

The Speculative Fiction Information Community  
The Boundless Canvas, and the Community that Admires it

Paul Stanis

LIBR 200 Section 3

Information Communities

December 10, 2014



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/).

**Abstract**

Speculative fiction (SF) has a dynamic information community, which forms the basis of the paper. SF and its community are introduced, followed by a review of the literature, and a brief description of the author's methodology in collecting examples and points of interest. A discussion of the many facets of the information community follows, including demographics and the ways in which information professionals have interacted with the development of the community. The paper concludes with a call for greater research and attention to the community's information needs.

*Keywords:* science fiction, fantasy, information community

## **Introduction**

The author's information community began as the alarmingly specific one of *Doctor Who* fan fiction writers. After brief thought, it was decided to widen the field to a more accessible one, and one the author considers himself a part of: speculative fiction (SF). This term encompasses both science fiction works, and wildly imaginative fantasy stories. They are linked by the root impulse of speculation (Kofmel, 2004, p.46). While the distinction is not always made, it is somewhat widely understood, and any discussion of science fiction or fantasy as discrete fields of study still fall under the purview of the author's research.

SF sometimes falls under the shorthand of "weird fiction", and indeed is a ready facility for escapism. The dichotomy of the genre might be described as comprised of its "two major streams: the philosophical focus, largely concerned with ideas and issues; and the storyteller focus, largely concerned with action and adventure" (Kofmel, 2004, p.47). So there is something of a complication in the heart of the genre that militates against easy pigeonholing. At the end of the day, SF in its purest form is "potentially the freest genre in existence" (Beal, 1986, p.4)".

Given the "multimodal" nature of the SF genre (Bradley, 2009, p.496), it follows that its information community is similarly multifaceted. The genre at its inception was the providence of boys, with a readership slow to gain verisimilitude in audience. As the decades have progressed, so has the SF information community, with an ever-growing diversity and an eye always on emerging technology.

This information community is of obvious interest to the author, given his own devotion to the genre, but even from an objective standpoint there is a tendency toward passion within the community. Many members communicate with like-minded people online and at conventions. Even so, "Not all readers are fans" (Kofmel, 2004, p.46), and it is important to acknowledge the

more casual members of the community. So this genre of infinite possibility engages a dynamic information community.

The author will review literature on the appeal of the genre, the boundary between young adult and adult SF, and the available demographic research, such as it is. Furthermore, the author will go on to discuss demographics in depth, the relationship of the community with new technology and technology services, the community aspect, novel recommendations, and dedicated SF collections, at last concluding with a call for future research.

### **Literature Review**

Certain works in the literature introduce the genre of SF partially by exploring its appeal, and answering the basic question of why it is read. Kofmel finds that the general attraction to the genre is obvious given that “almost anything is possible” (2004, p.47).

A canvas with a potentially infinite framework is appealing, but also hard to define. So it is appropriate that even in a genre with limitless boundaries, there exist recurrent themes and more specific attractions. Kofmel refers to an interview-based study conducted with adult readers, and separately identifies end goals in reading SF, and basic reasons for reading SF (2004, p.46).

According to the study, the three totemic goals of reading science fiction are “the exploration of ideas, the affirmation of worldview, and escape” (Kofmel, 2004, p.46-47). These make sense and connect very easily to the characteristics of the canvas of SF. However, the study’s four strategic reasons for reading are not as specific to the genre: “habit, using category as a filter to make the selection task a manageable size, influence of the reader’s social network, and domain knowledge” (Kofmel, 2004, p.47). These are mundane reasons, but the word is not

used pejoratively. The study demonstrates how both the wonder of SF and the habit of trying to reach that sense of wonder interact in building an audience.

In 1998, Kandel (in his capacity as both a writer and an editor of SF volumes) wrote an article on how SF had broken out of “the old system of genre apartheid” (p.2) due to increased presence of female and nonwhite voices. These factors, and newfound mainstream popularity for any number of SF-tinged series such as *The Lord of the Rings* and *A Song of Ice and Fire*, all speak to a slow march of SF to the center of public consciousness.

