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NoveList. 2011. Web. 21 May 2011. <http://www.ebscohost.com/novelist/default.php?id=5>

NoveList Plus. Dominican University, 2011. Web 21 May 2011.

<http://web.ebscohost.com.ezproxy.dom.edu/novp/search?sid=ce8e5788-7916-4d3a-90e5-fe9990a401eb%40sessionmgr111&vid=1&hid=106>

Novelist K8 is an online database for children's books ranging from kindergarten through 8th grade which was first developed by three librarians. They had a vision to create a fiction database for librarians to be able to reference instead of relying on each individual librarian's memory about books and genres for their patrons.

Currently the database holds over 150,000 fiction titles, and 4,000 custom created articles with new books being added continuously. NoveList has grown to have a staff of roughly 35 people consisting of backgrounds like management, sales, collection development, training, editorial and customer service. NoveList also has about 50 outside contributors who are specialists in their respective fields. Contributors write content for What We're Reading, Author Read-alikes, Book Discussion Guides, BookTalks, Feature Articles, and Readers' Advisory.

Once logged onto the database, the first screen is the home page. On the left hand side of the screen is a section to search Recommended Reads Lists. Dominican University has the option of searching either Fiction or NonFiction since it subscribes for NoveList K8 Plus. For the purpose of this paper, I will be focusing solely on Fiction. Once Fiction is selected, the user has the option to choose from Adult, Teen, Ages 9-12, or Ages 0-8. The next limiter is by genre. Some of the choices include Adventure, Animal Stories, Family, Folklore and Fairy Tales, and Holidays. For my search, I chose Ages 0-8 and Humor. I was then prompted to select Funny Books. The database searched according to my parameters, and provided 20 different recommended titles. An image of the work along with the title, date of publish, author, and a popularity ranking using stars is displayed. The user can also put titles into folders for future

reference. If the user wants more information on a particular title being shown, the user clicks on the title of the work and a new screen is displayed that provides more information such as series, description of the book, genre, min/max grade level, and a persistent link to the record. This screen also provides reviews, publisher information, notes, subject headings, ISBNs, credits, lists and articles that mention the book. If the user wasn't satisfied after selecting a particular book, on the right hand side of the screen lists other recommendations. It is possible to print, share via email, save, or transfer the information to a folder.

In the middle of the home screen is the main search box. The user has an option of a basic or advanced search. Using the basic search, the user types in an author's name, title of a book, or a series title and submits the information for retrieval. I performed a basic search for *The Hunger Games*, where I simply typed in the title. The search displayed 39 book results, and *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins was number one. The advanced search is more comprehensive. It provides three search boxes with corresponding field limiters like title, author name, series name, ISBN, and Dewey Decimal numbers. It also utilizes the Boolean indicators. The advanced search has many more ways to limit the results. A few limiters are grade level, number of pages, Lexile Reading levels, author's gender, and award winners. If three rows of search boxes are not enough, the user can add more rows. Using the advanced search, I searched *The Hunger Games* as title, and Suzanne Collins as author. The search displayed the book I had in mind.

Underneath the search box on the home page are best-selling books that NoveList recommends, which are compiled from librarians' suggestions. These lists are effective because not only are the titles and authors listed, but so are the images of the book covers. This is a great way to just browse titles the user may never come across. There are over 800 lists that are organized by topics, reading level, and whether the book is fiction or non-fiction.

NoveList K-8 allows for the user to save their preferences so that every time the user signs into the database, the information will be presented in the way the user prefers. In this section, the user can change the page layout, the number of results per page, and how the results are displayed. The user can save searches and retrieve them via the Search History link. The right hand side of the home page has links to NoveList Resources such as Author Read-alikes, Book Discussion Guides, NoveList Feature Articles, Award Winners, Readers' Advisory Toolbox, and Teaching with Books.

A How to Use NoveList link button is available on every page so if a user is having trouble or has questions about how the database works, they can be directed to training and support materials. Furthermore, there are constant buttons that are present no matter where the user is within the database such as the Home button, Authors button, Series button, Subjects/Appeals, and More. Besides the Home button, the rest direct the user to alphabetical or relevancy ranked data. For example, if the user chooses the Author button, the next screen provides a list of all author's listed in the database in alphabetical order.

A subscription is needed to access the database. NoveList's website offers a free trial before purchasing. The librarian has to fill out their online form which asks contact information so that a representative can call to set up the trial. Once a paid subscriber, if a user has a problem, NoveList's Support Center is available 24/7 with help sheets, FAQ's, tutorials, and contact information for staff.

NoveList K8 is important because a librarian does not know everything about every book that has ever been published. This database helps librarians to introduce new and old books to their patrons based on recommendations, reviews, and lists of books. The database and search features are very easy to use and require minimal training. Since it was created by librarians, the database was probably built with ease of use in mind. Librarians are used to utilizing many

databases with search features ranging in difficulty. One of the main advantages of NoveList K8 is that a librarian can simply log on and start searching for books. The white background with black letters is clean and clear. The contrasting colors are orange, green, and blue. Those colors are used to draw the user's attention to different search features or tabs. The database is not cluttered and very intuitive to use.