Collection Development

ALSC National Institute
September 23-25, 2010
Emory Conference Center
Atlanta, GA

Betty Carter, Moderator
Thom Barthelmess
Vicky Smith
Lisa Von Drasek
**Retrospective Selection Aids**

**The Horn Book Guide** ([http://www.hbook.com](http://www.hbook.com))

*The Horn Book Guide* comes out twice a year and prints short, critical summaries (about 60 words per book) of the reviewed books and, with approximately 2,000 entries per volume, covers the majority of publications from juvenile publishers. Each book receives a numerical rating: 1 is outstanding; 2 is superior; 3 is recommended or satisfactory; 4 is recommended with minor flaws; 5 is marginal; 6 is unacceptable.

Each issue of *The Horn Book Guide* contains reviews and four indices: Author, Title, Series, and Subject. An online version compiles all *Horn Book Guide* reviews since 1989 and uses the same indexing points for quick reference.

Reviewers for *The Horn Book Guide* include the staff and regular reviewers for *The Horn Book Magazine* (see below) as well as a number of additional reviewers. Contributors are identified with professional affiliations in the backmatter of each issue.

**Wilson Catalogs** ([http://www.corecollections.net/](http://www.corecollections.net/))

The H.W. Wilson Company publishes (both in print and on the web) two catalogs of interest to children’s librarians: *Children’s Core Collection* (2010) and *Middle and Junior High Core Collection* (2005). Each is considered a core collection for school and small public libraries serving the designated populations; each is compiled in the same way.

Based on a rotating schedule (which also includes *Senior High School Core Collection*), every four years a committee of seven librarians meets to evaluate a particular catalog. The committees differ from catalog to catalog, drawing on a wide range of expertise in subject and ages served. Each group as a whole discusses current and future professional issues and recommends changes. The committee then divides into areas of expertise (such as American history, folklore, and poetry), with each member responsible for several sections of the catalog. These members study their individual sections, deleting and adding books where they believe appropriate. It is important to note that Wilson staff automatically deletes out-of-print (OP) books; occasionally a committee member will recommend an OP book remain in the catalog.

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Make sure you consistently save room in the budget for replacement copies of well-loved books; every year, you’ll serve children who have never heard of Ramona, and they deserve to meet her in good condition.

Pay attention to what you’re recommending; if you find yourself saying, “Oh shoot, that book is out,” over and over about a book you’re trying to send home with a child, it’s time to buy an extra copy or two.

Understand the varying intensities of use the different sections of your collection receive: Your early readers are probably the hardest-working books you’ve got, but the average child will spend no more than a year to 18 months in it, as opposed to years with read-alouds and read-alones; multiple copies of the very best ones will probably serve your children better than many, many different mediocre titles.

Make selection and deselection decisions based on what you want to happen, not on what you don’t want to happen.

The conventional wisdom is usually right, but sometimes it’s wrong—trust your instincts.

Explain as nicely as you can to the teachers you serve that books are usually printed in multiples of 16 pages, and a 96-page book is as close as you’re going to get to the Holy Grail of a 100-page biography.

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Suggestions include books (but, except for dictionaries, only those in English) and a few general Web resources. Periodicals (except for professional review journals) and nonprint materials (excepting the Web resources) are not included.

Each catalog is arranged in Dewey order, with nonfiction preceding fiction and/or E (easy) books. Biographies are listed as 92 or 920 (rather than in subject classification). Each item is cataloged as a main entry, including price and ISBN. Short excerpts from selected review journals and, when appropriate, indication of stars in various journals (see http://www.corecollections.net/starred_reviews.htm) and inclusion on various year-end lists accompany these entries. Beginning with this year’s volume of Children’s Core Collection, each book will be assigned to one of three tiers (essential, important, and supplemental). Web resources follow as a separate section. Four indices (Author, Title, Subject, and Analytical) complete each book.

Subscribers to each catalog receive yearly printed supplements with additional title recommendations. Professional staff from H.W. Wilson compile these updates, studying year-end lists and review journals as well as taking recommendations from members of the respective core committees.