Another theme in the literature is a challenge to the boundary between young adult SF and adult SF (Burton, 2014; Muller, 1980; Pierce, 1993; Wilton, 1981). Both Pierce (1993) and Wilton (1981) identify a need for escapism and the exercise of imagination in young and/or reluctant readers, but point out that while this “need” for fantastic escape is most associated with younger readers, it is by no means limited to them.

In 1980, Muller found that within the SF genre, the distinction between “young adult novels and adult novels... is all the more blurred” (p.71). Muller went on to conclude that “recommending a science fiction or fantasy book on the basis of its young adult or adult publishing classification, then, makes no sense” given that the artificial distinction at work there is simply not a “consideration in the way adolescents select books” (1980, p.71) themselves.

A yet more direct challenge comes in 2014 from Burton, who encourages adults to “step out of the Young Adult closet” (p. 30) and be unashamed of reading novels that one’s teenage self would also happen to approve of. Burton cheekily reminds the adult reader alienated by SF’s aliens or supernatural elements of Shakespeare’s “ghosts, witches, and fairies” (p. 30).

Numerous respected SF authors such as Terry Pratchett, Ursula K. Le Guin and Neil Gaiman have written children’s fiction. Since SF is a literature of ideas, there is more flexibility

in reading across age-appropriate labels. What an adolescent is expected to read may be the same as what an adult is expected to leave behind, but the lines are blurred when it comes to a genre built on the construction of fantastical ideas.

In any case, SF has a definite readership in the early formative years, as seen by Berger. In 1977, he found in survey-based research that 77.66% of SF readers began reading between the ages nine to fifteen (p.233). This figure reflects common wisdom, as Wilton states without particular statistical backup that “most readers of science fiction acquire their interest in the genre during adolescence” (1981, p.609).

For the young reader, fantasy in particular holds a particular fascination, since it, “more than any other genre, is a literature of empowerment” (Pierce, 1993, p.51). Certain tropes of the genre such as the use of magic and heroic symbols of youth have a definite power.

Larger than the tropes it uses, however, “Fantasy creates hope and optimism in readers. It is the pure stuff of wonder” (Pierce, 1993, p.51). Since imagination is such a fundamental building block of an immersive fantasy world, the outlandish and the fantastical can instill a very healthy sense of wonder. The escapism that fantasy represents is sometimes “bandied about as if it’s a bad thing” (Gaiman, 2013), but the act of escapism is championed in the literature by librarians and authors alike.

In more pragmatic terms, certain types of SF are appealing to children not despite, but in fact because of certain facile qualities, as described by Wilton (1981, p.609):

It seems that the very faults of science fiction from the literary point of view – the lack of characterization, the use of formula situations, the emphasis on action rather than character development – make the genre accessible to reluctant readers.

This hearkens back to the “domain knowledge” mentioned by Kofmel (2004, p.47), as the expectation of tropes can play a comforting role for young and beginning readers of SF.

Some authors of the established literature are librarians themselves (Chelton, 2002), but even others take it upon themselves to discuss specific novel recommendations, as well as strategies information professionals can use to effectively serve inquiring waders into the SF community (Chelton, 2002; Kandel, 1998; Muller, 1980; Wilton, 1981).

Finally, there is a statistical branch of the scholarly (Berger, 1977) and popular literature (Hunt, 2011; Niemann-Ross, 2014). Unfortunately, there is an apparent dearth of anything beyond superficial statistics and demographical research in the twenty-first century. A wide-ranging study that updates some of the groundwork laid by Berger in 1977 would be very much welcome, as well as substantive research into the SF information community’s particular relationship with information professionals now and in the future.

### **Methodology**

Scholarly works were sought in EBSCO-hosted database, JSTOR, Taylor & Francis databases, and various other sources. Secondary and tertiary sources were weeded out from searches of the general Internet. Sources *about* information sources (Texas A&M’s Science Fiction and Fantasy Research Database, dedicated collections at the Universities of New Brunswick, Liverpool and California, Riverside) were found while specifically researching those sources.

