



WICHITA STATE
UNIVERSITY



Reaching Youth Through Diverse Collections

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Research supported by Amigos Library Services
Fellowship and Opportunity Award Program

Thank audience for attending. Remind to please turn off or set phones to vibrate.
Explain speaker sequence. Recognize AMIGOS.



Interested because – becoming aware of new awards (Asian Pacific and American Indian) – new faculty interested in diversity in youth literature – wanting to assess our own youth collection supporting future teachers – becoming aware that Kansas population is changing.

Which populations?

- African American
- American Indian
- Asian / Pacific Islander
- Hispanic / Latino
- Disabilities
- LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning)

We wanted to assess our youth collection in multiple areas of diversity.

Our approach

- List checking
- OCLC Holdings (WorldCat)
- Demographic data sources
 - Census 2010 (public libraries)
 - American Community Survey 2010 (public libraries)
 - National Center for Education Statistics (school libraries)
 - Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education (academic libraries)

Library collections supposed to reflect communities. Do they? We decided to check.

Developing the list: Criteria

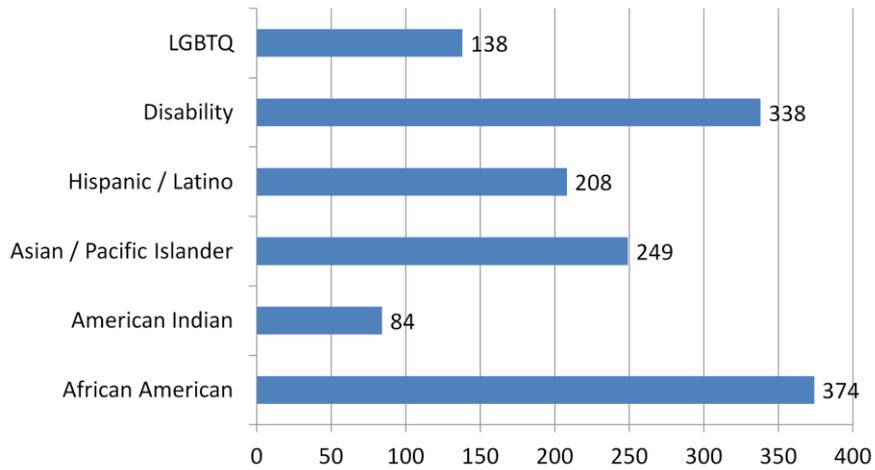
- Published 2000 – 2010
- Recommended for children and teens
- Evaluated for cultural authenticity by recognized authorities
- Both popular, widely held titles & less commonly held titles
- Awards, reviews, recommendations available in Fall 2011

Title sources

- Coretta Scott King Book Award (African American)
- John Steptoe New Talent Award (African American)
- American Indian Youth Literature Award
- Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature (Youth)
- Schneider Family Book Award (Disabilities)
- Pura Belpré Award (Latino/Latina)
- Reviewed in *Multicultural Review*
- Rainbow Book List: GLBTQ Books for Children & Teens
- Listed in *Disabilities and Disorders in Literature for Youth* (see bibliography)

Awards – American Indian, Asian/Pacific American, and Pura Belpre awarded by caucuses that sponsor JCLC – CLICK -- Rainbow Book List is a joint project of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Round Table and the Social Responsibilities Round Table.

How many titles? 1,356 total



Cultural authenticity – why our American Indian list is so limited. Disability – large – includes physical, mental, and emotional disabilities.

Asian / Pacific Islander : Many Cultures



Which holdings?

- Library holds a title:
 - In print, ebook, audiobook, braille
 - In English, Spanish, Hawaiian, or any language
 - Etc.
- Library updates holdings in OCLC WorldCat

Actively collects youth literature

- Holds at least 20% of the 2000-2009
 - Caldecott Medal Winners,
 - Newbery Medal Winners,
 - Printz Medal Winners
- 5,716 libraries actively collect youth literature
 - Holds elementary, middle, high school libraries to higher standard than public and academic

So we looked up almost 6000 library holding symbols. GINGER, you're next. CLICK!

