

Series 6000 – Instruction

1. Elementary and Secondary

F. Instructional Resources

(1) Equipment, Books and Materials: Provision/Selection

(a) Evaluation/Selection of Instructional Materials for the Library/Media Centers

In general, work is judged on its overall quality and merit.

Selection Criteria for Library Media Materials:

Appropriate to meet the needs of all students

Library media materials should be provided to meet curricular needs and the individual needs, interests, and learning styles of all students at all levels.

Appropriate for recommended levels

Library media materials should be accessible to students of varied abilities, and meet informational needs as well as the interests and talents of all students.

Pertinent to the curriculum and the objectives of the instructional program

Library media materials should be selected on the basis of assessed curricular needs. Materials should reflect the identified learning outcomes of the instructional program.

Favorable reviews found in standard selection sources

Favorable recommendations based on preview and examination of materials by professional personnel, or adults with special expertise. Reputation and significance of the author or producer; artistic style; literary value are considered.

Accurate in terms of content

Library media materials should present facts in an objective manner. Authority of the author, organization, publisher/producer should be a consideration in selection. Materials concerning human development and family life should contain facts that are presented in a manner appropriate to the level of the students.

Reflective of the pluralistic nature of a global society

Library media materials should provide a global perspective and promote diversity as a positive attribute of our society. It is important to include materials by authors and illustrators of all cultures.

Free of bias and stereotype

Materials should reflect the basic humanity of all people and be free of stereotypes, caricatures, distorted dialect, sexual bias, and other offensive characteristics. Library materials concerning religious, social, and political content should inform rather than indoctrinate.

Representative of differing viewpoints on controversial subjects

Students have the right to information on both sides of a controversial issue. By having access to a variety of resources, students will have the knowledge base to develop critical thinking and problem solving skills. The school library media center provides free and equitable access to all information.

Appropriate format to effectively teach the curriculum

Library media materials should be available in variety of formats, e.g., print, nonprint, electronic, multimedia, to meet the needs and learning styles of a diverse student population.

Recent copyright date as appropriate to the subject

Library media materials should be assessed for currency of the information as it relates to the content and purpose of the item.

Acceptable in literary style and technical quality

Literary quality, technical merit, physical arrangement, and aesthetic characteristics should be considered as integral components in the evaluation of all media formats.

Cost effective in terms of use

Library media materials should be evaluated for cost effectiveness in terms of accessibility, projected use, and durability.

Examples of Selection Tools; reviewing media and bibliographies:

School Library Journal

Booklist

Book Links

Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books

Caldecott Medal Home Page

Classroom Connect

Follett TITELWAVE

Horn Book

Kliatt

New York Time Review of Books

Newbery Medal Homepage

Nutmeg Award Homepage

Wilson Junior High School Catalog (print version only SMS)

Wilson Senior High School Catalog (print version only SHS)

Reading Teacher (print only)

NetHappenings

VOYA – Voice of Youth Advocates

Webfeet

YALSA

GUIDELINES FOR SELECTION

- Curriculum needs and teacher requests will be taken into consideration and given priority. Requests and suggestions are sought from the staff, parents, students, and other members of the community. Reviews from professional reviewing sources and professional sources are used to determine purchase.
- Gift materials will be judged on the basis of the same criteria as new materials as outlined in section IV of policy 6161.1. Those judged not acceptable will be returned to the donor unless previous arrangements have been made with the donor.
- Out-of-date materials will be withdrawn.
- Multiple copies will be purchased as needed.
- Textbooks are not purchased or maintained by the Media Centers.

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SUFFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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