The author’s interviewees (R. C., R. H., and J. F. on the blog site) were interviewed for individual blog posts, but also on other general topics. For the purposes of discussion, they will be respectively referred to as Rory, Roger and Jenny.

## **Discussion**

### **Demographics**

It has already been established that demographic statistics in the SF information community have been somewhat lacking. Relatively shortsighted surveys and a thirty-seven year old publication form the backbone of the author's findings. However, dated and limited as they are, so too could such criticisms be levied at many other statistical documents, and the findings of Berger in 1977 still hold interest in forming a foundation of discussing SF demographics.

Berger's work analyzes statistics gained from several different survey-based studies, including those run by "commercial science-fiction magazines seeking to determine the characteristics of their own readerships", as well as 3,000 responses from two Canadian conventions (1977, p.233). While it certainly should be acknowledged that dedicated magazine readers and "attendees at a convention are among the most active and committed fans" (Berger, 1977, p.233), diving into some of the numbers is still a worthy exercise.

Berger notes that female readership began to noticeably grow in the 1960s, and the data borne out in his research at the convention is a distribution of 64.54% male to 34.75% female attendance (1977, p.234). This distribution will be returned to later when discussing a much more recent survey study, but the point is that since the popular genesis of SF in the pre-World War II generation, female membership in the community has steadily and consistently risen.

When addressing the magazine studies, Berger identifies part of the motivation of the studies "to buttress assertions that science-fiction readers were the technologically trained elite they claimed to be", but even in his own convention surveys, he found that 86.5% of responders



had attended at least some college (1977, p.237). While being tech-savvy and educated are not necessarily correlative bedfellows, it seems that at least on some level, the SF community does have the numbers to back up any implicit claim of above-average education.

In the current year, Niemann-Ross posted a brief, non-scholarly article on SF demographics. After getting 851 responses across a sample size generated by Google consumer surveys, Niemann-Ross found that “among the respondents who read science fiction, fifty-seven percent are male” (2014). Remembering the rough 64.54% figure, the glacial but real inclusion of more and more female readers into the community is seen to continue.

Another of Niemann-Ross’ findings is that compared with the Bowker Review’s 65% of book buyers making more than \$50,000, “science fiction readers are wealthier: seventy-two percent make more than \$50,000. A majority of Sci Fi readers make more than \$80,000” (2014). Niemann-Ross presents the statistic without further clarification, but in any case, the SF information community has within its ranks many people with the luxury of delving deep into its catalog of written works.

It is an indictment of the current state of available SF demographic statistics that the most pertinent recent article the author could find is this non-annotated and brief article on the *Science Fiction Writers of America* website. The author is not quick to draw sweeping conclusions from the work of either Berger or Niemann-Ross, for the former’s statistics were skewed toward very active SF readers, and the latter’s research was bereft of citations and a bigger sample size.

Returning to the subject of sociological diversity, Butler provides insight into SF’s rocky beginning in embracing the diversity the genre itself inherently espouses (Beal, 1986, p.14):

It tends to be limited by what people think should be done with it and by what editors think should be done with it... in the past, there were editors who didn’t really think that

sex or women should be mentioned or at least not used other than as rewards for the hero or terrible villainesses. Blacks were not mentioned without there being any particular reason.

Butler identifies the genre at its inception as “a boy’s genre” steeped in adolescence and the flavor of a particular kind of nerd culture that “did not make it popular with blacks or adults or women for quite a long time” (Beal, 1986, p.16). Butler, who embodies all three of those qualities, is one of many who have helped SF more fully embody the possibility it represents, and as the genre has done so, its information community has grown correspondingly.

