Research: a Fairy Tale

Finding Original Versions in English Translation

Index to Fairy Tales Myths and Legends (Ref. Z 5983 .F 17 E2 1926)
1. Look up your story alphabetically by title, then note the title(s) of the book(s) it's published in, and if given, the author or editor of that book.
2. Next, do a “Power Search” (a.k.a. an “Advanced Search”) in the library catalog at http://sirsi.fairfield.edu, plugging the book title you discovered into the “title” field, and the author or editor into the “author” field. If you don’t find a book the first time, move its title into the “word or phrase” search field. If need be, don’t include the author’s name (trial and error!).

There’s no guarantee the library has a particular edition, but the index lists several different publications in which the story may reside, so go down the list until you hit gold. Of course, not all versions listed are the original, so use your judgment or double-check in other sources.

- Use the index at the back of the book to look up your story by title. You will note a reference listed in parenthesis, such as (Grimm 53), followed by a list of page numbers. Turn to the page numbers indicated, at first ignoring the parenthetical reference. Then, on that page, you’ll see the parenthetical reference repeated. Turn to the end of that particular chapter, where there is a bibliography, and find, alphabetically, the source referred to in the parenthetical. Look up that book in the library catalog (see step 2, above).
- To find original tales from other countries and cultures, see pages 213-231 for a list of books, organized by country or culture, that contain collected tales (it doesn’t go so far as to index them by title of the tale). Then look up the relevant books in the library catalog (see step 2, above).

The Oxford Companion to Fairy Tales (Ref PN 3437 .O94 2000)
- Use the book as you would a print encyclopedia, turning to the page where your tale’s title would fall alphabetically. If you find your story listed, read its entry. It will likely tell you the title of the book it was originally published in (and much more). Look up that book in the library catalog (see step 2, above).
- Go to pages 592-600 for a list of books that contain collected tales, including tales from other countries and cultures. Then look up the relevant books in the library catalog (see step 2, above).

Library Catalog (http://sirsi.fairfield.edu)
Not all tales in the library’s collection will be findable by searching the library catalog for the tale’s title (because many are in books that contain full collections of stories, and those collections aren’t always indexed thoroughly in the catalog). That said, you’ll probably have the best luck searching the catalog for your fairy tale by typing your tale’s title into main search box with the keyword radio button selected, and hitting the “search all” button.

Folktexts: A Library of Folktales, Folklore, Fairy Tales, and Mythology (http://www.pitt.edu/~dash/folktexts.html)
Browse for your tale alphabetically.
Researching the History of a Tale

**Oxford Reference Online** ([http://www.fairfield.edu/lib_databases.htm](http://www.fairfield.edu/lib_databases.htm))

Search for your tale’s title, in quotes (ex: “Hansel and Gretel”). If it refers you to information about the tale’s author or compiler, then read that. Knowing something about the author tells you quite a bit about the history of the story.

**Library Catalog** ([http://sirsi.fairfield.edu](http://sirsi.fairfield.edu))

A. Type: “fairy tales history and criticism” into the search box, and click the subject button. Browse through the results to see if something is relevant to you.

B. Do a “Power Search” (a.k.a. an “Advanced Search”), plugging in the **title of your tale** in the “word or phrase” box and the phrase “fairy tales history and criticism” in the “subject” box. Then click search. If you get results, go get the book off the shelf and check its index for your tale.

**Academic OneFile** ([http://www.fairfield.edu/lib_databases.htm](http://www.fairfield.edu/lib_databases.htm))

Search for your tale’s title, in quotes (ex: “Hansel and Gretel”). If you get too many irrelevant results, use the operators “and” and “or” to add the **last name of your author/compiler** and the word **history**, for example:

“Hansel and Gretel” and (Grimm or history)

The above search finds anything about “Hansel and Gretel” that also talks about either Grimm or history.

**Folk and Fairy Tales: a Handbook** (Ref GR 550 .A77 2004)

Use the index at the back of the book to look up your story by title. You will note a reference listed in parenthesis, such as (Grimm 53), followed by a list of page numbers. Turn to the page numbers indicated, reading with an eye to historical information.

**The Oxford Companion to Fairy Tales** (Ref PN 3437 .O94 2000)

Use the book as you would a print encyclopedia, turning to the page where your tale’s **title** would fall alphabetically. If you find your story listed, read its entry. It will likely provide historical information about the tale. Also look for entries on the **name(s) of your tale’s authors/compilers** and for entries on the home **country or culture** of your tale, for example: Spain.

### Finding Retellings

**The Oxford Companion to Fairy Tales** (Ref PN 3437 .O94 2000)

- Use the book as you would a print encyclopedia, turning to the page where your tale’s title would fall alphabetically. If you find your story listed, read its entry. It will likely tell you about several retellings of the tale. From there, search the library catalog for the retelling, by title. **To limit by a particular type of Media**, such as a DVD, use the “type” limit in PowerSearch/Advanced Search. Ask your professor if YouTube may be used for videos if you cannot find what you need in the library catalog.
Library Catalog (http://sirsi.fairfield.edu)
A. Type: "fairy tales" and (retelling$ or retold) into the search box (the $ retrieves the plural or the singular).
B. In PowerSearch/Advanced search, type the title of your tale into the “words or phrase” box, and then limit by “type,” to DVD or VHS. Oftentimes, what you find will include retellings.

Disenchantments: an Anthology of Modern Fairy Tale Poetry (PR 1195 .F34 3D57 1985)
This is a book in the library’s collection.

ProQuest Education Journals (http://www.fairfield.edu/lib_databases.htm)
Gives users access to over 745 top educational publications, including nearly 600 of the titles in full text. Retellings are often listed for the benefit of educators.

Finding Literary Criticism on Fairy Tales

- Academic OneFile (http://www.fairfield.edu/lib_databases.htm)
  Multi-disciplinary, includes literature criticism, with 50% full-text from scholarly and general publications

- JSTOR (http://www.fairfield.edu/lib_databases.htm)
  Hundreds of searchable scholarly journals in various disciplines (current issues not available). Strong coverage of the arts and humanities.

- Humanities Full Text (http://www.fairfield.edu/lib_databases.htm)
  Full text plus abstracts and bibliographic indexing of the most noted scholarly sources in the humanities, as well as numerous lesser-known but important specialized magazines. The database indexes, abstracts and delivers the full text of feature articles, interviews, obituaries, bibliographies, original works of fiction, drama, and poetry, book reviews, and reviews of ballets, dance programs, motion pictures, musicals, operas, plays, radio and television programs, and more.

- Literature Online/LION (http://www.fairfield.edu/lib_databases.htm)
  Searches hundreds of thousands of works of English and American poetry, drama and prose, biographies, bibliographies, criticism, and reference resources. Includes full-text of many literary works, the Annual Bibliography of English Language and Literature (ABELL), and the MLA International Bibliography database, a standard of literary research.

- Project MUSE (http://www.fairfield.edu/lib_databases.htm)
  100% full-text access to over 300 high quality humanities, arts, and social sciences journals. This includes the journal, The Lion and the Unicorn, which publishes some articles on fairy tales.

- ProQuest Education Journals (http://www.fairfield.edu/lib_databases.htm)
  Gives users access to over 745 top educational publications, including nearly 600 of the titles in full text.