

Intermediate Nonfiction Collection Plan (Aug. 2006)

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION:

The books in the Intermediate Nonfiction collection are intended to bridge the gap in reading levels, presentation, and depth of information between juvenile nonfiction in the Children's Room and adult nonfiction. In bridging this gap, the collection seeks to meet the interests and skill levels of older children and young adults, specifically those in fifth through eighth grades. Like other nonfiction collections in the library, the titles in the this collection are classified using the Dewey Decimal Classification System, with biographies shelved separately. Books in the Intermediate Nonfiction collection are intershelved with the adult nonfiction titles on the second floor and are designated by an iconographic sticker of a student sitting at a desk which is located just beneath the call-number label on the spine. The records of these titles in the library's catalog contain both adult and juvenile subject headings as well as an audience note of "Grades 5-8." Searches in the catalog may be limited to "Intermediate nonfiction."

SCOPE OF THE COLLECTION AND EXCEPTIONS:

Having the potential for titles from the full range of the Dewey classification system allows for a very broad range of subjects, even when limited by those that would be of interest to older children and young adults. The collection is not comprehensive – rather its goal is to provide broad coverage on topics of most need and interest to its intended audience. Some areas, because of their appeal to this collection's readership, are selected in more breadth and depth than others including parapsychology, social problems, science and technology, graphic novels, sports, geography, and history. Subjects deserving some coverage based on use by this audience yet not represented to the same extent as in the adult collection include government, languages, gardening, cooking, business, construction, and travel. Older children and young adults may have interests and needs beyond what is published and selected specifically for them. In these cases, because of the library's intershelving policy, this audience may easily access and use titles in the adult collection.

AUDIENCE:

This collection of nonfiction books is selected primarily to fulfill the needs and interests of older children and young adults from approximately fifth through eighth grades. Books in this collection may occasionally be used by children below fifth grade who need more information on a topic than can be found in the juvenile nonfiction collection in the Children's Room. Because the collection's titles are intershelved with the adult nonfiction, they may also be of interest to, and used by, high school students and adults looking for treatments that are shorter and less technical than books written for a general adult audience.

SIZE AND DUPLICATION:

The collection size as a whole is now approximately 4600 items linked to about 3900 titles. Most of the duplication is for multiple copies of the best titles on the most popular subjects. There are only a few titles in this collection that are widely known and in demand enough to warrant more than one copy. Additional copies may be purchased of the best titles available in subjects that are known or expected to be very popular. The number of items in each "100" area varies widely. By far the highest

number are in the 900's with over 1200 items, while the 700's, 600's, 500's, and 300's each have between 450 & 750 items. As might be expected, the average circulation per year for each item in this collection is usually quite similar to that of the adult collection, but less than that of the juvenile nonfiction collection in the Children's Room.

SELECTION:

Titles are selected using a mix of criteria from quality to popularity and based heavily on both need for subject coverage and availability of other titles. Standard library review journals are used for primary purchasing, especially **Booklist**, **Kirkus**, **VOYA**, and **SLJ**, with publishers catalogs, magazines, and bookstore browsing used to fill holes in subject areas and alert the selector to currently popular titles and topics. Because the age/grade guidelines in review journals are imprecise and cover varied ranges, developing the collection to fit exactly into the 5th-8th grade category is virtually impossible. Therefore, this collection may contain books reviewed as being appropriate for grades 4-7, as well as titles aimed at young adults from grades 8-10. Collection development is largely based on demand, either known or expected, which may reflect anything from a young adult's personal interests to needs arising from their school or homeschool curricula. A variety of treatments is selected to meet the wide range of children's and young adults' preferences -- series and individual titles, highly illustrated titles and those with mostly text, general coverage of broad subjects and focused coverage of narrow ones. Added copies are initially purchased only for clearly outstanding titles in subjects that are known or expected to be very popular. Few gifts and patron suggestions are received, however most requests indicate an unmet need and will therefore be purchased.

The selector of this collection is also allocated a small budget to purchase titles targeted at older teens which may not be reviewed in journals regularly read by the selectors of adult nonfiction or for adult books the selector knows might be of interest to teens but might not be purchased for our adult collection. These titles are cataloged and added as regular adult nonfiction items.

MAINTENANCE:

A list of titles that have not checked out during the previous year is run annually. Depending on coverage within a subject, books on this list or others with consistently low circulation may be candidates for withdrawal. Areas in need of retrospective collection development – more titles on a subject or more copies of a title – may also be identified at this time. The physical condition of items is also examined to check for broken bindings, spines, etc. that may not have been noticed by library staff during the year. Books in poor condition may be bound, replaced, and/or withdrawn depending on currency, availability, and other subject coverage. Although there are some areas in this collection where a “classic” book would be appropriate, currency is generally important and outdated books will be withdrawn. A list of items that have circulated more than six times in the previous year is run annually as well. Items that consistently circulate more than those six times per year merit the consideration of either the purchase of a duplicate copy or the pursuit of deeper subject coverage with additional titles. Added or replacement copies of titles with poor commercial bindings may sometimes be purchased through guaranteed prebinders such as Perma-Bound.