Module 1.3- Collection Plan

Department of Library and Information Studies, Old Dominion University

LIBS 658: Knowledge Resources-Collections

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Introduction to My Library

The Blue Ridge Regional Library is made up of five branches and a Bookmobile that serve roughly 80,000 people in Henry and Patrick County and Martinsville City in the Piedmont Region of Southern Virginia. The Main Branch is located in Martinsville, which is an independent city in Henry County (M. Rich, 2022). According to the 2020 Census, Martinsville City had a population of 13,485. The percentage of white and black or African American is almost equal at 47% and 46%, respectively. A majority of households (83.8%) have access to computers, and 73.9% of those people have internet service in their homes. Eighty-two percent of adults have graduated high school, and 21% have a Bachelor's Degree or higher. In a community greatly affected by the loss of high paying manufacturing jobs, the median household income is $34,371 and the percentage of people in poverty is 23.9% (United States Census Bureau).

I believe that for a relatively small area served by the Blue Ridge Regional Library, the collection is adequate. There is always room for improvement, but overall, it offers a good variety of print books, ebooks, and other materials. Having five branches of the library is very beneficial. It is a rural area with no public transportation to speak of. Patrons in most areas of the county are close to a branch which makes access easier. As I have navigated the physical collection and the online collection, I have learned there is more available and more services offered than I had previously thought.

I have found the realization of how important weeding a collection is. When there are books that have out of date information or don't have current information that is desperately needed, research of patrons is compromised. You run the risk of having an

out of date book be the one the patron looks to for information. All materials must be thoroughly examined and discarded, if necessary.

Target Areas

I have chosen three target areas that I feel need to be addressed and improved in the Blue Ridge Library. I feel one area that is lacking is an information database. When people, especially students, are doing research on any topic, having access to a database allows the researcher to find so much more information. There are many online databases, but many of them require paid subscriptions or they do not have the information relevant to the search. A free database that is accessible by patrons would be a huge addition. The next area that needs to be addressed are ebooks/audiobooks. The Blue Ridge Regional Library has Hoopla and Overdrive where patrons can download ebooks for free. These programs are great, but I think there should be a much larger selection of books to choose from. Ebooks and audiobooks are so important in today's society. Kids have their phones in their hands hours and hours a day. Many kids would rather read books on their phones or chromebooks, so there should be a huge selection of books they can download to choose from. The third area is the amount of material or diverse, and sometimes controversial, material. There are so many diverse groups of people now, and everyone should have access to information about these groups. Knowledge is power, and libraries need to make sure they are keeping up with the changes that are happening all around us. People of every race, religion, sexual preference, and gender should be able to find books and information that are about people like them. The Blue Ridge Library has a growing

collection on topics such as the aforementioned, but I believe it is very important to grow these collections in our school, public, and academic libraries.

Alignment and Proposed Change

The Blue Ridge Regional Library has a mission to meet the needs of our community, which is diverse in terms of race, religion, and socioeconomics. In order to meet those needs, citizens must be able to access information of all kinds. Free databases make that a possibility. Whether used for professional or personal reasons, people need to be able to access valid, reliable information, and they can do that with reputable databases. Because not all citizens have transportation to a library, and not all people are fluent readers, audiobooks are very important. Ebooks are important as well because they do not require a visit to the library to check out or turn in physical books. Libraries should offer materials that serve educational and entertainment purposes for all races, sexual orientations and preferences, religions, and groups of people. We must make our library a place where people can feel comfortable and count on to offer resources for everyone.

Supportive Research of Target Areas

Free Databases

When patrons go to the library or visit the library website, they are often searching for academic reasons or for accurate and credible material. Databases can

be very expensive, so all libraries aren't able to find funds in the budget. That being said, every effort should be made to give patrons access to these databases. According to research, …" research databases offer users access to thousands of books, magazine articles, images, charts and primary sources. These databases contain scholarly and peer-reviewed articles written by credible authors, such as journalists, researchers and experts in their field. Since databases provide powerful search tools for narrowing results, users are able to more quickly find the information they need" (2015). Public libraries must do all they can to provide this valuable informational tool to patrons.

