

## **Library Materials Selection**

Materials for the media center should be examined to select those in which the presentation and subject matter are suitable for the grade and interest level at which they are to be used. They will be considered in relation to both the curriculum and to the personal interest of students and teachers.

The following possible topics of criticism, have been considered:

1. Religion: Factual unbiased material which represents all major religions should be included in the collection;
2. Ideologies: The media center should, without making any effort to sway judgment, make available basic factual information on the appropriate level of its users, on any ideology or philosophy which exerts a strong force, either favorable or unfavorable, in government, current events, politics, education of any phase of life;
3. Violence, Sex and Profanity: Fiction materials presenting an emphasis on sex shall be subjected to a test of literary merit and reality. While we would not in any case include the sensational or over-dramatic, the fact of sexual incidents, profanity or violence appearing should not automatically disqualify a work. Rather the decision should be made on the basis of whether the work presents life in its true proportions, whether circumstances are realistically dealt with and whether it has literary value. Factual material of an educational nature on the level of the users should be included in the collection;
4. Science: Medical and scientific knowledge should be made available without any biased selection of facts.

### **Selection Sources**

Media specialists shall make a sincere attempt to maintain a balanced collection whereby the interests and needs of the school and community will be effectively met. For these reasons, material shall be selected cooperatively. Teachers', principals', media specialists' and students' requests will be seriously considered.

Standard catalogs and nationally recognized lists will be consulted before purchase. Sources to be used include:

1. Book selection aids published by the American Library Association;

2. Recommendations of the National Education Association, its divisions and other national professional associations, such as National Council of Teachers of Social Studies, National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, National Council of Teachers of English, American Association for the Advancement of Science;
3. Reviews in current periodical of recognized merit.

Library materials which are not listed in the standard evaluation aids should be examined before being placed in the center.

### **Selection Criteria - Equipment**

Equipment purchased shall be justified in terms of educational goals and materials. Selection shall be the responsibility of the media specialist. At all points in the selection process, the media specialist shall seek the advice and cooperation of individuals directly involved in that aspect of selection, such as potential users and technicians.

Criteria for selection may include the following:

1. Personal evaluation;
2. Consultation with other media specialists and technicians;
3. Evaluative reports; and
4. Evaluation forms.