Those who also subscribe to the Web version have more current access to these updates as well as to Graphic Novel Core and Nonbook Materials Core (available on the Web only).

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**Classification**

- **Beginning Reader Nonfiction.** Try it in the Beginning Readers. It will work. Promise.

- **Graphic Novel Series + Title Main Entry = Everybody’s Happy.**

- **Make sure you defend the books you don’t like just as vehemently as you defend the books you love.**

- **When establishing a special section, from biography to books about your state, ask yourself: Does this division lead to greater use by children or to the convenience of adults who work with them?**

- **Don’t segregate mini-collections without updating your catalog accordingly.** If you want all of your American Girl books together, that’s fine. But tell us. Your catalog should help kids find what they’re looking for today, and help them use the library tomorrow.

- **Consistency may be the hobgoblin of little minds. Do it anyway.**
Review Journals

Booklist (http://www.ala.org/booklist)

Booklist is the official book-review journal of the American Library Association. Books reviewed in Booklist are recommended for purchase in school libraries and small and medium-sized public libraries. Therefore, a book that doesn't have a Booklist review has, in effect, received a negative review: It is not recommended for purchase. When someone wonders why a book doesn't receive a Booklist review, it's natural to think that perhaps the editors didn't see it. They saw it; they get multiple copies of everything published and will either review or reject a book within three months of its publication. Media, reference materials, and online subscription services are also reviewed.

A cadre of professional, salaried reviewers work full time reviewing and editing at Booklist. Their advantage is that they examine hundreds, even thousands, of books every year and know the field. Booklist also employs outside reviewers who work on consignment. Their advantage is that they bring fresh/different voices to the review process, and, if they can work closely with someone seeing tons of books, the two together can make a strong contribution. Booklist denotes books of distinction by a star, starring approximately 5-10 juvenile books per semimonthly issue.

The Bulletin for the Center of Children’s Books (BCCB), or The Bulletin (http://bccb.lis.uiuc.edu/)

BCCB operates out of the University of Illinois and reviews books published expressly for children and young adults. The Bulletin is selective about the books it reviews, choosing books that the editorial staff thinks contain something subscribers want to know about, whether it be subject, theme, approach, characterization or curriculum use. With the longest reviews of any of the journals, The Bulletin’s reviewers have the space to say what they think is important and to discuss many facets of the books under review. The Bulletin reviews about 80-90 books each month; the journal comes out 11 times a year.

The Bulletin uses a rating system: a star for a book outstanding in its genre; an R, which means recommended for purchase; an AD, which means a book of acceptable quality and fine for libraries needing more material or stories like the one reviewed; an M indicates a marginal purchase, while an NR means Not Recommended and an SR indicates Special Reader. The Bulletin stars about two books an issue.

You choose the collection. Kids and families choose from the collection.

Think very carefully before investing in library bindings; only if you think a book will circulate and circulate and circulate is it likely worth the disadvantageous discount.

Selection

Choose books for your entire constituency. Your oldest readers want to read up, and down, and your younger readers do, too.

Make your decisions about what to get and what to keep based on what your kids want, not on what their parents don't want.

Don’t be afraid of buying duplicates. If you have two separate books on Minnesota, the first kid who comes in will take them both; if you have two copies of the same book on Minnesota, you will serve the second child as well as the first.

Know what your collection needs before you open a journal; even if page after page of novels receive glowing reviews, if what you really need are some more great participatory read-alouds for story time, keep your eye peeled for them.
The Bulletin uses a small review staff, some full-time, some part-time. These reviewers live in the same geographical area and meet to make decisions about books or discuss individual reviews on a regular basis.

There is more lag time between date of publication and reviews for The Bulletin than any other journal; reviews of books from a current calendar year may appear three months into the next year. This flexibility with dates allows The Bulletin to publish many reviews from small press publishers who do not routinely distribute advanced reading copies of books.