Audiobooks and ebooks

Since the release of ebooks and audiobooks, the number of people who rely on them for their source of books has increased dramatically. One of the biggest providers of these books are public libraries. The Blue Ridge Public Library has Hoopla and Libby which are providers of ebooks and audiobooks. The problem is the number of titles available through these programs. Patrons should be able to find any titles they want through the library. "Libraries must continue to work to capitalize on the perception that they are excellent sources of quality information. This can be achieved by quickly developing and implementing better eresources for the borrowing public along with acting as sources of information on current and emerging technologies and international trends" (Duncan).

Diverse materials

The community served by the Blue Ridge Public Library is a diverse one. The Spanish speaking population is growing. There are many religions practiced, and the LGBTQ+ community is becoming more of a presence. All members of the area, no matter what race or religion they are, no matter what language they speak, or no matter what their sexual preference or gender identity is, need to see books, literature, and resources that look like them. "When patrons walk into the library, they should immediately see and be able to connect to the larger world around them. Books, materials, resources, and programs that introduce cultural exploration, foster global understanding, and facilitate language learning should be showcased throughout. Libraries should not confine this sharing of rich culture to just specific heritage months; it should always be on display" (Overton). It is imperative the public library has materials that include all patrons.

Target area of improvement	Description of Target Area	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Free Database	A free database for research and education is imperative for the community	- Research price of EBSCO to be used throughout the system. - Meet with the library board to request funds to purchase the	- Complete a formative assessment in six months of patrons having access to the database by creating a survey for patrons to see	Revisit the usage of the database. - Complete formative assessments in six months. - Complete a summative assessment at

		program. - If approved, purchase the program.	if it is beneficial to them. - Complete a summative assessment at the end of the year.	the end of the year to decide if the library will keep the database.
Audiobooks/ ebooks	Patrons of all ages need access to audiobooks and ebooks to	- Research price to add titles to Hoopla and Libby. - Meet with the library board to request funds to add to the collection. - If approved, purchase more audio and ebooks.	- Complete a formative assessment in six months of adding titles by creating a survey for patrons to see if it is beneficial to them. - Complete a summative assessment at the end of the year.	-Complete formative assessments in six months. - Complete a summative assessment at the end of the year to decide if the library will continue to add titles.

Diverse material	The library should have books and resources for everyone, regardless of race, gender, religion, or socioeconomic status	- Research price to add titles to meet the needs of a diverse community. - Meet with the library board to request funds to add to the collection. - If approved, survey the community to see what materials would be most beneficial.	- Complete a formative assessment in six months of adding resources for patrons to see if it is beneficial to them. - Complete a summative assessment at the end of the year to see if the materials are beneficial, or to see if there are other	-Complete formative assessments in six months. - Complete a summative assessment at the end of the year to decide if the materials added are enough or if more needs to be added to the collection.

			materials that need to be added.	

Formative and Summative Guidelines

Formative Assessments	Used to: - Determine ongoing needs. - Determine benefits and drawbacks of the programs/additions	Formative Assessments to be used: - Google Form surveys sent to all library card holders. - Availability of paper pencil surveys for patrons who are not tech savvy.
Summative Assessments	Used to: - Determine if the program/additions will be continued - Determine if additional funds will be needed	Summative Assessments to be used: - Use data from formative assessments and current surveys.

Collection development is one of the most important things a public library can focus on. My job as a librarian is to ensure that I am helping to choose the most effective and needed resources that fit the needs of the diverse population of my community. I must be able to take the results of an environmental scan and use that

information to make decisions about what best suits the patrons. I must work with other librarians, the library board, and the community to make the library a place that is welcoming and beneficial to everyone.

Resources

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