

# Crunching Numbers

## Make Your Case Using Statistics

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**R**eports or presentations about the importance of early literacy or the value of libraries are most valuable when they give a context. For instance, making a point about service to a low-income population is most effective when accompanied by a statistic regarding the number of children in your state who live in poverty or whose parents lack secure employment.

The value of library early literacy programs becomes even more apparent when placed in the context of young children living in your state who are not attending preschool, fourth graders who are not proficient in reading, and high school students who are not graduating on time.

Knowing where to go to find the most recent statistics to both support and illustrate the value of the work we do as children's librarians is essential. This list provides links to some of our favorite go-to sites for getting the numbers we need to make our cases.

### The Annie E. Casey Foundation KIDS COUNT Data Center

<http://datacenter.kidscount.org>

This annual report assesses child well-being nationally and by state. Free and easy access both digitally and in print is provided for statistics regarding economic well-being, education, health, and family and community. Trends in child well-being are examined comparing current years with past years. Data can be searched by location or topic, including demographics, economic well-being, education, family and community, safety and risky behavior, and health. Five minutes on this site gathering current statistics about your state can strengthen the value of library services for children.

### National Center for Education Statistics

<http://nces.ed.gov/datatools/index.asp?DataToolSectionID=4>

For access to data on a wide-range of educational topics, the National Center for Education Statistics provides an array of data building tools including: Education Data Analysis Tool, Elementary/Secondary Information System, International Data Explorer, National Assessment of Educational Progress, Power Stats, and Quick Stats. Using these tools, you can quickly create statistical tables about almost any educational topic of interest and even draw comparisons to other nations to help you build a research-based description of your area of concern. One practical application that might help you familiarize yourself with your community's schools is the elementary/secondary information system. It allows you to input specific school names to see things like student populations, student-teacher ratio, as well as the ethnic diversity of the children who attend.

### US Department of Education: Ed Data Inventory

<http://datainventory.ed.gov/InventoryList>

Still in the beta phase, this site describes data reported to the US Department of Education "as part of grant activities, along with administrative and statistical data assembled and maintained by the department." Created in response to President Obama's 2013 Executive Order "Making Open and Machine Readable the New Default for Government Information," access is given to date from studies about Early Childhood, Ed Facts, Family Literacy, Pre-Elementary Education, Public Libraries, State Library Agencies, and International Trends in Mathematics and Science.

## US Census Bureau: State and County Quick Facts

<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/00000.html>

This site offers quick background information such as population numbers, number of people who speak a language other than English at home, how many people have been living in the same home for one year or more, how many people have a bachelor's degree or higher, how many people are living below the poverty level, and median household income. By having these facts available by state and county, the information can be used to create a community portrait. The library tab includes a photo library of images including family, school, and community life scenes that are free to use in public information products with permission granted via e-mail.

## UNICEF Statistics and Monitoring

[www.unicef.org/statistics](http://www.unicef.org/statistics)

UNICEF's global focus represents a comprehensive source of information about the state of childhood around the world. While our work is community-focused, it is worthwhile understanding some of the issues that impact child development around the globe. The work of UNICEF offers such perspectives through a comprehensive array of statistical tools and reports, all available online and free. Many of us work in communities that are now home to people who have recently left refugee camps, war zones, or impoverishment in other parts of the world. Information about these areas of the world may help build understanding and help build bridges to effectively serve and support newcomers from such circumstances. This site is also recommended for use by school-age children and youth who are studying global issues such as poverty, famine, and war.



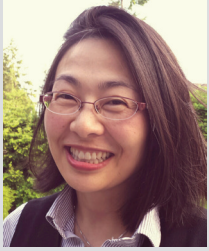
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## Uegaki, Haughton Win Ezra Jack Keats Top Honors



Chieri Uegaki and Chris Haughton are the winners of the 2015 Ezra Jack Keats Awards for new writer and illustrator, respectively.

“The Ezra Jack Keats Book Award celebrates and inspires exceptional new writers and illustrators, who are seldom recognized in the early stages of their careers,” said Deborah Pope, Executive Director of the Ezra Jack Keats Foundation. “These new artists have created books of beauty in the spirit of Keats that portray the universal qualities of childhood, a strong and supportive family, and the multicultural nature of our world.”

The Ezra Jack Keats Foundation partners with the de Grummond Children’s Literature Collection at The University of Southern Mississippi for the awards.

Uegaki is the author of *Hana Hashimoto, Sixth Violin*, published by Kids Can Press. The author said, “Learning that I would be the recipient of this year’s Ezra Jack Keats Book Award for new writer was one of the most surreal moments of my writing life to date. I wrote *Hana Hashimoto, Sixth Violin*, because I wanted to pay tribute to my two grandfathers. I also tried to write the kind of story that I would have wanted to read as a child, and to create the kind of main character I would have wanted to see in a picture book. To now have that effort recognized by the Ezra Jack Keats Book Award jury is an honor that is altogether wonderful, humbling, and incredibly encouraging.”

Haughton is the author and illustrator of *Shh! We Have a Plan*, published by Candlewick Press.

Haughton said, “It is an honor to be presented with the Ezra Jack Keats Book Award. I’m a huge fan of Keats’ work and am very inspired by his collages and deceptively simple graphic approach. More than that though, what I admire most is his forward-thinking spirit and the inclusivity and kindness that emanate from his work. In the central image in *Shh! We Have a Plan*, the individual colors of the birds surrounding the main character come together to form a hopeful rainbow. The message of the image, and of the book, is the power of kindness and the courage to do things differently and stand up against the status quo. These messages are ones I see throughout Keats’ life and work and it is a huge honor to be associated with him through this award.”



Honor books cited include:

### New Writer Honor

Adam Auerbach for *Edda: A Little Valkyrie’s First Day of School* (published by Christy Ottaviano Books, an imprint of Holt; illustrated by the author)

Alan Rabinowitz for *A Boy and a Jaguar* (published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt; illustrated by CáTia Chien)

Misty Copeland for *Firebird* (published by G.P. Putnam’s; illustrated by Christopher Myers)

### New Illustrator Honor

Evan Turk for *Grandfather Gandhi* (published by Simon & Schuster/Atheneum; written by Arun Gandhi and Bethany Hegedus)

Mike Curato for *Little Elliot, Big City* (published by Holt; written by the illustrator)

*To be eligible for the 2015 Ezra Jack Keats Book Award, the author and/or illustrator will have no more than three children’s picturebooks published prior to the year under consideration.*

*The selection committee is comprised of early childhood education specialists, librarians, illustrators, and experts in children’s literature, including Caroline Ward, Chair; Rita Auerbach, Carolyn Brodie, Jason Chin, Pat Cummings, K.T. Horning, Sean Qualls, Lisa Von Drasek, and Paul O. Zelinsky.*