The Horn Book Magazine (http://www.hbook.com/)
As with Booklist, reviews in The Horn Book Magazine indicate a recommendation for purchase. Unlike Booklist, though, books not reviewed in The Horn Book Magazine are not necessarily books the staff wouldn't recommend for purchase for a library; they are frequently books that are judged to be “good reads” but that are little more than simple plot- or subject-driven works. (These books are reviewed in The Horn Book Guide (see above) and frequently receive a “3” rating.) Like The Bulletin, The Horn Book Magazine only reviews books published expressly for children and young adults, although audio books are also reviewed in the magazine.

The Horn Book Magazine’s reviewing staff is small, centering around a professional cadre in Boston. Other reviewers are scattered around the country, each chosen because of a particular strength or area of expertise. Although the reviewers don’t meet often, they do have an active, closed discussion list that allows one person to ask others to look at a particular book or to study a particular feature.

In selecting which books to assign for review in The Horn Book Magazine and which for review in The Horn Book Guide, the editors keep in mind the original mission of the magazine: to review the best of children’s literature. Within that charge, they attempt to balance genres among picture books, chapter fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and folklore and will often select books with underserved topics. But they also have a back-up system: Guide reviewers will frequently alert the Magazine’s staff that a particular book should be addressed in that publication, while Magazine reviewers will often submit some of their reviews exclusively for the Guide. Books are reviewed in the calendar year in which they are published, with the one exception being the January issue of the next year, which covers publications from the previous year. The Horn Book Magazine is published every other month and reviews about 80 books every issue, with an average of five stars (denoting exceptional merit) per issue.

Kirkus Reviews (http://www.kirkusreviews.com)
Kirkus Reviews is published twice a month and includes reviews of books for both adults and children and teens. The children's section, which includes YA, reviews between 100 and 300 books per month, with a monthly round-up of, mostly, themed picture books (back-to-school, Halloween, Christmas and other winter holidays, etc.); the exceptions are two retrospective round-ups of board books and one of pop-up books.

Its reviewers are a cadre of freelancers from around the country selected for their acuity in evaluating children's books, and many have particular specialties. In contrast to reviewers from Booklist, Horn Book, SLJ, and VOYA, the Kirkus reviewers, like those from PW, are anonymous. Its salaried children's editorial staff numbers one.

Unlike Booklist and The Horn Book Magazine, Kirkus does not limit itself to recommended titles and, in fact, is somewhat legendary in its willingness to eviscerate a particularly bad book. It also prides itself on the style of the written reviews, which are held to as high a standard as the books themselves. It awards stars denoting works of particular merit on the basis of reviewer recommendations with the concurrence of the editor, and the number of stars awarded varies widely from issue to issue.
Of the standard review sources, *Kirkus* is most consistently concerned with timeliness, publishing reviews a month or two before the books are released on the market and only rarely reviewing a book concurrent with its publication.

Recently sold by the Nielsen Company to a book-loving private buyer, *Kirkus* is in the process of re-creating its Web presence and expanding its coverage. This new website should launch by the end of 2010 and will be found at its customary URL (above).

*Kirkus Reviews* has a sister service called *Kirkus Discoveries*, which reviews, for a fee, self-published books. These books are held to the same standard as conventionally published ones, and, if a book’s author so chooses, its review is published on *Kirkus’s* website.


As the title suggests, *Publishers Weekly* is an industry-focused journal published on a weekly basis, targeting the bookstore market. Accordingly, reviews of picture books and middle-grade and teen fiction predominate, with occasional coverage of high-profile board books and nonfiction. Anonymous reviews are printed pre-publication and are useful in the identification of titles expected to sell well in bookstores. Starred reviews identify titles of particular note, though the publication does not specifically define starred review criteria. The reviews themselves, typically around 200 words, focus on the books’ appeal. While they can provide a strong sense of a title’s potential popularity, they tend not to illuminate literary concerns or issues of a book’s place in a classroom or library.

Occasionally books around a particular theme or topic are reviewed together and compared. Twice a year, in the winter and the summer, a deep, comprehensive issue is printed anticipating the spring and fall releases, respectively. These two announcement issues give selectors a fairly complete snapshot of the upcoming season’s high-profile offerings in a single place and can therefore be useful for budgeting and planning purposes. Features address changes and developments in the publishing industry, such as thematic trends, e-book commerce, and personnel changes.


