Fairy tales, Fantasy, and Folk tales are often referred to as Traditional Literature since they have their roots in the oral traditions of many cultures.

Fairy tales are fanciful stories written for or told to children, usually containing at least one supernatural element (magic, dragons, elves, ghosts, hobgoblins, witches, etc.) affecting people, animals, and/or things. Most fairy tales are based on the traditional folklore of a specific culture.

Fractured Fairy Tales are traditional fairy tales with a contemporary twist or a tale told from a new perspective.

Fantasy is any kind of fictional work that does not represent reality where magical powers and other impossibilities are accepted.

Folk tales are short stories rooted in oral traditions of a particular culture that may include improbable or supernatural elements. Many fairy tales, myths and legends began as folk tales.

How to Search for Fairy Tales

By Subject

You can use FSU’s online catalog to search for any of the above terms by subject.

1. Go to the Goldstein Library webpage at: http://slis.fsu.edu/About-The-School/The-Goldstein-Library.

2. Click on the “Advanced Search” link under the FSU Libraries Catalog search box on the right-hand side of the page. This allows for advanced searching by subject.

3. Type in “fairy tales” in the first box. In the box beside it select the option to search by subject headings. You can also limit your search to the Goldstein Library by going further down the page, clicking on the “Location” tab and select “Goldstein Library”. Your page should look like this:
4. Press SEARCH to go to the results screen. The column on the left allows the search to be narrowed. For example, once the search has been limited to the Goldstein library, if you would like to find books for very young children you can click the 'Easy and Picture Books' tab under the Library Collection heading. This will only display results from Goldstein’s Easy Collection.

By Author
1. Go to the Goldstein Library webpage at: http://slis.fsu.edu/About-The-School/The-Goldstein-Library.
2. In the FSU Libraries Catalog search box, select Author from the drop-down menu.
3. From this page you can enter the author’s name. For instance, if you want to read the works of Hans Christian Andersen you can enter either “Hans Christian Andersen” or “Andersen, Hans Christian”.

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4. Once you get the results of your search, you will see the author’s name listed underneath the red link to the item record. This is the Library of Congress authority heading. You can see that “Hans Christian Andersen” is listed as “Andersen, H.C. (Hans Christian) 1805-1875”

5. You can view the item record by clicking on the red link. From here, you can also click on the author’s name to search the online catalog for more results.
Online Fairy Tale Resources

Collection of many H.C. Andersen fairy tales from the 1872 translation by H.P. Paull, along with illustrations. Created and maintained by Zvi Har’El, in loving memory of his son Gilead. Listed as a Britannica Noteworthy site.

International Children’s Digital Library. Available at www.icdlbooks.org/
Has an extensive International collection of fairy tales mostly written in their native languages. The ICDL Foundation pursues its vision by building a digital library of outstanding children’s books from around the world and supporting communities of children and adults in exploring and using this literature through innovative technology designed in close partnership with children for children.

Folklore and Mythology electronic texts. Available at www.pitt.edu/~dash/folktexts.html
An online collection of folk stories from all over the world this and comprehensive links to other websites about this genre. The editor and translator of this site was a professor at the University of Pittsburgh and has written several novels about folklore and fairy tales.

SurLaLune Fairy Tales. Available at www.surlalunefairytales.com
Online collection includes fairy tales with annotations, histories, comparisons across cultures and modern interpretations. Site is run by a librarian.

FSU Resources

Print


Online
Children’s Literature Comprehensive Database. Available through the online catalog or FSU Databases.