

Project 1.3 Collection Planning

Sharon Rhodes-Wood

Library and Information Studies, Old Dominion University

LIBS 658 Knowledge Resources:

Planning, Selecting, & Managing Collections

Dr. Gail Dickinson

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Strawbridge Elementary Library is located in the coastal community of Princess Anne in Virginia Beach, Virginia. It opened in 1991 and serves 674 students and 60 teachers, specialists and assistants. The library received a grant in 2016 to completely renovate the library and is now filled with natural light, flexible seating, and a much more user-friendly layout and design. The library system has a strong partnership with Virginia Beach City Public Libraries, local parks and small businesses.

Virginia Beach has a population of 450,000, making it the largest city by population in the state of Virginia. The median household income of the city is significantly higher than the national average. This may be the reason that only 7.4% of the city's population lives below poverty. The Virginia Department of Education reports the same ethnic uniformity of Virginia Beach is reflected in Strawbridge Elementary's student population. However, Strawbridge students eligible for free and reduced lunch are significantly lower than the city average. With the school being close to Oceana Naval Air Station, nearly half of the students are military families. This falls in line with the city average of citizens who are in the civilian labor force. Despite such a high military presence of families, the Census data reveals a high percentage of residents have lived in their Virginia Beach homes for 1+ years (US Census). The majority of citizens in Virginia Beach report having a computer in their home, yet not all have a home broadband subscription. The academic data from VDOE shows Strawbridge with a high pass rate for both mathematics and reading. The minority pass rate is very similar in reading, however, there is some discrepancy in math assessments.

Access to Resources:

The Strawbridge Elementary School Library uses Destiny Discover to access the school's collection. Any student at the school can access Destiny Discover and the entire collection via

the Classlink system that Virginia Beach City Public Schools owns and students use daily. The students also have access to the Virginia Beach Public Library resources by using their student numbers assigned to them at school. They can access digital resources 24/7 and no actual card is issued. Strawbridge students are allowed to check out three books at a time in the school library. Overdue notices are sent out to students on the 1st and the 15th of the month if they fail to return a book on time. While the librarian feels that sending these notices are a waste of time, it is the district's policy so she must follow that procedure. If a student or parent lets you know that they have lost the book they have checked out, the library media specialist or assistant will go to the system and click lost. If it's lost, then they receive a printout of the price owed to the library. If unpaid, it's sent to the city and the guardian gets a city (not school) financial hold on their name. If extenuating circumstances occur or there is a situation that is out of the child's control, their account does not get flagged. This system has been set by the district.

In the event students cannot enter the physical libraries, they are able to access many audio books via Destiny Discover or the public library website, in addition to the virtual databases and resources that each facility has; however, the public library does not allow access to Hoopla, Newsbank, or Kanopy resources with the basic VBCPS student access. In order to have full digital access and to check out print books from the library, a student needs a VBPL youth access account (grades k-5) or a teen account (grades 6-12), which requires a parent signature. The student loses the VBCPS student library account 30 days after graduating or leaving the district. The Strawbridge Library makes it easy and fair for their collection to be "readily, equally, and equitable accessible to all library users" (ALA core values).

Collection Development Policy

The policy for selecting collection materials was approved October 19, 2003. Despite this being eighteen years old, the policy is clear cut and follows the ALA Library Bill of Rights. However, I would like to see language added in the policy regarding library collection selection being based on student and community needs. I believe that those words are imperative to ensure that “library resources are provided for the interest, information and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves” (ALA). The policy for reviewing the collection materials was revised on September 9, 2003. Despite this policy having a revision date of 18 years, the policy for review has clear procedures to follow and I believe it follows Johnson’s advice that “the best defense against challenges to a library collection is prior preparation” (2018). Please see Appendix A for the complete policies.

Collection Demographics

Strawbridge Elementary School Library Mission Statement:

Our mission is to provide support for students and staff so they can become effective users of ideas and information (*AASL, 2009*). We hope to instill a love of learning by collaborating with students, teachers, administrators, and community members and providing access to a wide variety of books, magazines, new technologies, and research tools. As 21st century learners, our students will learn to be responsible digital citizens and contributing members of the educational community.

