: http://kitereaders.com/catalog/subject/multicultural-collection

For **eBooks**, the best resources are available via **Kindle** (even for iPad use, since iBooks has a less robust discovery engine). Because they have many good indexes for print books, Amazon's catalogue of "Multicultural Stories: Kindle Edition" has over 1500 eBook titles broken down by ages for kids from one to twelve AND by cultural group: http://amzn.to/1oWOBOX

- *Books*

- *Children's Books*
- *Geography & Cultures*
  - **Multicultural Stories**
  - *African-American* *(537)*
  - *Asian & Asian American* *(120)*
  - *Hispanic & Latino* *(212)*
  - *Native North & South Americans* *(269)*

Other Resources for multicultural storytelling, diverse books & libraries (not new media specific) include recent projects to be aware of:

Everyday Diversity (February 2014) - A group effort to find, identify, and review books that predominantly feature diversity without being about diversity or creating a sense of otherness, especially those that are appropriate for library storytime. http://everydaydiversity.blogspot.com/

Jaime Naidoo - Diversity Programming for Digital Youth: Promoting Cultural Competence in the Children's Library (book, 2014): http://www.abc-clio.com/product.aspx?isbn=9781610694872

Show Me the Awesome - Diversity in Collection Development (May 2013):
http://www.futurelibrariansuperhero.com/2013/05/show-me-awesome-diversity-in-collection.html

Storytime Underground: Literacy is not a Luxury
http://storytimeunderground.org/2014/08/05/we-can-do-better-by-angie-manfredi-continuing-the-conversation-on-anti-racism/

Uncomfortable Conversations for Educators: Exploring Early Childhood, Culture, Media & Technology
http://uncomfortableconversations4educators.com

We Need Diverse Books (April 2014) - catching fire on Twitter under the hashtag, #WeNeedDiverseBooks – http://weneeddiversebooks.org/

Print vs Digital - Keeping an Eye on Publishing Back-Lists:

Picture book titles for children can have short lives before going out-of-print, so it is also useful to watch for your favorite multicultural stories (or look at online lists), since many author's back-lists are now candidates to be released as eBooks, apps and other new media formats. Several great resources exist, like:

School Library Journal (2014) - Culturally Diverse Books
http://www.slj.com/2014/05/diversity/culturally-diverse-books-selected-by-sljs-review-editors

Common Sense Media (2014) - Help Your Kids Find Books with Diverse Characters
https://www.commonsensemedia.org/blog/help-your-kids-find-books-with-diverse-characters

Common Sense Media (2014) - Books with Characters of Color
https://www.commonsensemedia.org/lists/books-with-characters-of-color

Cooperative Children's Book Center, School of Education (Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison - 2012) - 50 Multicultural Books Every Child Should Know
http://ccbc.education.wisc.edu/books/detailListBooks.asp?idBookLists=42

Center for the Study of Multicultural Children's Literature (CSMCL) - on Facebook at:
https://www.facebook.com/pages/Center-for-the-Study-of-Multicultural-Childrens-Literature/238909969517173 - This Children's Book Council initiative has a site just for diversity issues in children's books - http://www.cbcdiversity.com - **BEST MULTICULTURAL BOOKS OF 2013**: http://www.patmora.com/images/blog-best-multi-2013.pdf

Multicultural Books for Children: 40+ Book Lists (compiled by @PragmaticMom) Includes:
Multicultural Books, Civil Rights Movement Books, Native American Books, Asian American Books - with subcategories (Korean American, Japanese American, Chinese American, Southeast Asian) http://www.pragmaticmom.com/multicultural-books-for-children/

Apps:

Round is a Mooncake HD - https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/id402213435?mt=8 ($2.99)
A Song for Miles - https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/id439529857?mt=8 ($2.99)
The Great Sasquatch - https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/id714350212?mt=8 ($2.99)
Curly Hair/Straight Hair - https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/id469512365?mt=8 (Free)
Up & Down - https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/id560485488?mt=8 (Free)
One Globe Kids - https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/id477746969?mt=8 (Free, In-app purchase)
Being Global - https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/id435406450?mt=8 ($1.99)
Electric Company Party Game - https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/id592510678?mt=8 (Free)
ABC Music - https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/id420949855?mt=8 ($2.99)
Touch & Learn - Emotions - https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/id451685022?mt=8 (Free)

Additional resources - LittleeLit Blog, including these great posts:

Resources to Support Dual Language Learners in Storytime, by Karen Nemeth

http://littleelit.com/2013/11/26/resources-to-support-including-dual-language-learners-in-storytime-by-karen-nemeth/

Diversity & Multi-Cultural App Presentations - ALA 2014

http://littleelit.com/2014/02/28/diversity-multicultural-apps-presentations/

Rapid Reviews to Whet Your Appetite - Diverse Audiences

http://littleelit.com/2014/07/05/whet-your-appetite-rapid-reviews-of-apps-for-children-from-preschool-to-tweens-alaac14

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