*School Library Journal* reviews media (including subscription databases, DVDs, and audio books) and books (including some adult books and reference materials) for children in grades K-12. Volunteer contributors, mostly librarians in the field, review the majority of books for *School Library Journal*. These active professionals bring a practical view to the reviews, noting where, in their experience, materials are useful for group activities or curriculum tie-ins. These reviewers typically receive 2-4 books each month. *SLJ* reviews the majority of children’s and young adult trade publications, so the journal contains both positive and negative reviews. Reviews generally appear within three months of a book’s original publication date. *SLJ* stars about 20 books in each monthly issue.


*VOYA* exclusively addresses librarians and educators who serve young adults. This bimonthly publication reviews books (including adult publications and reference books) and non-print (including electronic media, audio books, and DVDs) materials for youngsters in grades 6-12. *VOYA* gives special attention to books in different formats, such as graphic novels, series (both fiction and nonfiction) books, and e-books. Reviewers work directly with young adults. Each reviewer receives books/media that correspond with his or her special interests and expertise.

As a journal that has as part of its mission to serve as an advocate for teens, *VOYA* employs a unique rating scale for books, summing up each review in terms of popularity and quality. Each feature receives a numerical
rating from 1 - 5, with a 5P indicating that readers will clamor for it and a 1P indicating that teens will only read this one if forced. In terms of quality, a 5Q indicates masterful writing, while a 1Q questions how the book ever got published in the first place. Books can rate 5P/1Q, 1P/5Q, or any combination in between.

**Subject Specific Journals**

Except for *Science Books and Films* and *Multicultural Review* (which are review journals), the journals below are publications that sometimes review books for children and young adults and frequently mention young adult and children’s literature in their articles. They are aimed at subject-area educators.

Official publication of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics.

Official publication of Ethnic and Multicultural Information Exchange Round Table from the American Library Association. Books reviewed are those that provide a glimpse into our diverse society.

Official publication of the International Reading Association, targeting teachers of reading in elementary/middle schools.

Official publication of the National Science Teachers Association.

*Science Books and Films* ([http://www.sbfonline.com/Pages/welcomesplash.aspx](http://www.sbfonline.com/Pages/welcomesplash.aspx))
Review journal of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (the organization that publishes *Science*) in which subject-area specialists evaluate science books for children, young adults, and adults.

*Social Education* ([http://www.socialstudies.org/publications/se](http://www.socialstudies.org/publications/se))
Official journal of the National Council of the Social Studies.

**Online Resources**

*Bank Street College of Education, Children’s Book Committee* ([http://www.bankstreet.edu/bookcom/](http://www.bankstreet.edu/bookcom/))
The Children’s Book Committee members evaluate current literature for children and publish booklists to guide parents, librarians, and teachers in the selection of developmentally relevant reading materials.

“Our mission is to identify and select a yearly list of outstanding titles for children and teens.”

*Cooperative Children’s Book Center* ([http://www.education.wisc.edu/ccbc/ccbnet/default.asp](http://www.education.wisc.edu/ccbc/ccbnet/default.asp))
The Cooperative Children’s Book Center (CCBC) is a unique examination, study, and research library of the School of Education at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and is the go-to place for thematic bibliographies, current book awards and lists, as well as for identifying current books of excellence.

The mission as stated on their website: “The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network strives to assure that each member of every school community is valued and respected regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity/expression.” Recommended titles reflect that mission.
No Flying No Tights: A Website Reviewing Graphic Novels for Teens (http://www.noflyingnotights.com/)
The title says it all. Multiple contributors cover all aspects of graphic format including adult crossover.

Shelf Awareness: Daily Enlightenment for the Book Trade (http://shelf-awareness.com/)
Shelf Awareness is “an e-mail newsletter dedicated to helping the people in stores, in libraries and on the Web buy, sell and lend books most wisely” and includes reviews of current and upcoming titles of interest.