Preliminary findings

- Is youth collection diversity correlated with population size, % of population that is white, % of population that is Hispanic/Latino, median household income, mean household income, or distance of library from urban center?
- Yes, it is. I ran Spearman's r and found correlations between youth collection diversity and each of those factors; the correlations were significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

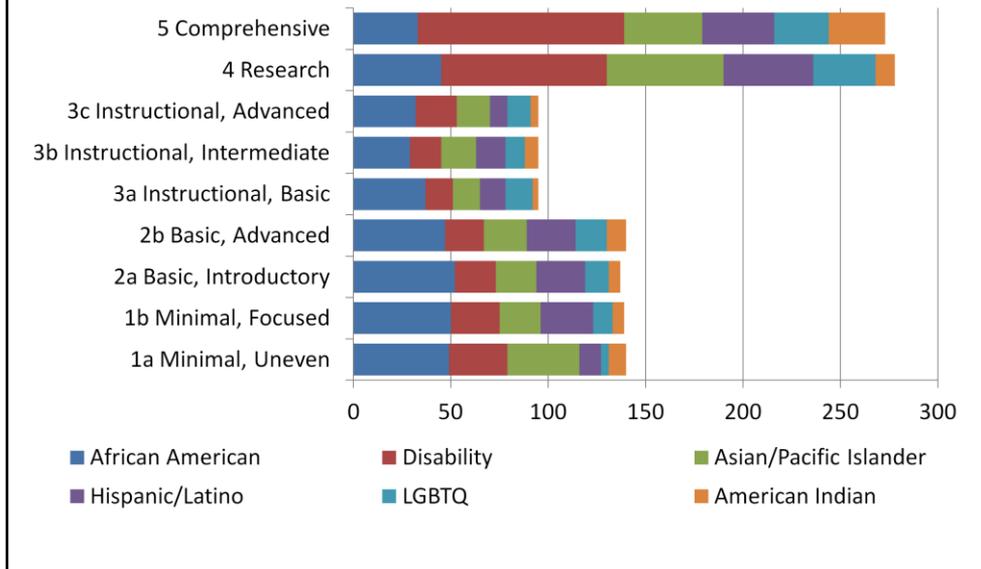
Nancy and I are actually working on a couple of journal articles. Some of the more technical stuff will be in the journal articles. But graphics work better for presentations.

WLN Conspectus

- 0 Out of scope
- 1a Minimal Information, Uneven Coverage
- 1b Minimal Information, Focused Coverage
- 2a Basic Information, Introductory
- 2b Basic Information, Advanced
- 3a Instructional Support, Basic
- 3b Instructional Support, Intermediate
- 3c Instructional Support, Advanced
- 4 Research Support
- 5 Comprehensive Collection

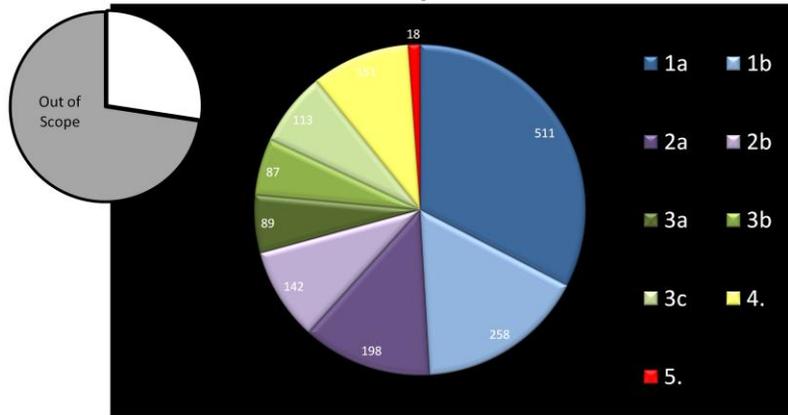
Back in the 1980s, the Research Libraries Group developed a 6-level Conspectus to help compare collection depth. Later the Western Library Network subdivided a few levels to work better for smaller collections. We assigned each book on our diversity list to a conspectus level based on the number of libraries with OCLC holdings. The minimal level includes titles held by thousands of libraries while the comprehensive level includes some titles held by just a few dozen libraries.

How many titles are in each level?



The bars on this chart represent the conspectus levels on our Overall Youth Diversity scale, while the colors represent the six aspects of diversity we’re researching. Each conspectus level includes some titles from our six diversity groups, but as Nancy mentioned, we have many more titles for some areas than others.. A library that holds at least 50% of the titles at a level is described as collecting at that level. So, if a library holds at least half of the titles at level 3a, it collects at the “Intermediate Instruction” level. It’s possible for a library to collect at level 3b on overall youth diversity without holding any titles for some aspects of diversity.

