

CASE STUDY FOR CHAPTER 4

Dacatur County Library System

The central library for the Dacatur County Library System is located in Milton, in a rural region of southern Minnesota. Milton has a population of 4,364. Three branch libraries are located in nearby smaller towns. The four sites serve a total population of 11,500. The library in Milton has an annual budget of \$47,000 for acquisition of books, periodicals, and audiovisual materials. An additional \$3,000 is expended on access to remote databases. The library has 80,000 print volumes, 178 active periodical subscriptions, 436 CD-ROMs, 630 audio CDs and tapes, and a small collection of slide sets and maps. The Dacatur County Library System is a member of a larger regional library system and shares an automated catalog with twelve other county systems comprising the regional system. Milton's population has changed dramatically in the last seven years. Hispanic immigrants, who have been attracted to food-processing jobs that pay near-minimum wages, now make up 20 percent of the residents. The Minnesota legislature has allocated \$1 million to expand and renovate Milton's cramped library and increase acquisitions; the county and the town have each designated \$250,000 to the project. A major aspect of the project is to turn

the library into a "multicultural learning center" as a way to help immigrants merge into the community and teach job skills to all interested residents.

The library in Milton has decided to expend \$50,000 of the new money over the next two years to acquire materials specifically to serve the Hispanic population. Ten thousand dollars of these funds will be continuing and will be used in subsequent years for maintaining periodical subscriptions, access to electronic resources, and purchasing new monographs.

Activity

Identify appropriate sources for locating monographic titles, periodicals, and multimedia that will meet the needs and interests of all ages in the Hispanic community and provide guidance in fostering literacy and enhancing job skills. Suggest reasonable ways in which the \$50,000 should be allocated between adult and young patrons; between books, periodicals, and multimedia; between electronic and traditional materials; and between fiction and nonfiction. You are not selecting resources. Your responsibility is to develop the guidelines and processes that will inform the selection of specific titles.