

# THE INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S DIGITAL LIBRARY

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The International Children's Digital Library (ICDL) is a five-year research project funded by the US National Science Foundation, IMLS, and the Kahle/Austin Foundation. Building on the capability and promise of technology, the ICDL will be a collection of high quality children's books from all over the world that are digitized in their entirety and made freely available over the Internet.

The ICDL, a joint project between the University of Maryland and the Internet Archive, is founded on the idea that access to children's books can help awaken a new understanding of other people and nations. Through this access, teachers and librarians can provide their readers with the opportunity to explore books in their own language or browse the broad collection of award winning children's literature from around the world. We also believe that reading books on the ICDL encourages children to seek out physical or real books in their communities, and thus, contributes to the promotion of reading and literacy.

Using research tools we are identifying how children interact with the new technologies used to display books in a digital library.