### Technology and science

It is appropriate that the SF information community has a consistent reputation when it comes to use of emerging technology (Berger, 1977, p.238). In fact, much of the academic interest in SF stems from “the pervasive impact on our society of technological advances once restricted to the imagination of science fiction writers” (Mulcahy, 2006, p.15). The interviewee Jenny suggested that mobile library services would be a major arm of the future of libraries, and indeed when speaking generally, researchers have found “a strong desire among students for mobile library services” (Paterson, 2011, p.421).

The same desire is undoubtedly found in the SF community. In 2011, Hunt, an SF author, conducted a survey with 833 respondents; the question: “Do you currently read e-books?” 71% of respondents said yes (Hunt, 2011). Of those who responded in the negative, 69% said they would “be getting an ebook reader shortly” (Hunt, 2011). At least the SF readership that Hunt reached was and is enthusiastic about new ways to read the fiction they are inclined to.

Moving onto the physical science side, in his convention surveys, Berger found that 48.58% of respondents who had attended college majored in a physical or biological science (1977, p.238), and that 27.3% regularly read scientific journals (1977, p.242). The interviewee Roger, who is an M.D., fits that profile of SF fandom crossed with a focus on a physical science. He does indeed read scientific and medical journals. He went on to speak to the extra appeal certain new technologies have to SF fans, such as how an SF reader might have read a futuristic story featuring technology very much like an iPad.

### Technology services

In the cosmology of SF, there are numerous examples of information professionals serving the needs of the information community. Perhaps the most prominent example is the Science Fiction and Fantasy Research Database (SFFRD) “provided and maintained by Texas A&M University” (Potvin, 2013, p.51). Potvin describes how, in 1969, a single simple reference question put to librarian Halbert Hall (“How can I find book reviews on works by Isaac Asimov?”) “proved to have a profound afterlife” (2013, p.52). Hall went on to create what is now one of the foremost databases of SF criticism in the Internet, for the archive was digitized in 2008 (Potvin, 2013, p.53). This is an information professional filling a need in the information community in its purest form.

Hall’s preliminary review index, “while meeting a clear need, coincided with a period of proliferation of professional science fiction indexing” (Potvin, 2013, p.54). In this way, Hall set an example that led to a renaissance in this area of work, benefiting everyone in the SF information community. The interviewee Rory is familiar with the database and its humble beginnings. He is adept at finding the information he needs through interlibrary loan systems

such as LINK + as well as venues such as the SFFRD, and is a clear example of a community member served by the existence of such information sources.

### Community

Rory is also active online in a number of ways, such as on SF-specific forums. He, as well as fellow interviewee Roger, is also familiar with a more tangible type of gathering, the convention. The SF information community has been described as a “uniquely self-conscious group of fans organized into a network of clubs, amateur publications, and periodic conventions” (Berger, 1977, p.232), and indeed, the community attracts passion. All three interviewees agree that there seems to be a high quotient of devotion to SF readers, and that the community has a sense of itself. The desire to connect with like-minded people is seen in community events like conventions.

### Novel recommendation

The literature is crowded with novel recommendations and attendant strategies. This is significant because a discussion of these matters is key to information professionals’ duty to meet the needs of community members.

One way to go about this is to refer to reprinting statistics in order to determine popularly demanded works. In 2004, Rabkin tabulated “the form and content of 1,959 science fiction short stories published... in the years 1926 to 2000” and found that the odds of reprinting are much greater if the work is a “dystopian satire” (p.472).

His colleague Ketterer objected to the example this sets, and championed “the kind of science fiction that depends on the power of imagination (fantasy, if you will)” (Ketterer, 2005, p.247), as opposed to those satires. Thus two perspectives can interact in the general minefield of how to recommend SF very differently. The way to cut through this haze was hit upon by

Chelton and Hartwell when they made sure to carefully modulate recommendations variously to “younger readers”, “more experienced genre readers”, and “the waders” (2002, p.135).

At the same time, Chelton and Hartwell acknowledged that recommendations can only go so far, and that lists are “intended to open up possibilities, not fence in or encompass the whole of a reading genre” (2002, p.134-135). Interviewees Jenny and Roger agree, and are of the opinion that most SF readers have perhaps a below-average desire to seek recommendations from information professionals if they are secure in their own methods of learning about novels they would like.

