

Mantor Library Children's Literature Collection Policy

Introduction and Description of Collection

The Children's Literature Collection at the University of Maine at Farmington is housed in the Mantor Library. All Mantor Library collections support the academic programs of the University, a public university offering baccalaureate and graduate degree programs. The focus of the Children's Literature Collection is juvenile and young adult literature. The collection's primary objective is to support the undergraduate and graduate Education programs by serving as a resource for students and faculty and for area educators. The collection includes fiction and nonfiction juvenile and young adult books in print format.

The Policy

The Children's Literature Collection Policy is a written guide that expands upon the Mantor Library Collection Development Policy and details the specific practices and policies that support the collection. It addresses the University's teaching and research needs as revealed in the curricula and in faculty and student interests.

This policy is intended to:

- provide guidelines for the selection of material for purchase,
- provide a plan for the growth and development of the collection,
- provide guidelines for weeding, and
- assist in the selection and retention of gifts or other free or inexpensive sources.

As a teaching and research collection, the Children's Literature Collection houses many award-winning books such as those that have earned the Caldecott Medal, Newbery Medal, Coretta Scott King Award, Charlotte Huck Award, ORBIS Pictus Award, Stonewall Book Award, Michael L. Printz Book Award, Schneider Family Book Award, Mildred L. Batchelder Award, and American Indian Youth Literature Book Award. The collection also includes winners of the Maine Chickadee Award and Maine Student Book Award. Notable and outstanding fiction and nonfiction children's books are found throughout the collection. A limited number of bilingual books are also purchased for the collection.

Selection Criteria

A concerted effort is made to collect award winning books, honor books, highly recommended books and books by Maine authors. Every effort is made to have the collection reflect cultural and social diversity (including books representing the social and cultural diversity of the people of Maine) and promote global awareness and respect. Other areas of focus are STEAM/STEM and nature based learning. Materials are selected based on:

- favorable reviews in library and discipline specific journals,

- notable and best book lists from the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA), National Science Teachers Association(NSTA), National Council for the Social Studies(NCSS), Notable Children’s Books in the Language Arts (NCBLA), and other educational and children’s literature related organizations,
- cost,
- curriculum correlation,
- currency,
- support of a variety of teaching and learning styles,
- accuracy of information,
- diversity of perspectives or experiences (people of color, gender diversity, people with disabilities, and ethnic, cultural, and religious minorities), and
- absence of bias.

A limited selection of reference books may also be collected, such as dictionaries, encyclopedias, and atlases. Emphasis is placed on current materials, although select materials may be retained for historical and comparative purposes.

The collection does not include board books; toy and movable books; early, easy, and leveled readers; media tie-ins or mass media/novelty books; or digital books (audiobooks, ebooks, etc.).

Young Adult Collection Guidelines

The Young Adult collection mainly serves as a resource to support the Education programs, although efforts are made to purchase books that appeal to the reading interests of the University’s students. The collection includes a wide range of materials at various genres and interest. Romance, horror, mystery, science fiction, fantasy, and adventure are included in the collection, as well as graphic novels, poetry, non-fiction, and books about health and wellness, personal hygiene, and interpersonal relationships. Some fiction series may be purchased for the collection, depending on curricular needs and level of use.

The library strives for a balance of titles based on favorable professional reviews, literary merit, cultural and social diversity, and popular demand.

Weeding

Items that are damaged, worn, superseded or obsolete, not in demand, or that fail to meet current educational standards and curricular needs will be considered for withdrawal from the collection.

When warranted by high use and curricular support, new editions may be purchased to replace older titles. If appropriate, some materials may be retained for historical content or comparison purposes.