

School Library Multicultural Materials Collection Development

The students within American schools today continue to be a blend of many cultures. Their choice of reading materials often needs to reflect their uniqueness of ethnicity. In addition to the students, individual teachers, schools, and educational governing bodies necessitate multicultural materials in various forms to complete and/or enhance the educational learning experience and process. This annotated bibliography contains sources which provide essential information for the establishment and development of a multicultural materials collection within school libraries.

Books (Monographs)

East, K. and Thomas, R.L. (2007). *Across Cultures: A Guide to Multicultural Literature for Children*. Westport, CT: Libraries Unlimited.

Recommended “for developing a diverse collection,” (Rosenfeld, 2007, p.47) this book contains over 400 multicultural book titles divided into eight thematic categories as well as five indexes making this a highly useful cross-referencing resource for collection development.

Gilton, D.L. (2007). *Multicultural and Ethnic Children’s Literature in the United States*. Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press.

This is an examination of multiculturalism and children’s literature. Library collections, multicultural librarianship, authors, bibliographies, textbooks, and periodicals are among topics discussed, providing “ample information on how to find the best books that appropriately represent a variety of cultures” (Smith-D’Arezzo, 2008, p. 144).

Helbig, A.K. and Perkins, A.R. (2001). *Many Peoples, One Land: A Guide to New Multicultural Literature for Children and Young Adults*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press.

This work evaluates over 500 multicultural books published in the United States between 1994 and 1999 each annotated to include age level and literary standards. Viewed as a chronological continuation of the authors' previous work, *This Land Is Our Land*, this book is an "excellent tool for readers' advisory and collection building" (Isaacs, 2001, p. 289).

Kuharets, O.R. (2001). *Venture Into Cultures: A Resource Book of Multicultural Materials and Programs*. Chicago, IL: ALA.

This revised, new edition by the American Library Association details nine different countries or cultures by supplying an overview of each along with a listing of recommended books (by age appropriateness), resources such as websites and audio-visual materials, and program suggestions for educators.

Steiner, S. F. (2001). *Promoting a Global Community through Multicultural Children's Literature*. Englewood, CO: Libraries Unlimited.

This book, "intended to be a reference tool for raising multicultural awareness," (xvii) annotates over 800 titles of multicultural literature across many genres and subject areas as well as suggested reading levels. Not only does it have a thorough listing of multicultural books arranged by category, this book also provides resources on publishers and support materials for the classroom and library as well as resources for promoting children's and young adult literature. Many of the resources for promotion of literature are specifically for the multicultural literature, making it "a valuable resource for a relevant topic" (Ching, 2001, p. 215).

Van Orden, P. and Strong, S. (2007). *Children's Books: A Practical Guide to Selection*. New York, NY: Neal-Schuman Publishers.

Van Orden, past president of Association for Library Services to Children as well as the Association for Library and Information Science Education, has written or co-authored approximately 30 books (Johnson, 2008, p. 489) on the subjects such as children's materials collection development. This book is an up-to-date examination of the selection process of books for children. An entire section is dedicated to multicultural literature. The information covered "is most useful" for

librarians to cover the basics of selection, book review, and criteria for evaluating high-quality children's literature (Moyer, 2008, p. 78).

Wood, I. (1999). *Culturally Diverse Videos, Audios, and CD-ROMS for Children and Young Adults*. New York, NY: Neal-Schuman Publishers.

This excellent resource "can be relied on for high production values, excellent and accurate content; and attention to, and respect for the peoples depicted." (pg. ix) Broken down not only by subheadings in each format, but also by viewer appropriate ages, each title is annotated to include the distributor, price, and length. Distributor contact information is indexed. This book is "well organized" and "an extremely helpful volume for libraries that are building multicultural media collections" (Roberts, 2000, p. 179).

York, S. (2005). *Ethnic Book Awards: A Directory of Multicultural Literature for Young Readers*. Worthington, OH: Linworth Publishing.

There are seven awards that recognize excellence in culturally-specific children's and young adult literature. York first identifies and describes each award, then indexes all titles that have received each award cumulatively. The index of titles contains print status, reading level, interest level, author, illustrator, publisher, year of publication, award received, year awarded, and a brief summary of the story. The first such index "for selection and acquisition of high-quality books to increase diversity through library collections" (Kearns, 2005, p. 88).

Journal Articles

Agosto, D. (2007, February). *Building a Multicultural School Library: Issues and Challenges*. *Teacher Librarian*. 34(3): 27-31. Retrieved Oct 4, 2010 from EBSCO, Academic Search Premier.

Agosto, who has also been published in other journals such as *Journal of Youth Services in Libraries* and *School Libraries Worldwide* on the subject of

multicultural school library collections, discusses in this well-written article the collection of multicultural resources. The article presents five criteria to evaluate multicultural resources as well as provides recommended multicultural materials resources.

Rajput, T. (1999, Sept/Oct). Questioning Your Collection. *Knowledge Quest*. 38(1): 62-69. Retrieved October 4, 2010 from EBSCO, Academic Search Premier.

This article examines the Council on Interracial Books for Children's "10 Quick Ways to Analyze Children's Books for Racism and Sexism." In an easy to understand break-down of each of the 10 ways of analyzing books for library professionals, this tool is useful for evaluating multicultural materials within their library as well as for evaluating potential selections in the future. *Knowledge Quest* is an American Library Association Publication.

Journal - Academic/Scholarly

Miller-Lachmann, L. (Ed.) *Multicultural Review: dedicated to a better understanding of ethnic, racial and religious diversity*. Goldman Group, Inc. USA.