Sidekicks: A Website Reviewing Graphic Novels for Kids (http://www.noflyingnotights.com/sidekicks/)
Part of the above site is specifically devoted to presenting graphic-novel reviews for kids and those who work with them, including librarians, teachers, and parents. It helps navigate the murky waters of comic-book stores and graphic-novel sections to make sure you’re getting what’s right for you.

Blogs
American Indians in Children’s Literature (http://americanindiansinchildrensliterature.blogspot.com)
Debbie Reese (Nambé Pueblo) provides critical perspectives of indigenous peoples in children’s and young adult books, the school curriculum, and society at large.

EarlyWord Kids (http://www.earlyword.com/category/childrens-and-ya/)
Lisa Von Drasek, Children’s Librarian at the Bank Street College of Education addresses advance, current, and thematic backlist reviews of children’s and young adult books.

Educating Alice (http://medinger.wordpress.com/)
Monica Edinger, a fourth-grade teacher in New York City, writes thoughtfully about literature created for children and its use in the classroom.

Fuse 8 (http://blog.schoollibraryjournal.com/afuse8production/2010)
A Fuse #8 Production, on the School Library Journal website, provides a forum for the personal, entertaining reviews, reactions, and op-eds of Elizabeth Bird, Children’s Librarian at the New York Public Library.

Go Graphic (http://www.earlyword.com/2010/09/02/kids-comics/)
Robin Brenner, Reference/Teen Librarian at the Brookline (MA) Public Library and contributor to No Flying No Tights shares her thoughts on themes and trends in graphic books.

I’m Here. I’m Queer. What the Hell Do I Read? (http://www.leewind.org/)
Lee Wind’s blog addresses gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, questioning, and gender non-conforming teens by raising issues of importance and reviewing relevant books.

Kidlitosphere (http://www.kidlitosphere.org)
This blog clearinghouse “strives to provide a passage to the wonderful variety of resources available from the Society of Bloggers of Children’s and Young Adult Literature.” In other words, it lists every blog under the sun.

Read Roger (http://readroger.hbook.com)
The Horn Book editor Roger Sutton’s blog introduces conversations about writing, selling, reviewing, publishing, and promoting children’s and young adult literature.

Reading Rants (http://www.readingrants.org/)
Jennifer Hubert Swan, middle-school librarian at the Little Red School House and Elisabeth Irwin High School in Greenwich Village in Manhattan, take on current literature for young adults ages 12-18.
Individual American Book Awards

**AAAS/Subaru/Science Books and Films Awards** ([http://sbfonline.com/prizes.htm](http://sbfonline.com/prizes.htm))

These four book awards are given to the best science book of the year for children, middle grades, young adults, and hands-on science. These books are selected by committees comprised of librarians and subject specialists.

**American Indian Youth Literary Award** ([http://www.ailanet.org/](http://www.ailanet.org/))

This award is given to three books, one picture book, one middle-school book, and one book for young adults, that best portray American Indians in “the fullness of their humanity.” The American Indian Library Association sponsors this award.

**Américas Children’s and Young Adult Literature Award** ([http://www4.uwm.edu/clacs/aa/index.cfm](http://www4.uwm.edu/clacs/aa/index.cfm))

The Américas is sponsored by the Consortium of Latin American Studies Programs and given to a number of books (including picture books, middle-grade readers, and young adult titles) written in either English or Spanish that “authentically and engagingly portray Latin America, the Caribbean, or Latinos in the United States.”

**Arab American Book Award** ([http://www.arabamericanmuseum.org/bookaward](http://www.arabamericanmuseum.org/bookaward))

Sponsored by the Arab American National Museum, this award is given to a children’s or young adult book that “celebrates the lives of Arab Americans.”

**Asian Pacific Awards for Literature** ([http://www.apalaweb.org/awards/awards.htm](http://www.apalaweb.org/awards/awards.htm))

This award recognizes one picture book and one youth literature award to “promote Asian/Pacific American culture and heritage.” The Asian Pacific American Librarians Association, an affiliate of the American Library Association, administers these awards.

**(Mildred L.) Batchelder Award** ([http://ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/batchelderaward/index.cfm](http://ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/batchelderaward/index.cfm))

The Batchelder is given by the Association for Library Service to Children to the publisher of the most outstanding book “originally published in a foreign language in a foreign country, and subsequently translated into English and published in the US.”

