

COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICY

Texas Woman's University Libraries Children's Collection

Introduction and Description of Collection

The Children's Collection at Texas Woman's University is housed on the Garden Level in the Blagg-Huey Library on the Denton campus. All library collections support the academic programs of the University - a comprehensive public university offering baccalaureate, masters and doctoral degree programs. The Children's Collection is a teaching collection whose focus is on children's and young adult literature. The collection has materials in multiple formats to support the Education, Reading, Art, and Library and Information Sciences programs and is a resource for students who are studying Education, Reading, Child Development, Child Counseling, Child Psychology, Librarianship, and Play Therapy. The collection includes over 39,000 illustrated children's books both fiction and nonfiction, picture and board books, original book artwork, teen literature books, and various media formats (DVDs, videocassettes, audio books, audiocassettes, cd-roms, kits, and microforms). Listening and viewing equipment is available. The collection, which also contains many bilingual books, also serves as a resource for the children of TWU students.

Of particular interest in the Children's Collection are the *Clarabel Tanner Collection of Children's Book Art*, the *Margaret Kling Targeted Reading Collection*, the *OPIE Collection of Children's Literature*, the *Early American Children's Books*, *Books in A.S.W. Rosenbach's private collection of historical children's books*, and the *William S. Gray Research Collection in Reading*, available as microforms.

As a teaching and research collection, the Children's Collection houses many award-winning books such as those that have earned the Caldecott Medal, Newberry Medal, Coretta Scott King Award, the Belpre Medal, and the Texas Bluebonnet Award. Notable and outstanding children's books are found throughout the collection. The Collection also contains a Children's Historical Collection, a non-circulating collection.

The Policy

The Children's Collection Development Policy is a written guide that supplements the TWU Libraries General Collection Development Policy (http://www.twu.edu/downloads/library/collection_development_policy.pdf) and exists to support the Children's Collection, by focusing on its specific collection policies. The Collection addresses the University teaching and research needs as revealed in the curricula and in faculty and student interests. It is expected that the policy will be reviewed every two or three years, or

when programs of studies are added to or dropped from the University curricula. Suggestions for changes or additions to the policy should be made to the Director of Libraries.

This policy is intended to:

- provide guidelines for the selection of material for purchase
- provide a plan for the growth and development of the Library's Children's Collections
- communicate to deans, faculty, librarians and others the Library's collection policy
- provide guidelines for weeding
- assist in the selection and retention of gifts and other free or inexpensive sources

Scope

The Children's Collection supports the curricular needs of Texas Woman's University faculty and students. The scope of the collection is children's and young adult literature. This represents material written and produced for the entertainment of both children and young adults; it includes fiction, nonfiction, quality literary and artistic works, and materials in a variety of physical formats. Most all items dealing with selection tools, pedagogy, and other professional literature are collected under the Libraries' overall Collection Development Policy and are housed in the Main Collection of Blagg-Huey Library.

The collection includes books appropriate for preschool through grade nine (young adult). All format types are included such as alphabet books, board books, number books, big books, and chapter books and novels, and represent various subjects even if controversial. Specialty electronic resources, such as the *Children's Literature Comprehensive Database*, *Education Research Complete*, *Child Development and Adolescent Studies*, *ERIC*, *Book Review Digest Plus*, and the *Professional Development Collection* are also available both on campus and for distance education students.

Materials are added to the Children's Collection through purchases and gifts.

Selection Criteria

A concerted, collaborative effort is made to collect award winning books, honor books, highly recommended books, original book art, and resources taken from bibliographies. Materials are selected based on favorable reviews in library and discipline specific journals, cost, curriculum correlation, currency, to support a variety of teaching and learning styles, accuracy of information, and the absence of cultural bias. Fiction and nonfiction are added along with biographies and autobiographies. Books with a Texas interest and those that are bilingual (English/Spanish) are given purchase priority. Every effort is made to have the collection reflect cultural diversity and promote global awareness and respect.

A limited selection of reference books like those found in a school library may also be collected, such as dictionaries, encyclopedias, and atlases. It is not meant to be a comprehensive working reference collection for homework assignments. Emphasis is placed on current materials; outdated items may be replaced by newer editions. Certain materials are retained for historical and comparative purposes.

Material is primarily in English with a focus on Spanish/English bilingual materials. Selected materials in Spanish, French, and German are also added.

Media for children is selectively acquired to reflect the curriculum. It is housed in the Media Collection, located within the Children's Collection and consists of audiocassettes, DVDs, multi-media kits, audio books, and CDs. Emphasis is placed on acquiring new technologies.

Gift materials are evaluated and added to the collection using the same criteria as used for purchased materials.

Weeding

Items that are worn, superseded or obsolete, not in demand, or that fail to meet current educational standards and curricular needs will be considered for withdrawal from the collection by the Assistant Director for Collections and Technical Services in collaboration with librarians and faculty departments. When warranted by high use, curricular support and availability of newer editions, the titles may be replaced. Some materials may be retained for historical content.

Children's Historical Collection

The Children's Historical Collection is a non-circulating secured collection of approximately 5,000 volumes, including a rare edition of *Pilgrim's Progress*, a 1777 New England primer, and an 1898 edition of Hans Christian Andersen's *Fairy Tales*. The collection began as a gift to Texas Woman's University and was established as a resource for scholarly study and teaching of children's literature of the 20th century, including milestone books from the 18th and 19th centuries as well as general fiction, nonfiction, novelty picture books, series titles, story collections, poetry, Mother Goose, and biographies. Related professional reference works and early readers are used for instruction.

Materials are added to the Children's Historical Collection through purchases and gifts.