



The competition has started to find the best information book written for children in 2018

This week will see huge boxes of books turning up at 6 houses across England as the submissions for the IBA 2019 are sent to the judges. This year saw a total of 176 books entered for this prize which focuses on the child centred criteria of: the ability to stimulate interest, an innovative approach and/or format, child appeal, up-to-date in approach as well as ongoing value (for education and enjoyment).

We thank all the publishers who submitted their books, and look forward to releasing the longlist in March, before the shortlist is announced in May. The shortlist will also see the Children's Choice Vote open and the release of special resources for each of the shortlisted books.

We are pleased to announce that the Award will continue to be sponsored by the Hachette Children's Group, and supported by Peters. This year will see IBA book packs available for each age range, making ordering them easier than ever before. Please see below for a short biography of the judging panel.

Judges

Chris Brown is the Head judge of the IBA and is responsible for the idea! He was a headteacher for 23 years. He created and presented a local BBC Schools series on books for 9-13s, and has been Chair of the SLA and Reviews Editor of 'The School Librarian' and in 2008 Chris was awarded the Eleanor Farjeon Award. Chris has been the Head judge since the inception of the IBA in 2010.

Lucy Chambers has been a primary school librarian for over 20 years, latterly managing four primary school libraries for Tower Hamlets Schools Library Services, London. She is now a consultant specialising in primary school libraries, co-Vice Chair of CILIP School Libraries Group National Committee and an advisor on primary school libraries for the charity Giveabook. She has been a judge on the School Library Association Information Book Award for three years.

Lucy Forrester has worked for Peters, the specialist school and library book suppliers, for ten years now, following work for Warwickshire Library Service as a children's librarian. She is Peters' comics specialist and an avid fan of mystery stories and trivia. Her favourite IBA winner was 'Can We Save The Tiger?'

Jayne Gould is the librarian at a large primary school in Ipswich, where she has worked for the past 19 years. Passionate about books and reading, she was previously a children's bookseller, has been involved with running Ipswich Children's Book Group for many years and served on the School Library Association Board from 2008 to 2014. Jayne has been a member of the Information Book Award judging panel since its inauguration in 2010.

Margaret Pemberton has been a chartered librarian for over 30 years; specializing in work with children. This has included both public library and school library experience and has covered all age ranges. She worked with Bristol School Library service for 9 years until 2014, and is now a freelance school library and book adviser. She was lucky enough to chair the Carnegie/Greenaway awards in 2010, and currently reviews books for *The School Librarian* as well as *Books for Keeps*, *English 4-11*, *Carousel* and *Armadillo*. This is Margaret's first year as a judge for the IBA.

Chris Routh works as a full-time secondary school librarian at Leighton Park School in Reading and reached the Honours List for the SLA School Librarian of the Year Award in 2015. She has worked on several projects for Book Trust, most recently as a member of the longlisting panel for the Blue Peter Book Awards. She is Chair of the Federation of Children's Book Groups and for the last two years has coordinated National Non-Fiction November. She is a regular reviewer for *The School Librarian* and has been one of the judges for the SLA Information Book Award since 2017.

For more information please contact Alison Tarrant, Chief Executive, School Library Association

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Notes for Editors

The **SLA Information Book Award** is an annual event celebrating information books, and is designed to support school libraries and to reinforce the importance of non-fiction whilst highlighting the high standard of resources available. **Award website:** www.sla.org.uk/information-book-award.php

About the School Library Association

The School Library Association is an independent charity that believes that every pupil is entitled to effective school library provision. The SLA is committed to supporting everyone involved with school libraries, promoting high quality reading and learning opportunities for all. www.sla.org.uk

About the Award sponsors

The School Library Association is grateful for sponsorship from Hachette Children's Group and Peters to make this award possible. The SLA Information Book Award is run entirely on sponsorship kindly donated by friends and supporters of the Award. No money is taken from the SLA budget so all staff time, the cost of the judging, prizes for the winners and the final award ceremony must be covered by the sponsors' donations.

About Hachette Children's Group

Hachette Children's Group is one of the largest children's publishers in the UK, with an excellent track record in creating bestselling and award-winning books for children of all ages and interests. The Group comprises the imprints Hodder Children's Books, Orchard Books, Orion Children's Books, Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, Quercus Children's Books, Pat-a-Cake, Wren & Rook, Franklin Watts and Wayland Books. The Group is also the publisher of author Enid Blyton and the owner of Enid Blyton Entertainment.

Hachette Children's Group publishes a diverse range of books to cater for every child, of every age, including picture books, gift, fiction, non-fiction and series and licensed publishing. Their authors, illustrators, series and licences include: Cressida Cowell, Kes Gray, Jim Field, David Almond, Lauren Child, Patrice Lawrence, Dermot O'Leary, Francesca Simon, Alex T. Smith, Matthew Syed, Nadiya Hussain, Giles Andreae, Piers Torday, *Rainbow Magic*, *Beast Quest* and *Pokémon*.

www.hachettechildrens.co.uk

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About Peters

Peters are the UK's leading specialist supplier of books and furniture for schools, academies and public libraries. They believe all children and young people should have access to great books, as well as inspiring spaces to enjoy them in. Peters have decades of experience, and are passionate about inspiring children to read – whatever their age.

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