CHALLENGE ACCEPTED

The Development of a School Library Collection

Librarians are school leaders and experts in teaching information and digital literacy skills. They develop collections of books and resources to support students in learning to pursue, curate, and analyze information. Working with teachers, they blend technology and pedagogy to drive learning, preparing students to compete in a highly technological world through a well-rounded collection strategically aligned with the needs of students.

Purpose:
How do school libraries and school library collections support their communities?

- Support equitable access to information and services for students and the community
- Create inclusive collections that respond to the needs and interests of their school's students
- Curate books that acknowledge and celebrate diverse experiences
- Prepare students to meet the challenges of living in an increasingly global and diverse society
- Partner with teachers to design and implement lessons that integrate deeper learning, critical thinking, creativity, and innovation and align with rigorous curricular goals
- Develop programs that encourage students to choose independent reading selections from books across all genres and platforms
- Find opportunities to connect with educators near or far to share resources, strategies, and partnerships to promote and implement innovative learning opportunities for students
- Ensure a dynamic, ongoing, process-driven approach

Plan:
What are the components of an effective collection development plan?

- Regular assessment that results in a library collection reflective of the school's strategic plan, curricular initiatives, and student needs
- Budget and spending plan to guide purchases of books and resources that support the library's mission
- Recurring title analysis to ensure a balance of print and non-print resources that reflect the needs and suitability of their communities
- Circulation data for print, digital, and database collections that will be evaluated to understand usage and to identify challenges in equity to access, representation, and holes in collections
- Activities and resources to support accessibility and inclusion of people with disabilities
- Local and national award-winning titles compatible with the school's needs

Policies:
How does this work connect to school/school-system directives?

- Creates a collection development policy supported by the American Library Association and the American Association of School Librarians, ensuring that all students have access to the same material and are free to check out any title they choose
- Establishes selection criteria with stakeholders, guided by frameworks like Future Ready Librarians, reflective of the school's curriculum and community needs – not only the librarian's values
- Establishes a policy for receiving, evaluating, and responding to stakeholder concerns – and ensures it's accessible to the entire community
- Provides an outline of how library collection is funded: school budget, fundraising, grants, etc. Establishes budget and spending plan to guide purchases of books and resources that support the library's mission
- Supports educators in accessing digital learning options for remote or hybrid learning
- Ensures that a weeding plan is maintained to evaluate resources for usefulness and timeliness

Procedures:
What steps/considerations drive the process?

- Collection analysis to get a comprehensive look at key metrics in the collection
- Yearly report for stakeholders to present insight into critical data, such as budget reports, database usage, teacher and student usage, circulation statistics, etc. Let this information drive the following year's strategy
- Vendors chosen based on price, breadth, and quality of products offered and services provided
- Maintenance and weeding of the collection, followed by repair, replacement, or removal of outdated or irrelevant materials

For school library collection development support, visit **follettlearning.com**.

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