

**Collection Analysis**  
**LIBS 658: Module 1, Part 2**  
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**INTRODUCTION TO THE LIBRARY**

This collection analysis is focused primarily on the library at Yorktown High School, located in the northern section of Arlington, Virginia. Arlington County has a population of over 235,000 and is located across the Potomac River from Washington, DC. Yorktown is one of three main high school programs in the county. Strong academic scores and a high post-secondary attendance rate describe most of the students. Students who are English Learners, continue to be challenged by the academic curriculum. The test assessments show lowest testing percentages in reading and math for English Learners, but with a strong score increase in the following year of testing. Black, Hispanic or multi-racial students also show consistently lower test scores and post-secondary attendance rates.

The mission statement for the library is found on the website homepage:

“The Yorktown Library is an integral component of the educational program of the school. It houses a wide variety of print, audio-visual, and digital resources as well as computers for class and individual use. The librarians provide a welcoming environment that is conducive to learning while fostering a love of reading and an appreciation of literature. They also collaborate with teachers to ensure that students’ research needs are met. The services of the library extend well beyond the physical walls of the building as many resources are also available online.”

Also, the purpose statement of the library is referenced for the school’s monthly awards:

“The Yorktown Library is here to support your skills in acquiring information, your appreciation of literature, and assist you in locating resources to gain knowledge.”

The random selection analysis was completed at the Westover branch of Arlington Public Library. All libraries in Arlington Public Schools are currently limited to curbside hold pickups.

### **POLICY AND PROCEDURES AFFECTING POLICY**

The library at Yorktown High School uses the Follett Destiny catalog. A range of database series are available including Britannica, xPlora, Gale, National Geographic, World Book, and JStor. All library books on the shelf are currently available for holds and curbside pick up. The e-book collection is available for checkout in the online library catalog through Follett Destiny and Mackinvia. Interlibrary loans from any of the 42 school libraries within Arlington Public Schools is available through the online catalog or with the help of one of the Yorktown library staff.

There is no limit to the number of checkouts available per student or staff person, and there are no library fines for late returns. Replacement costs are charged for lost items. When the library is open to visitors again, there is a self-checkout station, comfortable seating, and staff present to answer questions.

Currently, the library is closed for browsing or in person visiting. When the library is open to staff and students, the hours are 7:45 am to 4 pm Monday through Friday, and 7:45 am to 3:15 pm on Fridays. The library is closed on Saturday and Sunday. Students use the library frequently during the lunch hours as a quiet work space or to relax. There is a limited amount of

access time outside of class hours to access the collection during study hours at the beginning and end of the day, and during the lunch hour.

### **SELECTION AND DESELECTION POLICIES**

The following is the selection policy as found on the Arlington Public Schools website. While the principal at each school clearly holds the final responsibility for the selection of resources, the task is handed off to the Library/Media Specialists.

#### *Materials Purchased with Library and Information Services Funds*

Responsibility for initiating requests for purchase (at the school level) of materials with library funds rests with the principal who may assign this responsibility to the school library media specialist.

Supplementary materials considered for purchase with library funds shall be examined by the library media specialist considering the criteria for textbooks and supplementary materials listed above. Whenever possible, those items should be examined physically as through prepublication copies, book exhibits, and professional conference exhibitors; however, previews from vendors are highly discouraged. If material cannot be physically examined, the reviews in professional teaching journals, recognized professional selection aids, and review periodicals may be substituted for reviews by Arlington staff. For items costing more than \$200 (except for standard reference materials), purchase must also have the approval of the principal or curriculum supervisor for the program in which the item is to be used. The same criteria applies to electronic materials (including videos, CD-ROMs, etc.).

A librarian with Arlington Public Schools recently explained the deselection policy in a recent conversation. For deselection, the library services division in the school district recommends that the average publication date for all school library collections be 10 years old. In 2021, the aim is for an average publication date of 2011 for all items in the collection (Personal communication, D.S. Black, 20 March, 2021).

