

**COLLECTION ASSESSMENT FOR SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA
SPECIALISTS; AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY [shannon]**

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As the collection emphasis of school library media centers shifts from ownership to access and toward leaner collections highly relevant to the school's curriculum, it will become increasingly important for library media specialists to employ effective collection assessment techniques. Increased decentralization of decision-making is also affecting school library media programs across the country. In many states principals and site-based decision making councils are gaining greater control over education spending. This means that school library media specialists, who may no longer be assured of mandated levels of funding, should be prepared to support budget requests with actual data. Documentation of what resources are needed to support the school's curriculum as well as calculation of the additional funding required to acquire and maintain an up-to-date collection that meets the needs of teachers and students will be necessary. The articles, monographs, and book chapters listed below provide library media specialists with methods for analyzing and evaluating their collections.

Bell, Geraldine Watts. (1992). "Systemwide Collection Assessment Survey." In School Library Media Annual, 10, 135-147.

Library media specialists in Birmingham, Alabama successfully lobbied for increased funding for school library collections based on the results of the collection analysis project described in this report. Collections were studied to determine the average age of selected sections and to determine if collections supported the curriculum.

Bertland, Linda. (1988). "Usage Patterns in a Middle School Library: A Circulation Analysis." School Library Media Quarterly, 16(3), 200-203.

A middle school librarian presents details of a study in which she used circulation statistics to analyze collection usage patterns. Suggestions for ways the data can be used to make decisions related to collection management and acquisition policies are also discussed.

Bertrand, Linda H. (1991). "Circulation Analysis as a Tool for Collection Development." School Library Media Quarterly, 19(2), 90-97.

The author describes a study in which she used a computerized circulation system to gather statistics about the composition of the collection, the age of the collection, and the use of the collection in a middle school library during one school year.

Coleman, J. Gordon Jr. & Condon, Rebecca Allen. (1990). "A Systematic Collection Development Model for School Library Media Centers." The Southeastern Librarian, 40(3), 139-141.

A "systematic, curriculum-based collection development model" is outlined in this article, which briefly explains the techniques of curriculum mapping and collection mapping. The author calls for rigorous weeding criteria and attention to textbook adoption cycles.

Doll, Carol A. & Barron, Pamela Petrick. (1991). Collection Analysis for the School Library Media Center: A Practical Approach. Chicago: American Library Association.

This relatively short monograph is a practical guide to determining the quality of a library's collection together with step-by-step directions and useful forms. Information for calculating collection update costs, guidelines for weeding, and advice on preparing for automation is also included.

Eisenberg, Michael B. & Berkowitz, Robert E. (1988). Curriculum Initiative: An Agenda and Strategy for Library Media Programs. Norwood, NJ: Ablex.

The purpose of collection assessment is to determine how well -- quantitatively and qualitatively -- the collection meets the needs of users. In Chapter 8 of their book, Eisenberg and Berkowitz provide complete information for mapping a school's curriculum. Gathering such information is necessary first step for determining the adequacy of the collection for supporting units of study which require a wide range of resources.

Garland, Kathleen. (1992). "Circulation Sampling as a Technique for Library Media Program Management." School Library Media Quarterly, 20(2), 73-78.

The author explains how library media specialists can use circulation samples to determine how well the collection meets the educational mission of the school by

documenting the use of curricular-related materials.

Guide to the Evaluation of Library Collections (1989). Chicago: American Library Association.

Both collection-centered and use-centered methods for collection evaluation are discussed. Advantages and disadvantages of various techniques are described. References to studies that employ these evaluation methods are furnished in a lengthy bibliography.

Lancaster, F. W. (1993). If you want to evaluate your library... Champaign, IL: University of Illinois Graduate School of Library and Information Science.

Although this scholarly treatment of library evaluation primarily draws on examples from public and academic libraries, Chapters 2 and 3, which are devoted to collection evaluation, will be useful to school librarians. Chapter 4 addresses the evaluation of in-house use of materials.

Loertscher, David. (1988). Taxonomies of the school library media program. Englewood, CO: Libraries Unlimited.

Pages 97-114 of Chapter 9 are devoted to "The Collection." Collection mapping, a technique designed to reveal a collection's "strengths and weaknesses, to create targets for growth, and track the impact of expenditures" is explained. Recency analysis and systematic usage evaluation, two other methods of collection analysis, are also presented.

Loertscher, David & Ho, May Lein. (1986). Computerized Collection Development for School Library Media Centers. Englewood, CO: Hi Willow Research and Publishing.

The authors explain how collection mapping and subsequent collection development can be accomplished by using the microcomputer application AppleWorks.

Mancall, Jacqueline C. (1991). "(Un)changing Factors in the Searching Environment; Collections, Collectors, and Users" School Library Media Quarterly, 19(2), 84-89.

Factors in the current information environment as they relate to changes in collection emphasis and collection evaluation practices are discussed. The author stresses the importance of systematic evaluation of collection use for developing collections in an era that will see an increasing number of information sources available electronically.

Morrison, Carol, et al. (1994). "School Library Snapshots: A Brief Survey of Illinois School Library Collections in Three Areas of Science." In School Library Media Annual, 12, 207-227.

The description of a study conducted by the Illinois School Library Media Association provides library media specialists with an example of (1) how to quantify the need for increased funding for library collection, (2) a tool that can be used to reveal the strengths and weaknesses of a collection, and (3) how to determine whether school library media centers have the resources to support curricular goals. The results of this study provided evidence that most school libraries in Illinois have inadequate print collections in three specific areas of science.

Weisburg, Hilda K. & Ruth Toor. (Eds.). (1993). "Showing It's Age." The School Librarian's Workshop, 14(2), 1-2.

This short article explains how one library media specialist gathered the necessary data to document the age of the library collection.

Van Orden, Phyllis J. (1995). The Collection Program in Schools: Concepts, Practices, & Information Sources. Englewood, CO: Libraries Unlimited.

Chapter 16 is devoted to "Evaluating the Collection." The author discusses the rationale for evaluating the collection, barriers to evaluation, and both collection-centered and client-centered techniques for collection evaluation.

The following items are publications that specifically address evaluation of public library collections and services, but have potentially useful suggestions for school library media specialists:

Van House, Nancy A., et. al. (1987). Output Measures for Public Libraries; A Manual of Standardized Procedures. Chicago: American Library Association.

Walter, Virginia A. (1992). Output Measures for Public Library Service to Children; A Manual of Standardized Procedures. Chicago: American Library Association.

Walter, Virginia A. (1995). Output Measures and More: Planning and Evaluating Public Library Services for Young Adults. Chicago: American Library Association.