

Paper on Fan Cultures and Identity

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This paper discusses the challenges that professionals can meet when taking interest in a fan culture targeted for children and young people. It is based on a research among Danish fans.

The research brings along Danish fan fiction writers and places them in a fannish literary context.

Neither fan fiction, the Twilight saga, The Hunger Games nor fan culture has been documented in Danish educating literature before.

The fan culture in a way renews the tradition and thereby in some way maintains it. Fan cultures are much more aesthetically faceted and nuanced than many adults imagine a popular culture being. Fan culture brings out new literary competencies, text linguistics, and genres. Fan fiction is a part of the new media literacies. Aspects that can be used both pedagogically and educationally. On the other hand, fan culture has its own value; founded on a sub-cultural capital that might profit from being part of the more private and personal niches, affinity spaces and groups from which they emerge.

In Denmark, the fan culture's modes of expression can be seen parallel to those described in both English and American research. A varied creativity is displayed through playing games, writing, drawing and painting, interior decoration, and to some extent crafting. For many young people, the fan culture springs from the "Potterverse" and J. K. Rowling's well-known *Harry Potter* stories. Since then, the fan culture continued to evolve as a culture among children and young adults, especially through Stephanie Meyer's *Twilight Saga*.