### **COLLECTION DEMOGRAPHICS**

The library collection includes approximately 20,000 books, 10,000 eBooks/eAudio, and 200 DVDs. In addition, there are magazines and newspapers available when able to visit in person. As well, there are over thirty databases available on the library website for research, including the Gale research database series, Encyclopedia Britannica, National Geographic, and JStor. Copyright and citation support is also provided on the website with a variety of suggested weblinks, including Pixabay, Creative Commons, Pics4Learning, Wikimedia Commons, NoodleTools, Purdue Owl, EasyBib, and Bibme (Personal communication, Nixon, 9 Mar. 2021).

There are also released tests and learning resources related to the Virginia Standards of Learning, video streaming resources such as Learn360 Streaming Media, and educational resources from the Smithsonian Institution, the Library of Congress, and PBS. The New York Times online is free to all school district staff and students.

### **RANDOM SAMPLING**

In a random sampling exercise completed on Saturday, March 13, 2021 at the Westover branch of the Arlington Public Library. Twenty-seven percent of the sampled books represented biographies of a non-White person.

The biographies section of this library includes approximately 700 titles. Divided by forty to determine the frequency of random sampling, the seventeenth book was pulled for review. Each of the random samples was considered for whether or not it was a biographical story about a non-White person, or not. Thirty-nine books were selected. Using the cover photo, jacket synopsis and photos, the book was judged as a yes or no. Ten of the thirty-nine books, or 27% of the sampled books, included a non-White main character, while twenty-seven books were about a White person.

Approximately 34% of Arlington County residents, and 33% of students at Yorktown High School, are non-White. Students who are Hispanic, Black or multi-racial are showing decreasing or stagnant rates of graduation from 2017 to 2020, according to the Virginia Department of Education School Quality Profile for Yorktown High School.

## **CURRICULUM MAPPING**

### **Part 1: Civil War**

<b>Curriculum Connection</b>	<b>Specific Topics</b>	<b>Format</b>	<b>Amount of Resources</b>
USI.9 The student will demonstrate knowledge of the causes, major events, and effects of the Civil War	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Primary sources such as journals, autobiographies, inventories, maps</li> <li>- Secondary sources such as encyclopedias, videos, biographies</li> <li>- Range of reading levels to accommodate EL students and low to high readers</li> <li>- E-books and audiobooks to allow for a range of sources</li> </ul>	E-books	20
		Audiobooks	3
		Audiovisual materials	3
		Biographies	4
		Print fiction	10
		Non-fiction	7
		Reference	2
		History	19
		databases	
		Books in Spanish	0

On the topic of the Civil War, there are forty-nine resources in the library. The breakout of items includes 20 e-books, 3 audiobooks, 3 audiovisual materials, 4 biographies, 10 books in print, 7 nonfiction books, 2 reference books, and 12 databases which include historical materials. All of the materials were published after 2010.

There are a range of options within the databases. The options include Britannica Online (English and Spanish). EbscoHost, Explora, a range of Gale databases including Cengage Learning, Academic OneFile, Books & Authors, Biography in Context, Gale Elementary, Gale Literary Sources, Opposing Views in Context, US History in Context, Virtual Reference Library, World History in Context, JStor, World Book Advanced, World Book Discover, World Book Timelines, World Book Student.

While there are a variety of materials in print and in e-books, as well as databases, there are limited resources in Spanish, and few materials in English at a lower reading level. Also, more DVDs could be available to describe the issues and conflicts around the Civil War. Finally, more copies of the current resources and a wider variety of books would be helpful to allow multiple students to use popular items at the same time in this section. With a wider range of materials and a higher volume of items, it would be easier to differentiate for students who are low in reading or maybe uninterested in the topic.