**(Pure) Belpre Medal** ([http://ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/belpremedal/index.cfm](http://ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/belpremedal/index.cfm))

The Association for Library Service to Children and National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish-Speaking (REFORMA), jointly present the Belpre to a Latino/Latina writer and illustrator whose “work best portrays, affirms, and celebrates the Latino cultural experience in an outstanding work of literature for children and youth.”


Sponsored by the *Boston Globe* and *The Horn Book*, these prizes are given every year for the best book for children or young adults in three categories: fiction and poetry, picture book, and nonfiction.

**(Randolph) Caldecott Medal** ([http://ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/caldecottmedal/caldecottmedal.cfm](http://ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/caldecottmedal/caldecottmedal.cfm))

The Caldecott Medal is awarded annually by the Association for Library Service to Children to the “artist of the most distinguished American picture book for children” published the previous year.
Carter G. Woodson Book Awards (http://www.socialstudies.org/awards/woodson)
These awards recognize books in three areas: elementary, middle level, and secondary. Given by the National Council for the Social Studies, the awards are for “the most distinguished social science books appropriate for young readers that depict ethnicity in the US.”

Charlotte Zolotow Award (http://www.education.wisc.edu/ccbc/books/zolotow.asp)
The Cooperative Children’s Book Center at the University of Wisconsin, Madison administers this award, given annually to the author of the most distinguished picture-book text in a U.S. book published the preceding year.

Children’s Africana Book Awards (http://www.africaaccessreview.org/aar/awards.html)
Supported by the Outreach Council of the African Studies Association, these two awards, one for a book for young children and one for older readers, are presented annually.

Coretta Scott King Book Awards (http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/rts/emiert/cskbookawards/index.cfm)
The Ethnic and Multicultural Information Exchange Round Table of the American Library Association administers these awards, recognizing an African American illustrator and an African American author, each of whom has illustrated or written an outstanding contribution to literature the previous year. The John Steptoe New Talent Award recognizes excellence among debut creators, and the Virginia Hamilton Award recognizes lifetime achievement.

E. B. White Read Aloud Awards (http://theabfc.wordpress.com/the-eb-white-read-aloud-awards/)
Established by the Association of Booksellers for Children, these awards honor two books (one picture book, one book for older readers) published each year that “reflect universal read aloud standards.”

(Theodor Seuss) Geisel Medal (http://www.reading.org/Resources/Booklists/TeachersChoices.aspx)
Selected annually by a committee from the Association for Library Service to Children, this award goes to the most “distinguished American book for beginning readers published in English in the United States.”

Irma Simonton Black and James H. Black Award for Excellence in Children’s Literature
The Bank Street College of Education presents this award annually to “an outstanding book for young children—a book in which text and illustrations are inseparable, each enhancing and enlarging on the other to produce a singular whole.”

Jane Addams Children’s Book Awards (http://www.janeaddamspeace.org/jacba/jacbabooks.shtml)
The Jane Addams Peace Association selects the winners of these awards for children’s books published the preceding year that effectively promote the areas of peace, justice, and world community.

(Michael L.) Printz Award (http://ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/yalsa/booklistsawards/printzaward/Printz.cfm)
A committee of the Young Adult Library Services Association selects the winner of this award in recognition of a book of outstanding literary excellence published expressly for young adults.

National Book Award (http://www.nationalbook.org/nba.html)
The National Book Awards recognize one book annually for excellence in young people’s literature.

(John) Newbery Medal
The Newbery is awarded annually by a committee from the Association for Library Service to Children to the “author of the most distinguished contribution to American Literature for Children.”
**Odyssey Award** ([http://ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/yalsa/booklistsawards/odyssey/odyssey.cfm](http://ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/yalsa/booklistsawards/odyssey/odyssey.cfm))
The Odyssey is given annually by a committee of members from the Association for Library Service to Children and the Young Adult Library Services Association for the best audio book produced for children/young adults.