Featuring reviews of multicultural books and educational materials among articles of relevance to the "better understanding of ethnic, racial and religious diversity", *Multicultural Review* is "perhaps the best available print-based source of information about new ethnic and multicultural literature" (Couch, 2007, p. 158). Each issue, containing reviews of books, audio and visual materials and computer software, is "an excellent reviewing tool" on multicultural topics for librarians and educators (Imre 2010).

Journal - Professional/Trade

Kenney, B. (Ed.) *School Library Journal*. Media Source Inc. USA.

This magazine provides librarians with overall useful information and insight into the current issues facing the school library. Articles include a wide range of topics such as collection development, the publishing industry, student reader advisories, and web-tools for libraries. The subject of multicultural materials is often discussed. Jackson (2010) described *School Library Journal* as "essential reading for all librarians who provide services to young adults and children."

Magazine

Toke, A.N. (Ed.) *Skipping Stones: an international multicultural magazine*.
Skipping Stones, USA.

This magazine is written mostly by children, but also includes book reviews, essays, and other featured articles for parents and teachers that list such things as new multicultural books and videos. This magazine is "highly recommended for school and public libraries" (Duhon 2010).

Websites

Colorado Dept of Ed Library Diversity (n.d.) Accessed October 3, 2010 from
<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/diversity/Resources-Develop.htm>

The Colorado Department of Education and the Colorado State Library have joined to present Library Services to Diverse and Special Populations. This site offers numerous links to such things as developing multicultural collections, how to choose and select the best multicultural books for children, policy creation, and additional recommended readings of the subtopics.

Gorski, P.C. Critical Multicultural Pavilion: Links to Other sites. (n.d.) Accessed October 3, 2010 <http://www.edchange.org/multicultural/sites1.html>

Gorski, a renowned author and editor for *Multicultural Perspective* and *Multicultural Education*, founded EdChange, a collaboration of resources, workshops, and projects that contribute to equity, diversity, and multiculturalism.

As part of EdChange, The Multicultural Pavilion project maintains an extensive current listing of website links on many multicultural educational based subtopics.

Ipl2 (2010). Pathfinder: "Multicultural Literature for Children." Retrieved September 24, 2010 from <http://www.ipl.org/div/pf/entry/48493>

Internet resources of sites, list of books, magazines, and other sources of information on multicultural literature for children. Referenced in Multicultural Resources and Services, Library and Archives Canada (2005), stated this source is "the only multicultural pathfinder available from IPL (p.33)." Ipl2 is the merger between Internet Public Library (IPL) and the Librarians' Internet Index (LII).

Multicultural/Diverse Children's Literature. (2010, September 22). Accessed October 2, 2010 <http://staff.lib.msu.edu/corby/education/multicultural.htm>

The Michigan State University Library has created a site listing materials for the purpose to "showcase best practices in presenting different cultures and diverse perspectives to children." Highlights include resources held by the Michigan State University Library itself as well as links considered to be some of the best sites for children's literature.

National Association for Multicultural Education. (n.d.) Accessed October 3, 2010 <http://nameorg.org/resources/teaching-resources/>.

Founded through the Association of Teacher Educators in 1991, the National Association for Multicultural Education (NAME) is an active organization that "advocates for educational equity and social justice." NAME provides many multicultural resources including parent resources, student resources, research, and internet resources. NAME's multicultural teaching resources provide a thorough list of resources for educators including lesson plans, recommended books, and how to's such as assessing children's literature.

Reading is Fundamental "Multicultural Campaign." Accessed October 3, 2010 from http://www.rif.org/multicultural_campaign.msp --

Reading is Fundamental is the largest children's literacy nonprofit organization in the United States. In 2007, Reading is Fundamental began a multicultural campaign to promote and support literacy early in childhood in ethnic communities. The website offers links to multicultural resources, book lists, and many other useful materials for book selection and providing assistance to families.

Wikis

Choosing High Quality Children's Literature/Multicultural Literature. (n.d.) Accessed October 3, 2010 from http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Choosing_High_Quality_Children%27s_Literature

As part of the Ashland University graduate children's literature class, practicing teachers have written this peer-evaluated and well-referenced wiki of several literary themes, including multicultural literature. The multicultural literature wiki features criteria for selecting high quality multicultural literature, examples of high quality multicultural literature, multicultural literature links, and more.

Multicultural Children's Literature. (n.d.) UbcWiki. Accessed October 3, 2010 from http://wiki.ubc.ca/Multicultural_Children%27s_Literature

This wiki is a shared space for the students, staff and faculty at the University of British Columbia. Contents include guides for selection, websites, blogs, and other relevant and useful tools for the selection and development of a multicultural children's literature collection.

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Duhon, L. (2010, March). Review of [*Skipping Stones: an international multicultural magazine*]. *Magazines for Libraries*. Retrieved October 9, 2010 from Ulrich's Web.

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Kearns, J. (2005, November/December). Review of [*Ethnic Book Awards: A Directory of Multicultural Literature for Young Readers* by Sherry York.] *Library Media Connection*. 24(3): 88. Retrieved October 13, 2010 from EBSCO Academic Search Premier.

Library and Archives Canada. (2005). *Multicultural Resources and Services Toolkit*. Accessed September 24, 2010 from www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/obj/005007/f2/005007-300.1-e.pdf

Moyer, J. (2008, February). *Children's Books: A Practical Guide to Selection*. (Book Review). *Booklist*. 104(11): 78. Retrieved October 8, 2010 from Gale Academic OneFile.

Roberts, M. (2000, June). *Culturally Diverse Video, Audios, and CD-ROMS for Children and Young Adults*. (Book Review). *School Library Journal*. 46(6): 179. Retrieved October 8, 2010 from Gale Academic One File.

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