

Libraries under fire

Subject enquiries

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In the Children's Section at Bellville Public Library, they keep note of the queries that are presented to library staff by the children and adults using the section. The topics listed below are an exact record of enquiries from the public in one single month, in this instance, April of this year:

We publish this mind-boggling list as an indication of the wide variety of queries that children's librarians are presented with on a daily basis.

Keeping a record of subject queries is useful for several reasons, with the most important one being related to collection development. If one cannot locate the source in the library's own stock, or there is not sufficient material to satisfy all those who are looking for information on the topic, it means that one has to try and fill that stock gap, by starting a file containing related articles and clippings, and putting in stock requests at selection meetings for suitable titles that can assist with answering that query in future.

Having this list of queries is also useful for staff training and sharing knowledge of information sources amongst members of the library's staff. During staff meetings at Bellville Library, the subject queries are also discussed and staff members with their own individual ways of approaching information work, can share their knowledge so as to offer a better service to the user who next asks for information on that particular subject.

Some topics came up frequently, there will thus be duplication. There were a total number of 974 queries in Bellville's Children's Section alone for April 2006 and those were only the ones the staff remembered to write down!

About 20 picture books
African animals
African people
African pots
Afrikaanse gedigte
Aids
Air pollution
All biomes
Amazon jungle
Amazon river
Animal poetry
Anorexia
Anthony Masters books
Argentina
Asbestos
Asteroids
Athena, Zeus, Venus, Hera
Atomic model
Australia
Australian symbols
Austria
Autumn stories
Babadiere
Ballet
Banjo
Bats
Beach
Beads
Bears

Beginner readers -
Oxford
Bellville
Bellville Library
Betekenis van name
Bible stories
Big bang
Big cats
Bilharzia
Bill Gates
Biology experiment
Birds of SA
Blinds
Blood circulation
Body painting
Boeke deur G Weideman
Boerate
Books for a 4-year-old
Books to read for 9/16-
year-old boys (reluctant
readers)
Bosbrande
Boy 2 girl
Braille
Brande
Brazil
Bridges
Bruce Willis
Builepes

Bulimia
Bushmen
Bible stories
Camping
Cancer
Cancer of the breast
Cape Flora and Fauna
Cape Town
Captain Underpants
Car manuals
Careers
Cars
Castles
Cats
Celebrities
Charles Darwin
Charlotte Maxeke
Cheetah
Cheetahs and tigers
Chemical warfare
Chess
Chicken pox
Chinese symbols
Cholera
Cholesterol
Chris Barnard
Churches
Civil engineering
Climate five years ago

Clouds
Cobras
Colonisation
Communication
Compass
Composers
Computer terminology
Computers
Concentration camps
Conflict
Copernicus
Cowboy and Lucky Luke
Crafts
Cuba
Cullinan diamonds
Cultures
CV
D Hugo books
Dance
Dances in cultures
Danger at school
Dante
Death
Deserts
Dialogue
Dialoog
Diamonds
Dick Bruna
Die prinses en die ertjie
Different kinds of eggs
Dinosaurs
Disabled people
Diseases
Dogs
Dolphins
Down's syndrome
Dragons
Drawing
Droughts
Drugs
Earth
Earthquakes
Easter
Easter festivals
Easy readers
Eating disorders
Economics
Egipte
Egyptian jewellery
Electricity
Electronics
Elektrisiteit
Embroidery
Endangered animals
general
Endangered Cape Vultures
Endangered plants
Endangered species
Energy
English 9 years Xhosa
speaking
Eric Carle
ESP
Euclid

Fairies
Fairy books
Farming
Fibonacci
Fibonazzi
Fibres
Fire fighters
Floods
Flute and guitar
Food chains
Food preservation
Freedom day
French
French Revolution
Fresh water molluscs of
SA
Future cities
Fynbos
Gastro
Gateway arch
Gedigte graad 6
Gedigte vir 12-jariges
Genetics
Geography
German
Geskiedenis van bote
Gestewelde kat - Perrault
Ghosts
Global warming
Gloeilampe
Gods and goddesses
Goosebumps
Government services
Graad 1 en 2 boeke
Graaff-Reinet
Grapes
Grasslands
Great fire of London
Greece
Greek mythology
Grieke
Grillers
Groenheuwels reeks
Grond
Grond organismes
GSR
Guitar
Gumboot dancing
Harry Potter
Helen Keller
Helicopters
Herfs
Herpes
Hydroelectricity
Hinduism
Historical monuments
History of newspapers
History of the shoe
Holocaust
Holocaust survivors
Hondsdolheid
**Horrible Hilda and
Henry**
Human rights