**Orbis Pictus Award** ([http://www.ncte.org/awards/orbispictus](http://www.ncte.org/awards/orbispictus))
The National Council of Teachers of English administers this award given to the best nonfiction book published each year.

This prize is awarded by a committee of the Association for Library Service to Children for the best informational book of the preceding year.

**Schneider Family Book Award** ([http://ala.org/ala/awardsgrants/awardsrecords/schneideraward/schneiderfamily.cfm](http://ala.org/ala/awardsgrants/awardsrecords/schneideraward/schneiderfamily.cfm))
The American Library Association makes this award to recognize “an author or illustrator for a book that embodies an artistic expression of the disability experience for child and adolescent audiences.” The committee selects three books, for younger, middle-grade, and older readers.

**Sydney Taylor Book Awards** ([http://jewishlibraries.org/ajlweb/awards/stba/STBA_Winners.htm](http://jewishlibraries.org/ajlweb/awards/stba/STBA_Winners.htm))
These awards recognize three outstanding books published the previous year that “authentically portray the Jewish Experience.” Books for younger, older, and teen readers are honored by the Association of Jewish Librarians.

**Tomás Rivera Mexican American Children’s Book Award** ([http://www.education.txstate.edu/departments/Tomas-Rivera-Book-Award-Project-Link.html](http://www.education.txstate.edu/departments/Tomas-Rivera-Book-Award-Project-Link.html))
The Texas State University sponsors this award recognizing one book that “honors authors and illustrators who create literature that depicts the Mexican American experience.”

**YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction for Young Adults** ([http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/yalsa/booklistsawards/nonfiction/nonfiction.cfm](http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/yalsa/booklistsawards/nonfiction/nonfiction.cfm))
This annual award is given to “the best nonfiction book published for young adults” by a committee from the Young Adult Library Services Association.

**Lists**

**Américas Children’s and Young Adult Literature Commended Titles** ([http://www4.uwm.edu/clacs/aa/index.cfm](http://www4.uwm.edu/clacs/aa/index.cfm))
This list includes additional outstanding books considered for the Américas Children’s and Young Adult Literature Award.

**Best Fiction for Young Adults** ([http://ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/yalsa/booklistsawards/bestficya/bfyahome.cfm](http://ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/yalsa/booklistsawards/bestficya/bfyahome.cfm))
This annual list, developed by the Young Adult Library Services Association, recommends outstanding fiction for young adults, ages 12-18.

This annual list of books selected across the United States by children (ages 5-13) in the year the books are published is administered by the International Reading Association and the Children’s Book Council.
Great Graphic Novels for Teens
(http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/yalsa/booklistsawards/greatgraphicnovelsforteens/gn.cfm)
These titles are selected annually by a committee of the Young Adult Library Services Association.

This is an “annual list of exceptional multicultural literature” compiled by a special-interest group of the International Reading Association and covers books for children in grades K-12.

Notable Children’s Books (http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alsc/awardsgrants/notalists/ncb/index.cfm)
The Notables list honors the year’s most outstanding books for children, age birth-14. A committee of the Association for Library Service to Children compiles the list annually.

Notable Children’s Books in English/Language Arts (http://childrensliteratureassembly.org/notable2009.htm)
The National Council of Teachers of English compiles this list of outstanding children’s books.

Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People (http://socialstudies.org/resources/notable)
This is an annual list compiled by the National Council of Social Studies and the Children’s Book Council.

Outstanding International Books List (http://usbby.org/outstanding_international_books_list.htm)
Every year the United States Board on Books for Young People compiles this list to recognize those outstanding books originally published in another country, published or distributed in the United States.

Outstanding Science Trade Books (http://www.nsta.org/publications/ostb/)
This list, administered by the National Science Teachers Association, recognizes annually outstanding books for students in grades K-12.

State Reading Lists (http://cynthialeitichsmith.com/lit_resources/awards/stateawards.html)
It is important to know those books highlighted by your own state each year. Children's and young adult author Cynthia Leitich Smith provides links to individual state reading lists at her website.

Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers
(http://ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/yalsa/booklistsawards/quickpicks/qphome.cfm)
This list, compiled annually by a committee from the Young Adult Library Services Association, identifies outstanding books that have great appeal for reluctant young adult readers.