How many libraries are at each WLN Conspectus level?



1 Minimal, 2 Basic, 3 Instructional, 4 Research, 5 Comprehensive

5,716 libraries actively collect youth literature.

The small pie represents all libraries that actively collect youth literature. The gray slice is the libraries that scored “out of scope” for overall youth diversity; 73% of the libraries that actively collect youth literature are out of scope on youth diversity literature.

The larger pie shows the conspectus level for the libraries that are in scope, those that have at least a minimal youth diversity collection. Almost half are at the minimal collecting levels, represented by the blue slices, while only 18 are at the comprehensive level represented by that tiny red sliver. Remember that conspectus level describes collection depth; it’s not a judgment.

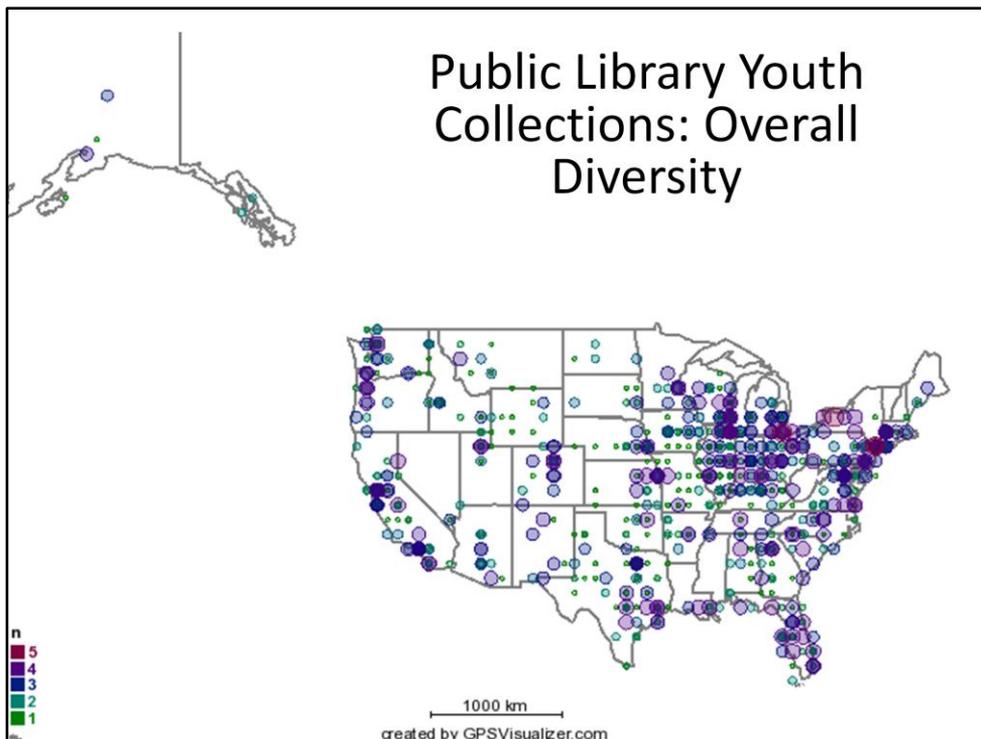
Un-Random Findings!

	1a	1b	2a	2b	3a	3b	3c	4	5
Wichita State Univ	47%	46%	39%	19%	14%	8%	5%	6%	2%
Emporia State Univ	78%	64%	50%	36%	33%	29%	20%	20%	6%
Kansas City, MO Public	98%	97%	94%	86%	84%	72%	69%	58%	25%
Kansas City, KS Public	97%	95%	97%	93%	87%	86%	75%	61%	27%
Wichita, KS Public	98%	92%	88%	84%	70%	64%	64%	49%	22%
Washington, DC Public	78%	81%	68%	66%	53%	58%	48%	32%	16%
Allen County Public, IN	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	93%