Hungary
Hurricanes and tornadoes
Hydraulics
Hydro electricity
I am David
Ice skating
Incas
Industrial Revolution
Insects
Insects - butterflies
Invention of a toaster:
how it works
Inventions
Inventors
Isaac Newton
Italian house
Italy
Jan van Riebeeck
Jewish festivals
Jokes
Journalism
Kaapse fynbos
Khoi
Kite making
Knock knock jokes
Koeberg
Kolonialisme
Kuilrivier
Landslides and avalanches
Langenhoven
Langenhoven - **Brolloks
en Bittergal**
Lasers
Leadership
Legends
Leon Lionni
Lighthouses in South
Africa
Lili-reeks
Lions
Little Red Hen
Lizzards
Los my uit, Paloekas!
Lung cancer
Maartens - **Nagkat en
Juffrou Snob**
Macbeth - Dunsinane
Castle
Maggots
Magic
Magic treehouse
Making a difference
Making toys that move
Malaria
Mandela
Map of Australia
Mariah Carey
Marie Curie
Marriage customs
Marriages in cultures
Mars
Mars and Saturn
Mary Kate and Ashley
Mary Poppins
Masks

Maslow
Materials
Maths in Art
Matilda
Maya
Measurements
Medea
Medieval times
Mediterranean
Meerkat
Melkweg
Menseregte
Mexico
Michelangelo
Midnight fox
Milky way
Mind maps for kids
Mission to Mars
Models
Modern Egypt
Moenie 'n mielie kielie nie
Monday morning
Months of the year
Monuments of South
Africa
Morals
Moslems
Mother Teresa
Motorbikes
Mud houses
Musical instruments
Muslim experience
Mystery stories in
Afrikaans
Naaldekokker
Namakwaland
Namakwalandse blomme
Name van prenteboek
karakters
Names
Nancy Drew
Narnia
Natural disasters
Nelson Mandela
Newspapers
Newton
Noord-Sotho - Pedi
Northern Lights -
Pullman
Nuclear weapons
Numbers
Numerals
Nursery rhymes
Nutrition
Olifante
Olympic games
Olympics 100 years
Opperman gedigte
Optical illusions
Orchestra
Ostriches
Othello
Palm reading
Paper

Parasitiese siektes
Parthenon
Peer pressure
Pegasus
Peseus
Pet birds
Peter Pan
Pets
Pictures of Aids
Pinocchio
Plague
Planets
Plants
Plays
**Pocahontas and
Cinderella**
Poems
Poetry Works I
Poisonous plants
Poisonous spiders
Polio
Polisieman
Polygamy
Post Office
Pregnancy
Prehistoric people
Prente van gemsbok
Preservation of herbs
Press studs; hooks and
eyes
Pret met klei
Pulleys
Puppets
Puzzle books
Pyramids
Queen Nefertiti
R Dahl
R Kipling
Rabies
Rain forrest
Rampe
Reading Afrikaans slow
reader
Rectangular prisms
Refugees
Rekenaars
Rembrandt
Renaissance
Resources-energy
Retarded children
Rhodes memorial
Rhynoceros
Riviere van Australië
Road safety
Robben island
Rockets
Role of women in WW I
Roman art - Colosseum
Romeo and Juliet
Rubbish/waste disposal
Ruth Manning
Rympies
S Biko
Sade van plante

Safety in school
San
Sand filter
Scandinavia
Scary stories
Scurvy
Seasons: stories about
Seekatte
Seevaarders
Seuns se reeksboek
Shadoef
Shakespeare
Ships
Siberian Husky
Siek mense
Sign language
Silverfin
Slavery
Slym - Fanie Viljoen
Smoking
Soccer
Solar system
Soogdiere
South African monuments
Southern Cross
Space
Spain
Spiders
Sport
Sporthelde
Squirrel and insects
Star Wars
Stede in Suid-Afrika
Sterre en planete
Sterrekunde
Stonehenge
Storieman
Stories about money: 4
- 5 years
Stories about pets
Stories for 3-year-olds
Stories on lorries, cars and
fire engines
Storms
Stress
String games
Structures
Suez Canal
Suiderkruis
Sun dial
Super structures
Swamps
Sywurms
Tanks
Tattoos
Teenage readers
Telekommunikasie
Terry Pratchett books
The moon
Theatre
Thomas Edison
Titanic
Tortoises
Tourism in South Africa

Tourist attractions in
South Africa
Towers
Tracy Beeker
Traditional wedding
Transkei
Transport
Travel guides
Trees
Trompie
Tuberculosis
Tweetalige woordeboek
Tygerberg Zoo - no
information
Uganda
Universe
Urbanisation
Vasco da Gama and Dias
Venus
Verwoerd en Botha
Vink
Vliegtuie
Voëls
Volcanoes
Volstruise
Voortrekkers: outdoor
food
Walt Disney boeke
Water - South Africa
Water habitats
Water wheels
Weather
Whales
White tiger
Wild animals
Wild animals - life cycles
Wild cats
William Harvey
Winnie the Pooh
Wizard of Oz
Wolves
Women's rights
Women's role in
democracy
Wonders of the world
Woodwork
Wool
**World book and
Britannica**
World map
World War I
Wortels van plante
Wrestling
Writing
Zeus
Zippers.