

Researching to Write

How to Research Nonfiction Children's Books



It All Begins with an Idea

- What do you find interesting?
 - National Geographic
 - MentalFloss.com
 - TheKidsShouldSeeThis.com
 - HowStuffWorks.com
 - LiveScience.com
- What's missing in the market and/or still marketable?
- Is the topic appropriate for your target age group?
- Do you fully understand the topic yourself?

Facts About Facts

- The #1 thing you must know about writing nonfiction
- The funny thing about facts



Time to Get Digging

- Straight from the Horse's Mouth
 - A primary source is . . .
 - Examples of primary sources and where to look for them
- Not Straight from the Horse's Mouth
 - A secondary source is . . .
 - Examples of secondary sources and where to look for them
- From the Horse's Cousin's Next-door Neighbor's Mouth
 - Why to be wary of Wikipedia
 - Surprising uses of Wikipedia



Mining the Depths of the Internet

- The best advice I've ever heard . . .
- Identify the key words and phrases
- Say it another way
- Page 2 of Google search results
- Google Scholar (scholar.google.com)
- The scary power of Boolean searches
 - Quotation marks
 - AND
 - OR
 - NOT
 - Parentheses

Keeping Track of All That Research

- Digital versus Paper
- Spreadsheets and Comments



When Is It Enough?

Notes:

