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## The Caucus Race

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### Children's Literature Sites and Online Review Journals

by The Dodo

What, the Editor wondered, should we call a column about links to related websites? As usual, Lewis Carroll has the answer. In this passage from *Alice in Wonderland*, I explain to Alice what a Caucus-Race is:

*First it marked out a race-course, in a sort of circle, ("the exact shape doesn't matter", it said) and then all the party were placed along the course, here and there. There was no "One, two, three, and away!" but they began running when they liked, and left off when they liked, so that it was not easy to know when the race was over.*

Random yet connected. A rambling race. Rather like zipping around in haphazard fashion on the World Wide Web, isn't it? This column will suggest a leisurely itinerary for the children's literature lover. So let us begin at the beginning, with the wonderful [Children's Literature Web Guide at the University of Calgary](#) run by David K. Brown (whom I always think of as dkbrown) at the University of Calgary. You can spend hours exploring the highways and byways of his site. Or, you can go directly to his listing of [Review Journals and Newsletters](#) for links to sites which offer, among other things, brief reviews and annotations. (The Dodo prefers the roominess of the column format.) There you will discover the young adult journal, [ALAN](#), which features in their Spring 1996 issue two annotated bibliographical articles that immediately caught this Dodo's eye: Gretchen Schwarz's [The Power of Foreign Young Adult Literature](#) and Judy McDonald's [Multicultural Literature Bibliography](#). The Calgary journals page will also lead you to the [Signal: Approaches to Children's Books](#) site set up by graduate student Claas Kazzar at the University of Leipzig. There you can find information about Signal, their publications and poetry award. A slight detour will take you to another Kazzar site, [English Studies Leipzig \(Germany\)--Children's Literature Pages](#), full of lovely links to children's literature resources, booksellers, publishers and criticism sites. Before leaving Calgary, look at [CM - Canadian Review of Materials](#), a bi-weekly electronic journal which reviews Canadian books, videos, audio tapes, CD-ROMS -- and websites.

[The Canadian Children's Book Centre](#) is a national, nonprofit organization which promotes the reading, writing and illustrating of Canadian children's books. The site lists the "best of the best" -- the starred titles -- from the 1996-1997 Our Choice catalogue. Another major site is [The National Library of Canada](#). Watch for [READ UP ON IT](#), their annual annotated bibliography of Canadian children's books in French and English: the 1996 list focuses on Canadian history. The library also currently has available an electronic version of their excellent exhibition, "**The Art of Illustration: A Celebration of Contemporary Canadian Children's Book Authors**", with artwork, biographies and bibliographies. (The public exhibition continues until December 7, 1997.)

Two of our favourite public library websites are [The Toronto Public Library](#), using their Kids' Club page as a jumping-off point; and [Kingston Public Library's Froglinks](#), a very well-designed and extensive listing related to children's literature and culture. But what about sites designed by children? Let's end our race by returning to that journals page in Calgary to find [Aaron's Book Review](#). See what Aaron, a six-year-old reviewer with eclectic tastes, has to say about the book of the day.