Upon entering the Strawbridge Library, you immediately notice the openness to the room, the brightness of the room from an entire wall of windows to the outside, and strategically placed comfortable seating all around the entire library. Directly in front of you are tables and chairs that serve as a makerspace area and some of the mobile bookshelves full of books. To the immediate right is the librarian’s office and a LEGO wall right outside of her door. There is also

another room that is used for students to have “chill time” or alone reading time. Mobile bookshelves are organized throughout the library with signs on top letting students know where different sections can be found. In the middle of the room is the book checkout area and also where the librarian assistant is available for helping students. In the far right area of the room, the library is arranged for whole class instruction with tables and a smartboard. There is also a room adjacent to this area that is used for makerspace storage, green screen projects and also tables for other specialists to work and plan. Connected to that room is the “Sharky News” room where our daily announcements are recorded live, as well as, our Sharky webcasts.

The Strawbridge Elementary School library has a very large collection of materials that are either owned, accessed or borrowed.

Owned (physically on the shelves or in the library spaces)

- The library has 13,550 book titles in its physical collection which averages to about 20 books per student.
- 760 professional books
- 10 DVD's
- 6 ipads with rolling work stations
- 3 computers
- 20 past yearbooks
- 8 rolling carts help with transportation of books
- one video streaming software used by VBCPS called Devos.
- 2 white boards
- projector and screen
- 2 green screens
- one 3D printer
- 1 interactive board
- 8 mobile bookshelves

Makerspace:

- 2Osmos
- 3 Code & Go Mice
- 1 Ozobot
- 1 Contraptions kit
- 20 Play-DOH containers
- 50 bottles of glue

- 1 Wonder Pack of Robots,
- One 3D maze ball domino set
- 2 K'Nex sets, three magic shows
- 1 KEV set
- 100's of LEGO's
- many sheets of construction paper and craft sticks.

Comfortable Seating:

- 50 different seating options ranging from wobble chairs to cushioned shapes.

Subscription Databases, Online Resources, Audiobooks:

- On it's Destiny Discover website, users place log in, can locate and place holds on physical books, or can find and read 836 ebooks, use 13 reference databases, and 4 audiobooks to read.
- On Classlink, students can access the following:
 - BrainPop, BrainPop Jr.
 - Core Clicks
 - Desmos
 - Jefferson Lab
 - Redbird
 - Playposit
 - MusicPlay
 - Epic!
 - Ebsco ebooks
 - Gale ebooks
 - Sora-Overdrive
 - National Geographic Kids
 - PebbleGo
 - Readit
 - World Book Online
 - GoMath Textbooks
 - Our Virginia Textbooks
 - Discover Education

Able To Be Borrowed:

Virginia Beach City Public Schools (VBCPS) has a powerful relationship with the Virginia Beach Public Libraries (VBPL) that allows all VBCPS ID numbers to double as VBPL account numbers, giving them access to:

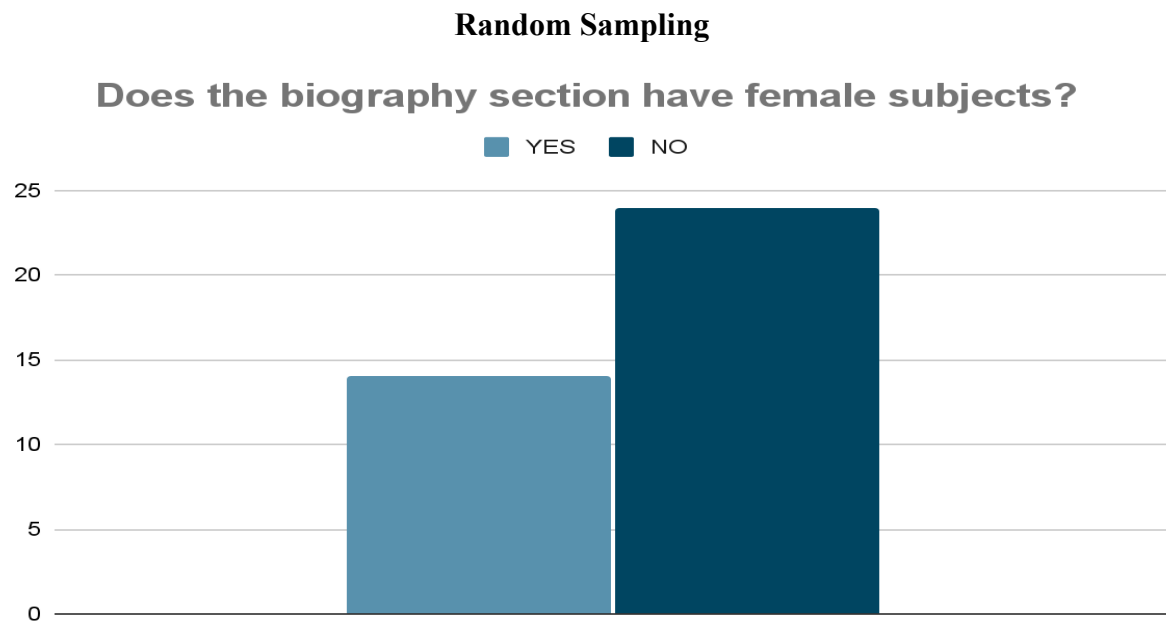
- Hoopla Digital
- Kanopy Movie Database
- Newsbank
- Overdrive
- Library of Virginia ebooks and magazines
- NY Times Digital Access
- Quello Music Channel
- IndieFlix Movies
- Take home technology
- Grant help
- Story times and story walks
- Research skills and help
- Study rooms
- Battle of the Books competition
- Summer reading challenges and programs
- Job and career help
- Gaming
- Interlibrary loan for books, magazine, journals and more
- Many online courses such as Rocket Languages and Peterson's Test Prep

Able To Be Accessed:

- Reading advisory (meeting with librarian or library assistant to receive recommendations or have conversations about books)
- Research skill workshops/lessons
- Testing support
- Professional development and collaboration with teachers
- Virtual or In-Person (pre-covid) author visits
- Meteorologist visits
- Book Clubs including Battle of the Books
- Storywalks

The Strawbridge Elementary School Library does NOT have the following formats, however, they can be accessed via the VBPL site:

- Academic Journals
- Magazines
- Newspapers
- Government Documents
- Grey Literature (I was unable to find if the VBPL provides access to this type of format).



I chose the biography section to take a random sample because the librarian said that section needed the most work. To complete this random sample, I figured out the number of resources in that section by counting how many books were on one shelf and multiplying that by how many shelves were in the section. There were 40 books on the first shelf and 14 full shelves. This came to 560 books. There was a 15th shelf with only 20 books so that was 580. I divided that number by 40 and got 14.5. I rounded to 15. This is how far apart my selection samples were on the shelves. Once this was determined, I started at a random spot on the shelves and started sampling. My result was 14 of the books had female subjects and 24 books did not. The last step of my random sample was to create a graph to show the results.

Is this an area of improvement for the Strawbridge Elementary School library?

Yes! I feel like the library definitely needs more female subjects in the biography section. While there were many males in the section, there were very few female subjects and the ones I found were ancient. In addition, the school population is 48% female (Great Schools) and my sample found that only 2.4% of the biographies contained female subjects. This means that nearly half of the school population is vastly underrepresented in the library's biography section.

While doing my random sampling, I also noticed many of the books were especially old and not very relevant. For “fun” I decided to do a random sample with the question “Are there celebrities from the last 10 years in the biography section?” I was not surprised that the results of the sample were 7 were recent celebrities and 31 were not. Overall, this biography section needs some serious weeding and updating.

In regards to the other areas of the library, the librarian has not gotten a chance to review the nonfiction collection yet, so I know that section would need revamping as well. I know that the librarian completed an overhaul of the fiction, easy reader and graphic novels sections, so those sections have been utilized much more by students and are more up to date.

Collection Mapping

SOL	Looking For	Formats	Number of Resources
SCI.2.1.3 Explain how tracking weather data over time helps scientists make future weather predictions. (SOL 2.6c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subject matter • Appropriate reading level • Variety of formats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Print books • eBooks • Audiobooks • Databases • Articles • Videos 	11 9 4 2 5 14
SS.2.5.7 Describe the contributions of Rosa Parks. (SOL 2.4g)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biographies • Appropriate reading level • Variety of formats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Print books • eBooks • Audiobooks • Databases • Articles • Videos 	14 16 2 1 5 6

For my collection mapping, I first searched the term meteorology in Destiny Discover and I found 45 resources as the chart shows.