### Collections

Interviewees Rory and Roger identify dedicated SF collections as clear examples of perks for the similarly dedicated SF information community member. When building dedicated SF collections and archives, it might not be intuitive that they would be subject to “circulation statistics” or “user need studies” (Brewis, 2003, p.108), but the collection at the University of New Brunswick is a case in point.

In 2007, SF checkouts from the collection had decreased at a steady pace (Nikkel, 2009, p.199), and “systematic collection development and management had long since ceased” (Nikkel, 2009, p.196). The decision was made to weed the collection due to lack of space and declining use, and the expected “collision of management priorities and academic principles” took the form of responses to the decision ranging “from confusion to outrage to thoughtful defenses urging caution” (Nikkel, 2009, p.196-197). The takeaway here is that the SF collection, despite its relative neglect and sparse use, was despite this valued highly.

The compromise reached was to weed certain mass-market paperbacks and move the collection to a non-publicly accessible basement pending a move to a larger building, but with a

new dedication to acquiring award-winning works, and the creation of a new collection development policy that had previously been missing (Nikkel, 2009, p.203). Roger mentioned wanting to go to the collection, as he used to live closer to it, but the collection cannot be browsed anymore. Materials can still be requested, however. The situation as a whole is an example of information professionals balancing community needs with their own priorities, and the compromise is an interesting and encouraging one.

The second of three collections concerned in this paper is that housed in the University of Liverpool, which functions as the official research library of the Science Fiction Foundation and is “the largest collection of material relating to science fiction in the European Community” (Sawyer, 2010, p.183). It is a “working” library, meaning that while materials cannot be checked out, it is a vibrant hub of research materials used by a great many students (Sawyer, 2010, p.185).

Finally, the Eaton Collection at UC Riverside is “the largest publicly accessible archive in the world of ‘speculative fiction’ or SF” (Jackson, 2013, p.21). Similar to the collection in Liverpool, this archive functions more as a museum, with research support but with no circulation. It is also the most famous, judging by the fact that all three interviewees had heard of it, with Rory having visited it several times.

Recently, the Eaton Collection ran into a spot of trouble when, after some bureaucratic shuffling, it fell under new oversight that seemed poised to make some negative changes. Just as the new management was seen as a threat to the collection’s continued integrity and comprehension, “the estate of Jay Kay Klein, who worked in advertising for General Electric and Carrier and had a passion for photography and science fiction” (Muckenfuss, 2014), donated a \$3.5 million gift to the collection. Klein had been a photographer of SF authors and conventions

for many years, and his care, along with his estate's eye toward preserving SF history, speak to the prominent place SF really has in the public consciousness and heart.

### General services

Information professionals are fundamentally advised to “forget the stereotypes... while conducting sf readers’ advisory” (Kofmel, 2004, p.46). As demographics even in 1977 have shown, the SF information community is bigger than the popular picture of the anorak-wearing, basement-dwelling nerd. All interviewees address at least on some level the way in which SF readers come in all stripes, shapes and sizes. Jenny, as a more casual reader of SF, sees greater acceptance of “bizarre” stories in the mainstream these days, and believes that to a certain extent SF has already been “normalized”.

Even as popular works of SF capture the public imagination, and school libraries plan and structure entire educational programs on the encouragement to read SF (Subramaniam, 2012, p.23), SF is still marginalized to an extent in the average library. In 2006, Mulcahy assessed 112 members of the Association of Research Libraries (ARL). He found only a very weak “correlation between materials budget and science fiction holdings”, finding instead (Mulcahy, 2006, p.29):

In fact, the library with the strongest science fiction holdings consistently scored at the low end of the ARL rankings. This suggests that for many of the most highly ranked ARL libraries science fiction is not a priority purchase and perhaps that some of the lower-ranked libraries are seeking nontraditional subject areas in which they can excel. SF is still labeled as a nontraditional subject area, which of course is not inherently negative, but it nonetheless leads to relative marginalization. Interviewees Rory and Jenny noted the half of an

aisle dedicated to SF in their local public library, compared, for example, with the three for mysteries.