**Part 2: Environmentalism**

Curriculum Connection	Specific Topics	Format	Amount of Resources
10.2U and 10.3Y The student will analyze how environment and personal health are interrelated, establish goals for improving environmental health, and detail a plan to attain an environmental health goal	Materials on a range of reading levels	E-books	16
		Audiobooks	15
		Audiovisual materials	1
	Environmental case studies showing impact on communities	Biographies	2
		Print fiction	10
		Non-fiction	7
		Reference	0
		Databases	20
	News reports	Books in Spanish	0
	Environmental policy		
	Connection between environmental policy and personal health		
	Examples of environmental rights advocates		

On the topic of environmentalism, there are fifty-one resources in the library. The variety of resources includes 16 e-books, 15 audiobooks, 1 audiovisual item, 2 biographies, 10 books in print, and 7 non-fiction books.

There are a robust number of databases for use. The options include Britannica in English and Spanish, CultureGram, EBSCOhost, eBook Central, Explora Primary and Secondary, Gale Databases including Academic OneFile, Books and Authors, Literary Sources, National Geographic Kids, Opposing Viewpoints, Science in Context, U.S. History in Context, virtual reference library, world history in context, JStor, SIRS Knowledge Source, World Almanac for Kids Online, World Book Advanced, World Book Discover, World Book Hallazgos, World Book Timelines.



There are a strong number of materials available on the topic of environmentalism. There could be a more expansive range of autobiographies at a lower reading level as well as visual encyclopedias, resources in Spanish, and DVDs in this section. These changes would make it easier to differentiate for students who are English language learners or struggling to make the connection between environmental policy and personal health choices.

### **COLLECTION ANALYSIS**

Developing, managing and maintaining a collection that “remains vital and useful” (Johnson, p. 199) strikes the right chord. There is a midpoint between an underdeveloped collection that is not current or well-used, and a library that has a very robust collection with items that are hard to find in the midst of outdated resources or books in disrepair. A well-developed collection is consistently maintained with frequent weeding, new books and resources that match the mission statement and needs of the user community, and is manageable for the physical space and level of staffing. As Johnson states on page 202, librarians can rarely determine how an item will be used before and after purchase. The connection of the item to the mission statement and the true usage data, whether it is high or low, help to determine the level of value.

\_\_\_\_\_The Yorktown Library collection has been thoroughly weeded, the space has been made more inviting with comfortable seating and increased natural light, and more current resources are being consistently added. Staff and students have consistently reveled in how much more inviting and attractive both the physical space and the library collection have become.

A few areas of growth come to mind to continue to build on the library's rejuvenation efforts. First, in terms of continuing to develop the collection, the leaner collection could continue to be expanded with multiple copies of books on popular research topics. Also, a wider range of diversity and cultural background could be shown in the collection. Cookbooks, biographies, graphic novels are a few popular areas that would immediately benefit from representing Blacks and Hispanic cultures. As well, more popular books in Spanish or another language. Allowing students to build their leisure reading skills while continuing to learn English would help to support the English language learners program.

Second, in terms of accessibility, it would be very helpful to expand the virtual access to the library staff. Whether studying at home after attending classes in the building, or studying virtually full-time, it would be beneficial to build on the current Google form for contacting a librarian. Students and staff can complete the Google form which a librarian will eventually respond to. An active period of time, such as 11 am to 1 pm, when library staff are available for questions by text, email or phone would increase the accessibility of the collection and library staff to the school community.

\_\_\_\_\_ Third, many students continue to work outside of the building. It would be helpful to continue to link the high school students to the public library system. The library branches are more physically accessible seven days a week and in closer proximity to many of the students. Fun perks such as a free bookmark or a drawing for showing your public library card could help to encourage the effort. Also, is there a way to deliver books from Yorktown Library to students in specific programs? Could the assistant-level staff help to deliver library books to students studying virtually who are unable to drive or walk to the school. Could there be live research help sessions on Microsoft Teams with advanced sign up?

## **SUMMARY**

The Yorktown Library is in many ways, a strong and well-defined high school library. The collection is current and appears to be “vital and useful”, the library staff is available to the school community, and there is a growing number of items that represent diversity and support English language learners. Creating more connections to the public library system, increasing the availability of the library staff, adding more representation from a variety of cultures to the collection, and more popular fiction titles in Spanish or another language for English language learners.

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