Rainbow List (http://rainbowlist.wordpress.com/)
The Rainbow List is an annual list sponsored by the American Library Association’s Rainbow Project and identifies outstanding books “for children and teens that contain significant gay, lesbian, bisexual, queer or questioning (GLBTQ) content.”

Teachers’ Choices (http://www.reading.org/Resources/Booklists/TeachersChoices.aspx)
Teachers from the International Reading Association identify those books than can be both enjoyed by children and used across the curriculum.

Young Adult Choices Reading List (http://reading.org/Resources/Booklists/YoungAdultsChoices.aspx)
This list is administered through the International Reading Association and the Children’s Book Council and is created by middle- and high-school students across the United States who select their favorite books published each year.
Deselection


*The Crew Manual* is a downloadable, practical, hands-on guide for “reverse selection,” covering five components: inventory, collection evaluation, collection maintenance, weeding, and discarding.

**Suggestions from Bank Street College of Education**

People sometimes notice the rather full book trucks in the front of the Library. Old, worn library books stamped discard for sale at a dollar each. “Hey, why are you getting rid of these?” they ask. We post some information to anticipate questions and provide answers. Here’s what we say:

**Why We Weed**

First of all why do we call it weeding? Weeding as defined by American Heritage Student Dictionary is to remove plants that have become troublesome or useless. Just substitute outdated, damaged, or materials that are not supporting our programs for plants. We weed to keep the collection accessible and current.

In her article “10 Tips for an Outstanding Children’s Collection” *(School Library Journal, September, 1994, p.130)*, Nell Colburn states “An outstanding children’s collection is never an accident. It is the result of careful management, including strategic planning, conscientious budgeting, teamwork and ongoing evaluation.” As part of this ongoing evaluation we withdraw books from the Children’s Collection by asking some of these questions:

“Is the book *Science Experiments for Boys* really current?”

“Are our titles on the Soviet Union more than 8 years old?” - “Whoops, I meant Russia.”

“Any Brontosaurus in that dinosaur book?”

“Is the information on AIDS current?”

Because of the special mission of the Children’s collection, serving both children and graduate students, we may keep some outdated but historically valuable children’s materials. Students can find these titles in the Claudia Lewis collection and they are identified with CL in their call numbers. We also look at the circulation of a book. How many times has it gone out of the library? Is it a shelf-sitter that no one has picked up in 5 years? Do we have 5 copies of a once exciting novel that 2 copies would be enough of today? According to *Information Power: Building Partnerships for Learning*, (1998) one essential part of the mission of a library media program is to maintain a collection of materials that is *evaluated and updated regularly*. Weeding is just one of the techniques for growing a healthy collection.
Criteria for withdrawing materials for the collection

“Having outdated or inaccurate materials in the collection discourages use, gives a false impression of the adequacy of the collection, wastes the time of the staff and obstructs users in their search for useful materials…. Criteria for removing items….evaluating physical deterioration, obsolescence and appropriateness for the current needs of the school community. Duplicate copies, out-of-date materials, materials no longer used or of slight utility, almanacs, yearbooks, and encyclopedias that have been superseded by newer editions…materials in which any significant portion of the information is out dated is withdrawn.”


Gifts

We welcome gifts of books and materials to the Bank Street College Library. We use the same collection development criteria when evaluating gifts as we do in our own acquisitions. Do these materials support the mission of the Library? Do they support the curriculum of the College or School for Children? Are they duplicate copies of materials already owned? Are they in good condition? If we are unable to accession gifts into our collection we put them out on the book-sale truck. The monies received from these sales are used to support the programs of the library.

1. **Why are there so many classics on the cart?**
   We are removing worn and damaged books and will be replacing these titles.

2. **Why are there new books on the cart?**
   We have limited space here at Bank Street and need to remove duplicate copies.

3. **Why don’t we donate these books to a worthy organization?**
   Because these books are a Bank Street resource, we think it is best for the Bank Street community to have the opportunity to buy them at a reduced price.

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