Patrons take such a proportion for granted, but even here the missing point is that just because a library item is not labeled with a “Sci-Fi” sticker does not necessarily mean that it couldn’t fall under the category of SF, or be of specific interest to the SF community. J.R.R. Tolkien’s works are found in the regular fiction, as are Madeline L’engle’s. It is the responsibility of the information professional to know that some boundaries are not hard and fast.

### **Conclusion**

The SF information community is used to gradual progress. The community itself grows ever more diverse, mirroring the growing diversity of the writers in the field. All of these changes very appropriately reflect the infinite diversity and possibility inherent in SF. Meanwhile, technological advances bring many instances of science fiction into the realm of science fact.

The community aspect of SF readers has remained strong for decades, and shows signs of continued vitality. The largest collection of SF artifacts in the world has a new \$3.5 million lease on life. Information professionals field any number of SF-related questions given the mainstream popularity of certain fantasy and science fiction stories.

All signs point to the continued and increased relevance and vitality of the SF information community, and with that comes new and perhaps unforeseen needs. One of the various needs related to the community is the need for more vigorous and prominent statistical research. Recent commentators may conduct or have access to more obscure studies with



limited scope, but the last weighty analysis of SF community research the author could find was published in 1977.

Other research would also be welcome, such as more detailed breakdowns of casual readers vs. die-hards, and the SF reader's particular interaction with libraries and information professionals. Has actual readership of SF dropped off, perhaps in favor of new and shiny films and television programs? These are all questions that future research can address.

In recent years, we as a culture find ourselves in the midst of an "information glut" (Gaiman, 2013). This, in itself, is a fairly science-fictional notion, but it is the prerogative and responsibility of the librarian to "help people navigate that world" (Gaiman, 2013). Every day sends future to past, and the SF information community is keen to keep up.

## References

Beal, F. M. (1986). Interview with Octavia Butler: Black women and the science fiction genre.

*The Black Scholar*, 17(2), 14-18. Retrieved from

<http://www.jstor.org.libaccess.sjlibrary.org/stable/41067255>

Berger, A. I. (1977). Science-fiction fans in socio-economic perspective: Factors in the social consciousness of a genre. *Science Fiction Studies*, 4(3), 232-246. Retrieved from

<http://www.jstor.org.libaccess.sjlibrary.org/stable/4239132>

Bradley, D. (2009). Reading science fiction [Review of the book *Reading science fiction*, by

Gunn, J., & Barr, M. S., & Candelaria, M.]. *Studies in the Novel*, 41(4), 496-497.

doi:10.1353/sdn.0.0085

Brewis, W. L., & Gericke, E. M. (2003). A model for the selection of science fiction. *Mousaion*,

21(1), 96-116. Retrieved from <http://web.a.ebscohost.com.libaccess.sjlibrary.org/ehost>

Burton, B. (2014, September). Young at heart. *SFX*, 251, 30.

Chelton, M. K., & Hartwell, D. G. (2002). Readers' advising for the young sf, fantasy, and

horror reader. *Reference & User Services Quarterly*, 42(2), 133-138. Retrieved from

<http://www.ala.org/rusa/communications/rusqinfo>

Gaiman, N. (2013). Neil Gaiman: Why our future depends on libraries, reading and daydreaming [Transcript of lecture]. Retrieved from

<http://www.theguardian.com/books/2013/oct/15/neil-gaiman-future-libraries-reading-daydreaming>

Hunt, S. (2011). Stephen Hunt's ebook survey [PDF document]. Retrieved from

<http://www.stephenhunt.net/ebooksurvey2011.pdf>

Jackson, R. M. (2013). The Eaton Collection and UC Riverside libraries: A study in driving alignment. *Research Library Issues*, 283, 21-25. Retrieved from