7 print books were for forecasting 4 print books were for meteorology
9 ebooks (Epic!)
4 audiobooks (Epic!)
14 videos (BrainPop Jr., BrainPop)
5 articles (Achieve 3000)
2 database sources from PebbleGo (1 meteorology 1 forecasting)

I then searched weather and found 74 more print books. However, because the SOL I selected focuses on scientists tracking weather and making predictions, I chose to report the meteorology resources only. All of the print books found were leveled for 1st to 5th grade. They would be suitable for the reading levels found among second graders, but could also be used as teacher read alouds. The ebooks had a nice variety and because some were read-alouds, they are also suitable for the second grade reading levels. I believe the collection supports the desired age, there are plenty of materials readily and easily available to the students, and because there is a variety of formats accessible, the collection is both relevant and interesting to the desired grade level.

When searching this meteorology in the public library (which the students have access to using), I found 27 nonfiction books, 13 fiction books, 1299 ebooks, 1 audiobook, 1 music sound recording and 1 electronic source. I also searched weather forecasting and found 20 nonfiction books, 9 fiction books, 6 ebooks and 1 electronic resource.

The second topic I focused on was Rosa Parks. There were 50 resources available in Destiny Discover on this famous American.

14 print books
16 ebooks
2 audiobooks
1 database (Pebble Go)
5 articles (Destiny Discover)
6 videos (5 on Destiny Discover and 1 on BrainPop Jr.)

Of the print books found about Rosa Parks, 5 were biographies, 3 were easy picture books, 6 were either part of a series or part of another Black History book. The ebooks could be found in both English and Spanish which made them barrier free to Spanish speaking students (our student population is 8.2% Hispanic). Some of the print books appeared outdated, however, the information found inside is still relevant for the SOL featured. There are adequate resources that are at the correct reading level for second grade and they are found in a variety of formats. The read to me book formats for 2 of the audio books, in addition to the Pebble Go which is also available to be read aloud, will help lower readers still access the information needed to master the SOL. In addition to these books, our third grade also revisits all important Americans with a special Wax Museum each year to review Famous Americans covered in kindergarten through third grade.

I also searched the public library for the topic of Rosa Parks and found 68 nonfiction books, 19 fiction books, 59 ebooks, 6 audiobooks, and 2 music sound recordings.

Summary

Johnson (2018) defines a well developed collection “to provide the library with a collection that meets the appropriate needs of it’s client population within the limits of it’s fiscal and personnel resources”. I believe the definition of a well developed collection is one that meets the special needs of the it’s community members, (Rubin 2016) maintains current interest and usefulness to the community and has open access to the knowledge the community members

seek. The Strawbridge Elementary School library has a nicely developed collection, but based on my random sampling, it lacks an up to date and diverse biography section. Also, after speaking to the librarian, I know that the nonfiction collection also needs some revamping. I will target the biography and nonfiction collections in the library and help weed and update these books.

While the library has formed relationships with some community partners, there is much opportunity for growth in this area with so many museums available in our area. I plan to reach out to the Virginia Aquarium and the Chrysler Museum to see what programs and resources that they have available for the library and it's community to use.

I also feel that the easy reader section could be made more accessible to kindergarten and first grade students. I feel that this could be achieved by generifying that particular area due to the age of the reader to whom they are directed (Johnson, 2018). Young readers would find it much easier to gain access to the books they want if the collection was organized by genre. I plan to help organize this section of the library into genres.

Finally, the discrepancy in math scores between white and African American students should be examined. I will investigate an addition of math remediation programs to the library collection to help with this variance.

References:

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Addendum A: Virginia Beach City Public School Collection Policies

1. Board Approved Selection of Collection Materials Policy

https://www.vbschools.com/about_us/our_leadership/school_board/policies_and_regulations/section_6/6-65_1

2. Board Approved Review and Challenge Procedure

https://www.vbschools.com/about_us/our_leadership/school_board/policies_and_regulations/section_6/6-61_2