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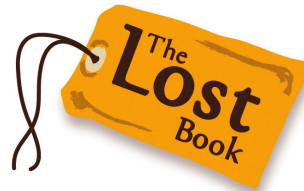
iowa city public library

Iowa City and Edinburgh Join Forces to Find “The Lost Book”



The Lost Book is an animated web series where you write the plot. Discover...

www.thelostbook.net



www.thelostbook.net

The Lost Book encourages people to read and tell stories. As a partner project to the Edinburgh UNESCO City of Literature’s reading campaign, The Lost World Read 2009, The Lost Book uses online resources, events, and an international exchange of free books to get people reading. Iowa City, designated a UNESCO City of Literature in 2008, will be joining Edinburgh in the interactive story writing project in an innovative opportunity to become involved with fellow Cities of Literature.

Among an array of activities, this world-wide project features an interactive animated web series called *The Lost Book*. The creative process is entirely collaborative, and anyone can contribute. This year’s campaign has taken some of the themes from the Edinburgh-born Sir Arthur Conan Doyle’s classic novel *The Lost World* --journalism, travel, adventure, dinosaurs, etc-- but will also feature new characters and a new story, including Webisodes that take the characters to Iowa City. Anyone can join The Lost Book writing team by simply visiting the Web site. Discussions with people of all ages, from all around the world, range from ideas for character names, plot twists, and the character’s feelings.

Where the story goes remains in the hands of the public, who can suggest plot developments by visiting www.thelostbook.net now.

Although written by the public, **the animation is produced by award-winning animation company Binary Fable and the accompanying soundtrack was commissioned and performed by musicians of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra.** Each month between now and July the storylines will be pulled together into the next episode, animated and published online. Episodes one, two, and three are jam-packed with clues to help people join the investigation. Episodes four through six will debut on May 15, June 19 and July 24, 2009.

People around the globe have also been entering a microstory competition which asks the audience to create "The Lost Book" – the book that has been stolen. Internationally-renowned novelist Jasper Fforde, has created the characters and background for "a tale of ancient legend, modern greed and good old-fashioned adventure." Each week, entrants contribute the next 100 words to tell the story of a perilous expedition. Winners so far have come from Germany, California, and Scotland. **Jasper Fforde describes the microstory competition as "The most interesting collaborative book-writing experiment of the decade".**

IOWA CITY UNESCO CITY OF LITERATURE

For 80 years, Iowa City has been creating a place for writers: a destination, a proving ground and a haven. The people of Iowa City take enormous pride in this history, prizing their role in celebrating literature, advocating for literacy and honoring writers. The newest chapter in this tradition is Iowa City's designation as a UNESCO City of Literature.

University of Iowa International Writing Program Director Christopher Merrill says "This is at once a celebration of the literary riches and resources of Iowa City and a spur to action. We look forward to working with our new partners in the Creative Cities network -- to forging dynamic relationships with writers, artists and others committed to the life of discovery. This is a great day for Iowa City."

The Iowa City Public Library is proud to support "The Lost Book," a project that encourages people to read and tell stories. Iowa City Public Library Director Susan Craig said,

"This is our first opportunity to collaborate on a City of Literature Project and it feels great. I'm sure the creative people from our community will provide some interesting Iowa material to the project."

THE LOST BOOK WEBSITE - www.thelostbook.net

The Lost Book website encourages interaction between the audience and the project team:

- Anyone can make and vote on suggestions for the web series on the website.
- Submissions to the microstory and soundtrack competitions can be entered.
- School resources allowing classes to create their own animation and soundtrack can be downloaded.
- “Making of...” information keeps everyone up-to-date during production.
- “One Minute Interviews” introduce the project team to the audience.

For more information, please contact:

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BINARY FABLE

The Lost Book was developed by animators Binary Fable. Binary Fable Limited is an award-winning young company founded by Helen Jackson and Adam Brewster in 2007 and based in Edinburgh. Binary Fable's last project, About Here, was selected as “Best Animation” at the Mobifest Toronto 08 film festival.

EDINBURGH UNESCO CITY OF LITERATURE TRUST

Edinburgh is the world's first UNESCO City of Literature, full of literary landmarks and an inspiration not only for world famous classic Scottish literature but also contemporary writers. The City of Literature Trust is here to support Edinburgh's literature, and to help people get involved with books, words, reading, poetry and storytelling. Its aims: to promote book culture in Edinburgh, to encourage involvement in Scotland's literature and to develop literary partnerships around the world.

THE LOST WORLD READ

The Lost World Read 2009 is the largest ever UK collaborative reading campaign. At least 250,000 people are expected to participate, by reading books, participating in debates and using the project website. Further information about the reading campaign can be found at www.cityofliterature.com and www.lostworldread.com.

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