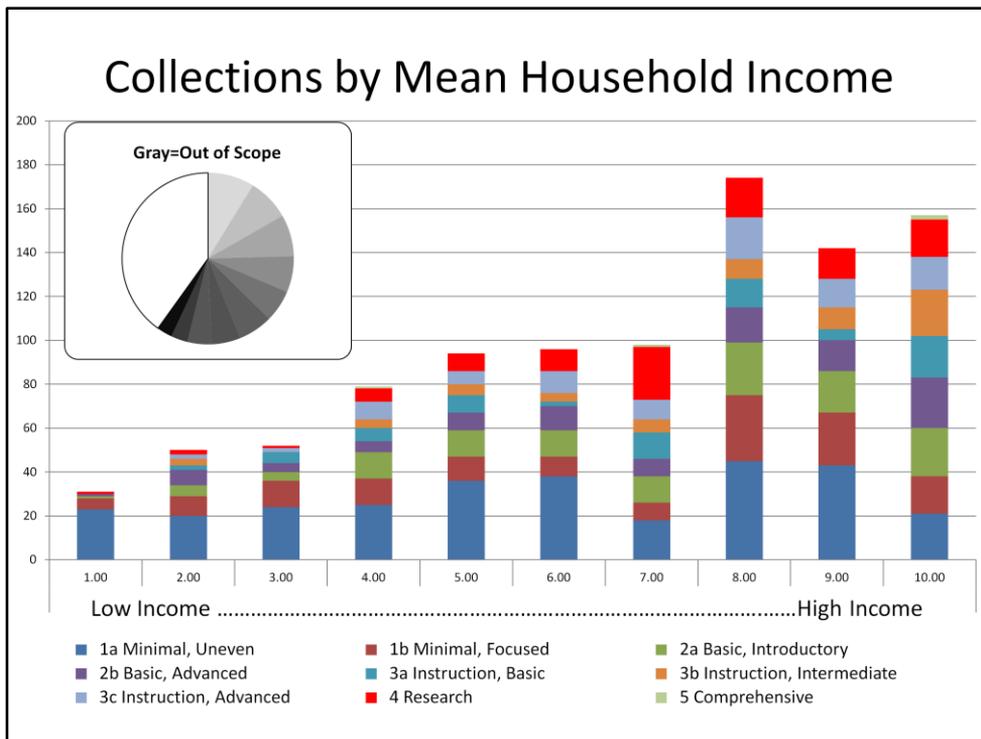
Let's look at a few examples of Overall Youth Diversity rankings. We've indicated the Conspectus level for each library in red. All of these libraries actively collect youth literature.

The first two lines are academic libraries in Kansas. Wichita State University, where Nancy and I work, is out of scope on overall youth diversity collection, while Emporia State University is at the basic level. Emporia State focuses on teacher education and has a library school, while Wichita State focuses on engineering and health professions. Given the focus of our university, Nancy and I aren't too unhappy that we're out of scope on overall youth diversity.

The five public libraries we listed all have strong youth diversity collections. They also all serve urban areas.



This map shows public libraries by their youth diversity holdings. The tiny green dots represent minimal level collections, while the larger, redder dots represent research and comprehensive level collections. Libraries serving urban areas tend to have deeper youth diversity collections, but there are some libraries in less populated areas with diverse youth collections.



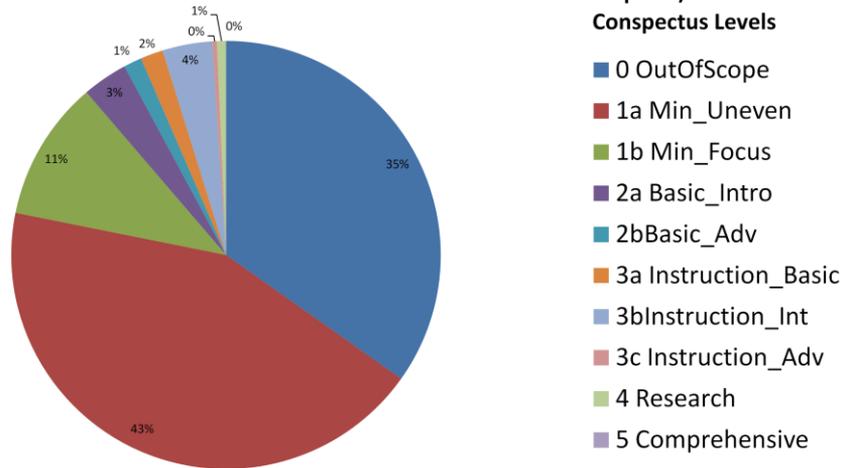
As the average household income of an area increases, the diversity of youth collections increases, too. We divided the public libraries into 10 groups by average household income and graphed Conspectus levels by income.