<http://web.a.ebscohost.com.libaccess.sjlibrary.org/ehost>

Kandel, M. (1998). Is something new happening in science fiction?. *Science Fiction Studies*, 25(1), 1-6. Retrieved from <http://www.jstor.org.libaccess.sjlibrary.org/stable/4240670>

Ketterer, D., Rabkin, E. S., & Baccolini, R. (2005). Science fiction and imagination. *PMLA*, 120(1), 246-249. Retrieved from

<http://www.jstor.org.libaccess.sjlibrary.org/stable/25486156>

Kofmel, K. G. (2004). Sci-fi 101. *Library Journal*, 129(14), 46-47. Retrieved from

<http://lj.libraryjournal.com>

Muckenfuss, M. (2014). Riverside: UCR's sci-fi collection gets \$3.5 million gift [Online article].

Retrieved from <http://www.pe.com/articles/collection-749160-klein-ucr.html>

Mulcahy, K. P. (2006). Science fiction collections in ARL academic libraries. *College &*

*Research Libraries*, 67(1), 15-34. Retrieved from

<http://web.a.ebscohost.com.libaccess.sjlibrary.org/ehost>

Muller, A., & Sullivan III, C. W. (1980). Young adult literature: Science fiction and fantasy

series books. *The English Journal*, 69(7), 71-74. doi:10.2307/817425

Niemann-Ross, M. (2014). Who reads science fiction? [Online article]. Retrieved from

<http://www.sfwf.org/2014/01/reads-science-fiction/>

Nikkel, T., & Belway, L. (2009). When worlds collide: Dismantling the science fiction and

fantasy collection at the University of New Brunswick, Saint John. *Collection*

*Management*, 34(3), 194-208. doi:10.1080/01462670902963288

Paterson, L., & Low, B. (2011). Student attitudes towards mobile library services for

smartphones. *Library Hi Tech*, 29(3), 412-423. doi:10.1108/07378831111174387

Pierce, T. (1993). Fantasy: Why kids read it, why kids need it. *School Library Journal*, 39(10),

50-51. Retrieved from <http://www.slj.com>

Potvin, S., & Coker, C. (2013). Arcane magic: Hal Hall and the creation and transformation of science fiction indexing. *Reference & User Services Quarterly*, 53(1), 51-59. Retrieved from <http://web.a.ebscohost.com.libaccess.sjlibrary.org/ehost>

Rabkin, E. S. (2004). Science fiction and the future of criticism. *PMLA*, 119(3), 457-473. Retrieved from <http://www.jstor.org.libaccess.sjlibrary.org/stable/25486061>

Sawyer, A. (2010). The Science Fiction Foundation Collection at the University of Liverpool. *Science Fiction Studies*, 37(2), 183-185. Retrieved from <http://www.jstor.org.libaccess.sjlibrary.org/stable/4241370>

Stanis, P. (2014). Blog #3: Information community needs [Blog post based on interview]. Retrieved from <http://ischoolblogs.sjsu.edu/students/paulstanis/2014/09/28/blog-3-information-community-needs/>

Stanis, P. (2014). Blog post #4: Perceptions of information services [Blog post based on interview]. Retrieved from <http://ischoolblogs.sjsu.edu/students/paulstanis/2014/10/18/blog-post-4-perceptions-of-information-services/>

Stanis, P. (2014). Blog post #7 emerging technology [Blog post based on interview]. Retrieved from <http://ischoolblogs.sjsu.edu/students/paulstanis/2014/11/24/blog-post-7-emerging-technology/>

Subramaniam, M., Waugh, A., Ahn, J., & Druin, A. (2012). Sci-Fi, storytelling, and new media

literacy. *Knowledge Quest*, 41(1), 22-27. Retrieved from

<http://web.a.ebscohost.com.libaccess.sjlibrary.org/ehost>

Wilton, S. M. (1981). Juvenile science fiction involves reluctant readers. *Journal of Reading*,

24(7), 608-611. Retrieved from

<http://www.jstor.org.libaccess.sjlibrary.org/stable/40028920>