

Collection Development Resources

Saskatchewan School Library Association

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In a recent class of the University of Alberta's *Teacher-Librarian by Distance Learning* program, students created a mock proposal for a fictitious library grant. Each group created a fictional school library and identified a need for resources in a particular area. Students then researched and evaluated books in that genre, using personal evaluation and published juried reviews to guide their selection. All together, students evaluated hundreds of resources to determine some of the "must have" books in a variety of genres. The selection lists include titles, authors, ISBNs, prices, vendors, and the justification for its inclusion in the list.

The project also included a focus on book reviews. Each student selected a minimum of two published reviews to share in the project, and they also wrote reviews for two of their selections. Many of these reviews were published in the Winter 2013 edition of the University of Alberta Libraries' publication, *The Deakin Review of Children's Literature* (<https://ejournals.library.ualberta.ca/index.php/deakinreview/issue/current/showToc>).

A great deal of research went into this process, and class members agreed that this type of valuable work is meant to be shared with all interested audiences. Although the Joanne de Groot Library Foundation is fictitious, the selection criteria used by students are measures they would use for selecting resources for their school libraries. Below are links to the group's project site, which include descriptions of their fictional school library, justification for their grant proposal, a list of selected resources and a number of reviews.

Building a High-Interest, Low-Level Collection

<https://sites.google.com/site/collectionbuilding/home>

High interest, low level (hi-lo) books support a variety of learners, including English language learners, students with disabilities, struggling readers and reluctant readers. The selection list includes resources in a variety of formats and includes both fiction and non-fiction titles. The

selections are divided into Grades 3-5, Grades 6-8, and Grades 9-12 and include many reviews and links.

Canadian Literature Collection

<https://sites.google.com/site/canadianliteratureinschools/>

Teachers are often looking for Canadian resources to assist them in meeting curriculum outcomes in all subject areas. Some resources focus on Aboriginal content and perspectives. This selection list, with over 100 resources, includes a variety of formats, such as audio books, non-fiction, fiction, picture books and poetry.

Reluctant Reader Collection

<https://sites.google.com/site/collectiondevelopmentproposal/>

Curricula across Canada expect schools to create a culture of reading, but a challenge many teachers face in reaching this goal is students who can read, but choose not to. Engaging reading material is crucial for catching the attention of these readers. This selection list can be sorted by format, including graphic novels, ebooks, audiobooks, magazines, fiction and informational texts.

Picture Book Collection

<https://sites.google.com/a/uAlberta.ca/edes546collectionbuildinggroup-6/home>

Picture books catch the readers' attention and capture their imagination. Picture books are not only for beginning readers, they are an excellent tool for teaching a variety of concepts to all grade levels. This extensive selection list includes picture books that fit into the categories of Award Winning Books, Books for Character Education, Concept, Alphabet, and Counting Books, First Nations, Metis, and Inuit Books, LGBTQ Books, Picture Books for Older Students and Wordless Picture Books.

First Nations Literature for Children

<https://sites.google.com/site/firstnationslit4children/>

First Nations resources are a necessary part of all Canadian school-library collections, regardless of the school's First Nations population. The need for these resources increases in schools with First Nations students, as students benefit when the resources accurately reflect their culture. This selection list is divided into fiction and non-fiction selections for the primary, intermediate and senior levels.

Graphic Novels

<http://edesgroup.wix.com/graphicnovelsgrant>

Graphic novels are not only engaging and accessible; the books also increase vocabulary, comprehension, and reading motivation. This site organizes their selection list into primary, intermediate and young adult lists. This is an ideal resource for teacher-librarians who are just starting to build a graphic novel collection, or are looking to supplement an existing collection.