Youth diversity literature was “out of scope” for about 60% of public libraries. Including them on the bar chart made it impossible to see differences in collecting levels, so the pie chart shows all public libraries. The gray slices are the “out of scope” libraries, with slices getting darker as income levels increase. Libraries serving every income level, from poorest to wealthiest, scored out of scope on overall youth diversity literature.

The bar graph doesn’t include the “out of scope libraries”. Libraries serving areas with the lower household incomes are on the left; libraries in wealthier areas are on the right. The colors of each bar represent Conspectus levels. The dark blue at the bottom is for Level 1a, Minimal Uneven, while the bright red near the top represents level 4, Research. The pie shows some out of scope libraries at every income level, but every bar has at least a sliver of red, showing that some libraries serving many poorer households have very strong youth diversity collections.

Conspectus lists by category? Yes!

Overall Diversity Level of 1a Minimal, Uneven (293 Public Libraries)



So far, I've been talking about Overall Youth Collection Diversity, but Nancy and I have also developed Conspectus rankings for different diversity categories. We don't have time to talk about all of them, but this pie chart demonstrates why the separate lists are important. Every library reflected in the pie chart collects at the same overall youth diversity level, but the colored slices show conspectus levels for Hispanic/Latino youth collections. That large blue slice is libraries that are out of scope on the Hispanic/Latino conspectus, even though they're at the minimal level overall.

More Un-Random Findings Hispanic/Latino Conspectus

	1a	1b	2a	2b	3a	3b	3c	4	5
Overall Youth Diversity Conspectus									
Wichita State Univ	47%	46%	39%	19%	14%	8%	5%	6%	2%
Wichita, KS Public	98%	92%	88%	84%	70%	64%	64%	49%	22%
Washington, DC Public	78%	81%	68%	66%	53%	58%	48%	32%	16%
Hispanic/Latino Youth Conspectus									
Wichita State Univ	55%	52%	57%	19%	29%	7%	7%	7%	2%
Wichita, KS Public	95%	100%	95%	90%	86%	86%	79%	68%	43%
Washington, DC Public	85%	71%	57%	81%	50%	50%	57%	27%	21%

Let's look at some examples of how libraries can differ on conspectus rankings for different aspects of diversity. The top of this table shows how three libraries rank on the Overall Youth Diversity Conspectus. The bottom shows how they rank on the Hispanic/Latino Youth Collection Conspectus. All three libraries rank higher on the Hispanic/Latino conspectus.

We're pleased with Wichita State's ranking on Hispanic/Latino Youth Literature. Nancy has been building that collection recently because of faculty interest and changing demographics in Kansas.

We're still analyzing data, but one of the questions we're looking at is whether there's a significant correlation between Hispanic/Latino population and Hispanic/Latino youth collections. Are our libraries reflecting the diversity of the communities they serve?

Collection building resources

- Award & Honor books
- Recognition lists (ex: Rainbow)
- Bibliographies (remember Interlibrary Loan!)
- Multicultural Review (Greenwood Press, \$30 individual, \$65 institutional)
- Theme lists in journals, blogs & websites (ex. American Indians in Children's Literature)

We're running short of time, so I won't discuss these in detail. The sources we used to develop our title checklists are all useful for building diverse collections, too. At a minimum, check the award lists annually since those books are highly recommended by people who know youth literature and are familiar with the cultures represented. Consider subscribing to Multicultural Review, because its reviewers always consider cultural authenticity. Theme lists are a great source of titles, but remember to look for evidence that the authors considered cultural authenticity.

Bibliography

- Crosetto, Alice, Rajinder Garcha, Mark Horan. Disabilities and Disorders in Literature for Youth: A Selective Annotated Bibliography for K-12. Lanham, MD: Scarecrow, 2009.
- Reese, Debbie. American Indians in Children's Literature.
<http://americanindiansinchildrensliterature.blogspot.com/>

The bibliography and contact information slides will be on the conference website, so I'll click through them.

Want more info?

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Thank you!

- To you, for your attention!
- To Amigos Library Services, for funding a graduate assistant to help us collect data.
- To the JCLC Conference and our co-presenters.