Part 1: Site Specifications Proposal

**Topic:** The topic for my website is going to be paranormal/fantasy literature, in both Young Adult and Adult areas. The site will cover different books and authors that are popular in this genre, as well as favorites of my own. Included will be reviews, favorite websites, a release calendar for the coming year for selected novels, and a link to my blog.

**Purpose:** The purpose of the website is to provide those interested in this topic one location to find new ideas for reading, and also to help them possibly find new authors to read that may be of interest to them.

**Goals:**

1.) *To provide those interested in the genre a place to go in order to find out more information about prominent authors/novels.* By having reviews on books, plus recommended reads by favorite authors of mine, I can give interested readers more information about the latest novels, as well as some older ones that have come to my attention recently or really stood out to me.

2.) *To provide up-to-date information on novels in the paranormal/fantasy genre.* Through the use of a "New Release Calendar" page, I can give a brief, clear overview of current releases (or some of them at least). Links to other sites that have detailed release calendars will be available also.

3.) *To create a well-defined, clear, easy to understand and navigate website.* I will use appropriate color schemes and navigation to make the website easy for users to navigate through each page.

**Projected Audience:** The projected audience is those who are interested in fiction novels, especially those with a love for the paranormal/fantasy genre.

**Needs and Preferences:** With more paranormal and fantasy books being made into movies and tv shows now, this is a very popular topic. While some may not be familiar with the books, they may come to the site looking for more information on similar books. Through the different pages covered on the site, such as reviews and recommendations, this website can help users find new items to read. The simple and easy to navigate layout will also meet the needs and preferences of my users.

**Potential Models:**

1.) *Fantastic Fiction* ([http://www.fantasticfiction.co.uk/](http://www.fantasticfiction.co.uk/)) - I love the simple look and layout of this website, with the darker colors making the pictures of the books stand out. I like the way it uses columns and different areas to make content more prominent. It also provides several different ways to search for books and authors. This site is a much larger database than I would ever plan on having, but is one that is well organized.

2.) *Bookhounds: Books, Gardens & Dogs* ([www.bookhounds.net](http://www.bookhounds.net)) - I like that this book blog website has a set theme, with colors that work well together and adequately show off the material, though the background is kind of cluttered in appearance and distracting. The navigation is easy to see as well, and easy to understand. One thing that I do not like about this site though, is that while it appears to be a review site, there is no clear way to search for past reviews. A search bar at the top of the page would be good for this site.

3.) *RT Book Reviews* ([www.rtbookreviews.com](http://www.rtbookreviews.com)) - This site is one of my favorites when it comes to the way it is setup - content is clearly labeled, simple color structure makes it easy to read, and the navigation bar allows for readers to easily pick from several different genres,
and clicking on a page allows for more choices from the navigation bar. The bottom of the home screen also breaks the genres down, with links below showing the latest for each area. While this site content is obviously not a beginner’s site, it does give a designer something to strive to. The scrolling/changing content at the top of the page is something that I would like to be able to do for my site as well. The website does have quite a bit on the homepage; I don’t plan on having that much content on mine.

Content Inventory:

1.) Home Page – with some kind of search feature if possible
2.) Reviews
3.) New Release Calendar
4.) My Favorite Sites
   a. Authors
   b. Book Blogs
   c. Other
5.) Recommended Reads
   a. Young Adult
   b. Adult
6.) Blog – my current book blog will be linked here.

If possible in the future, I’d like to be able to expand out recommended reads into different categories in the navigation bar, such as Young Adult and Adult, and/or Paranormal, Fantasy, Romance, Science Fiction, Dystopian, etc. For this first write up of the site though, I have combined it all under simply Young Adult and Adult. Some kind of reader forum, as seen on the RT Book Reviews website, would also be a great addition, but far too advanced for my skills at this time.

Site Organization:

My site will have a top down, broad and shallow hierarchical organization: