

Module 1 Part 2- Collection Analysis

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LIBS 658: Knowledge Resources: Planning, Selecting, & Managing Collections

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A. Introduction to the Library

Holland Elementary School is located in Southeast Virginia in the city of Virginia Beach, the most populous city in Virginia. Virginia Beach City Public Schools serves approximately 66,000 students ranging from pre-kindergarten to 12th grade. Holland Elementary School is one of 55 elementary schools in the Virginia Beach City Public School system, serving students from pre-K to 5th grade. The school's library is staffed by one Library Media Specialist and one Library Media Assistant.

B. Access to Resources

Students of Holland Elementary have access to resources both in person and online. In person, students can check out books, Nooks, Play-Aways, and online they can read eBooks on the Chromebooks through the library website. Pre-K and kindergarten students visit the library as a class once a week to check out books, while students in grades 1-5 are able to visit the library on their own when given time by their teachers. Students can check out two books per week, and can complete library challenges for an "extra-book checkout coupon" that allows them to add an additional book to their weekly checkout. Families must only pay for books that are lost or damaged- there are no overdue fines when the books are eventually returned.

In addition to students visiting the library to check out materials, teachers can also schedule lessons to co-teach with the Library Media Specialist in the

classroom or the library, using resources from the library's collection. iPads, robots, and other technology can be checked out for whole group lessons.

Finally, the librarian or teacher can borrow materials from other Virginia Beach City Public Schools, and the students at Holland Elementary have access to the Joint Use Library for materials that are not owned by the school library. Because students cannot access the library collection during the summer, they are provided a pack of summer reading materials through Scholastic Inc.

C. Selection & Challenged Materials Policies

Many school members can be involved in selecting materials for the media center, but ultimately the decision lies on the Library Media Specialist. The LMS must evaluate the books based on a criteria including, but not limited to: suitability for the audience, suitability of the format, accuracy of content, & attention to critiques and reviews. The LMS can take recommendations from faculty and staff for selecting materials, and should consider the existing materials before making a decision.

A parent, guardian, or adult student may challenge material that they deem controversial. The principal will review the content and schedule a conference with the complainant. At the conference, the principal can honor the request to remove the material from use of the challenging parties' child. Should the complainant request that the material be removed from the school or division as a whole, they should file an appeal to the Chief Academic Officer, who would then put together a

committee to review the material. When a decision is made, the Chief Academic Officer will notify the Superintendent, who will notify the complainant.

D. Collection Demographics

When walking into the library, the circulation desk is conveniently situated at the entrance of the library for easy access and monitoring. The school library was renovated in 2018, and is separated into fiction and nonfiction sections. Within the sections, fiction books are separated by level, and nonfiction books are separated by the Dewey Decimal System. The school's library reaches far beyond physical books. It's collection of digital materials are numerous, outlined below:

Item	Number Available
Physical books	10,243
E-Books (via Destiny Discover)	900+ (E-Books are accessible throughout the district)
Nook	64 Nooks loaded with 31 books at a time
Playaway	40 Playaways loaded with 46 books

The library's MakerSpace allows for students to explore problem solving and STEM activities. Students can visit the MakerSpace when their teachers allow, and the materials and activities change on a weekly or monthly basis, depending on activity. The LMS keeps up with new and changing technologies and materials to ensure the collection is relevant and current.

Item	Number Available
3D Printer	1
Wonder Dash & Dot Robots	18
Dash & Dot Accessory pack kit	4
Dash & Dot Xylophone kit	4
Code & Go Mice	14
Sphero Robots	4
Sphero Indi Kits (8 per kit)	3
Nearpod VR Goggles	1
K'Nex Simple Machines Kit	4
KEVA Plank set	1
LEGOs (regular, Mega, Duplo)	Many
LEGO Wall	1
Craft Materials	Many

Holland's library gives teachers the opportunity to check out materials to use for whole class activities at their leisure, using a sign up form created by the LMS.

The collection for classroom checkout includes:

Item	Number Available
iPads with Carts	54
LEGO Education Classroom kits	25
Osmo kit, differentiated by grade level	1 per teacher
Ozobot Classroom kits	18

EVO Ozobot Classroom kits	18
Portable Green Screen	3

Whether classes come to the library for book checkout, MakerSpace exploration, or group work activities, there are many different seating options to make students and staff feel comfortable, such as long tables, circle tables, traditional chairs, stools, couches, and a house hideout. To aid in whatever learning is taking place, the library can support it with the following items:

Item	Number Available
Interactive Board	1
Projector and Screen	1
Green Screen	2
Mobile Bookshelves	7

In addition to the collection resources previously mentioned, Holland students and staff can access online databases and resources to include:

- 5 eBooks databases (Ebsco eBooks, Epic!, Gale eBooks, Mackin VA, & Sora)
- 23 Curriculum Resources (Achieve 3000, Adobe Spark, ArcGIS, BrainPop, BrainPop Jr., Code.org, Core Clicks, Davis Digital, Defined Learning, Desmos, eMediaVA, EVERFI, Flocabulary, GoOpenVA, Imagine Math, Imagine Math Facts, Jefferson Lab, MyOn, Phet Labs, Playposit, RedBird, Welnet, & WeVideo)
- 13 Reference Databases (CultureGrams, Destiny Discover [library database], Encyclopedia Virginia, Follett Destiny, Gale, Gale Interactive Science, National Geographic Kids, PebbleGo, PebbleGo Spanish, ReadIt, Virginia Beach Public Library, & World Book Online)

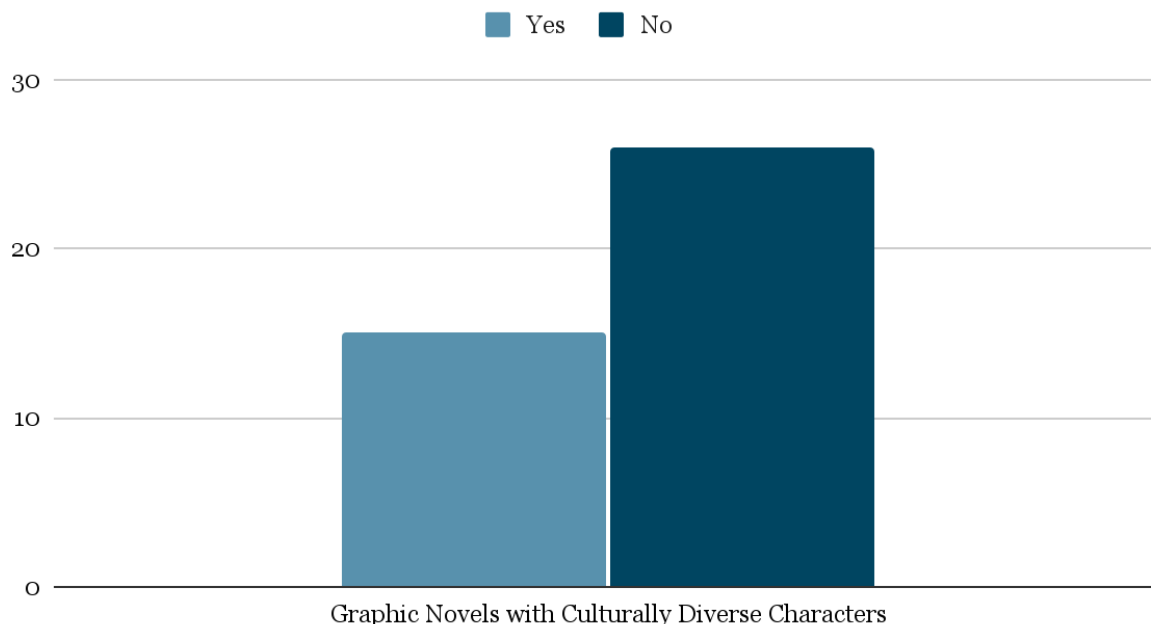
Throughout the year, the library hosts programs such as the Scholastic Book Fair and Battle of the Books. Holland partners with the Joint Use Library in Virginia Beach. The J.U. Library offers library cards to every student and was integral to helping students receive books during the pandemic. Students have year-round digital public library access. In addition to the J.U. Library, the LMS at Holland can borrow books and resources for use from other VB Schools libraries via pony mail.

Formats not owned by the library include: cookware, DVDs, magazines, music, musical instruments, Wi-Fi hotspots, historical documents, professional journals, artifacts, ancient manuscripts, newspapers, desktop computers for student use, video games and consoles, CDs, travel guides, sewing machines, and Cricuts.

E. Random Sampling

Question: Do the graphic novels in my library feature culturally diverse characters?

Random Sampling



For my random sampling, the question I posed was “do the graphic novels in my library feature culturally diverse characters?”. To complete the random sampling, I counted the number of books in the graphic novel section- 209- and divided that number by 40, which equals 5.2. I started in the middle of the section, counted every 5 books, and made a check on my chart whether or not they answered my question. After compiling the data, I made a graph to show my results.

I think that this is definitely an area of improvement. Most of the books in my random sample (26) featured white or non-human characters, with just 15 of the books featuring culturally diverse characters.

F. Curriculum Mapping

SOL	Looking For	Formats (6-10)	Number of Resources
4.5a The student will investigate and understand how plants and animals, including humans, in an ecosystem interact with one another and with the nonliving components in the ecosystem: plant and animal adaptations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subject matter • Appropriate reading level • Variety of format options 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Print books • Databases • Videos • eBooks • Audiobooks • Articles 	27 1 53 139 0 5
2.5 The student will describe why United States citizens celebrate major holidays, including a) Martin Luther King, Jr., Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biographies • Appropriate reading level • Variety of format options 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Print books • Databases • Videos • eBooks • Audiobooks • Articles 	21 2 9 47 2 4

When focusing on the topic of plant and animal adaptations, there are 225 resources in the library collection:

- 27 print books
 - 1 graphic novel, 26 nonfiction
- 1 database (PebbleGo)
- 53 videos (Epic!, BrainPop, Flocabulary)
- 139 eBooks (Destiny, Epic!, CoreClicks, MyOn)
- 0 Audiobooks
- 0 science kits
- 5 articles (Achieve 3000)

Most of the print books that I found were written between a 2nd and 6th grade reading level, which is target for the varying reading levels of fourth graders. The collection of resources on this topic is broad and accessible to many types of readers. Some of the accessible formats in the library collection have “read to me”

features, which cater to struggling readers. The majority of the resources I found for this topic focused on animal adaptations, with only a few on plant adaptations. I think that these books would be of high interest to the patrons of our library, as animals are usually a topic of interest in elementary school.

The second topic I focused on was Martin Luther King Jr. For this topic, there are 85 resources available:

- 21 print books
 - 4 historical fiction, 17 nonfiction (mostly biographies)
- 2 databases (PebbleGo & ReadIt)
- 9 videos (Epic!, BrainPop, Flocabulary)
- 47 eBooks (Destiny, Epic!, MyOn)
- 2 audiobooks
- 4 articles (Achieve 3000)

Though the standard for Martin Luther King Jr. falls under a 2nd grade standard, most grade levels in elementary school cover historical figures in one way or another. Many of the print resources I found are written on an upper elementary level, while some of the fiction books are written on a lower elementary level. Just like with the adaptation topic, many of the MLK resources I found have a “read to me” feature for struggling readers, as well as videos for younger students to benefit from. Students who want to learn about this topic have a plethora of resources to choose from in the library collection. In addition to the resources in the library collection, our school hosts a Black History Night in February where students can learn information about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Virginia Beach Public Schools uses a city-wide database to borrow resources from around the district. Books can be borrowed from other school libraries. Additionally, students have access to their partner library, for example, Holland partners with the Joint Use Library. Additional resources can be accessed through this partnership. Through a quick search of the Virginia Beach Public Library system, patrons can borrow print books, digital media, take home tech (a telescope, Wi-Fi hotspots, Roku streaming devices, & robots), access mobile apps, 3D printing, and many different programs delivered through the library.

G. Reflection

A well-developed collection includes much more than print books. In fact, it expands far past reading material itself. A well-developed collection serves its community, giving them relevant information and technology that is accessible and equitable. It can include everything from print books, audiobooks, and eBooks, to STEM materials, DVDs, and robots. Karavadra mentions in an article about building diverse libraries, “to achieve true representation within the collection, the library would need to work in collaboration with library users” (Karavadra, 2021). Holland’s library collection does a pretty good job meeting criteria, providing materials and resources for a low-income community that may not have access to them otherwise, whether through owned, accessed, or borrowed materials. Finally, while Holland has a partnership with the Joint Use Library, there are so many programs and partnerships that could be built to support the students of Holland.

H. Target Areas

Based on my findings in the above research, the three areas I will be targeting for my collection plan are:

1. Cultural and ethnic diversity
2. eBooks and Audiobooks
3. Outreach and community partners

I. Summary

In light of the school's demographics, Holland's library has an obligation to put books and resources in the hands of its underserved population. The resources of the library must be accessible to its students, both in print and digital formats. One might surmise that lower-income families do not have the means to build a rich, in-home library collection. A diverse collection of books should be available for the readers to ensure that all readers are represented. The majority of Holland's students are people of color and this should in turn be represented in the book collection. The library should continue to grow in terms of resources and diversity of its collection to make certain that students of the community have access to resources equal to that of their peers in the district.

Holland's collection is amply developed and provides opportunities for its community to access resources both during the school year and, with its connection to the Joint Use Library, throughout the summer. Considering Holland's population, specifically the high number of low-income students, it's vital that the

patrons of Holland Elementary are given access to resources year-round to supplement their reading collection. As new resources and technologies become available, Holland should expand their collection and utilize these resources to equitably equip the students for success.

I. Addendum

- [Selection Policy](#)
- [Challenged Materials Policy](#)

References

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