

## **Children's Magazine Collection Plan January, 2006**

### **1. Description**

The juvenile magazine collection at ICPL is a small browsing collection aimed at the interests of patrons of the Children's Room – i.e., preschoolers and elementary school age youth and the adults who care with them. It includes nonfiction and fiction titles that appeal to the general interests of kids as well as parenting, education, and review journals that help adults use library materials for children.

### **2. Exception and Scope**

The children's magazine collection is narrower in scope than the adult magazine collection. Titles are limited to those that meet the personal and recreational needs of children or that help parents, childcare providers, and teachers understand children's needs, literature, and media. They are offered in paper format only - none are kept on microfiche. Access to certain titles may be available through the Library's online periodical databases. Students do not use children's magazines much for school assignments. Reference or purely academic journals are not included and, except for current issues, all materials circulate for seven days. One exception is a bound Iowa history journal kept with Homework Center reference materials. Children's and parent/teacher magazines are shelved together near the reference section and study tables.

Children's magazines cover topics such as animals, creative writing, crafts, sports, specific interests of boys and girls, history, geography, science, and multiculturalism. Parent/teacher magazines include children's literature and media reviews, parenting, child development, home schooling, early childhood education, and creative program or lesson planning.

### **3. Audience**

This collection is used by kids (preschool to sixth grade), and by adults interested in their needs for learning, literacy, and recreation. Library staff also use it for library materials selection.

### **4. Size and Duplication**

ICPL subscribes to twenty seven children's and thirteen Parent/Teacher magazines. No titles are duplicated. They are often read in-house, based on frequency of re-shelving. They circulate less than other children's materials (i.e., less than 2,000 checkouts per year). Lower circulation, limited shelving, and need for currency make this a no-growth collection. Typically, one or two journals may cease in a year, and are replaced. Occasionally patrons and staff suggest new titles, which are considered when ICPL renews its periodical plan for the coming year.

## **5. Maintenance**

Certain children's magazines are well used and wear quickly (for example, Sports Illustrated For Kids and American Girl). As they are not used for research or homework purposes, issues are not replaced if they deteriorate or disappear. Those for children are kept for three years and then withdrawn. Parent/Teacher titles are kept between one and three years. To keep shelving manageable, these are weeded several times per year. The same holds true for Parent/Teacher magazines, depending on their retention schedule.

## **6. Selection**

As mentioned, new titles are occasionally suggested by both the public and staff. Suggestions come from a variety of sources, including titles seen at local bookstores or schools, those mentioned in popular media, and by word of mouth among parents and educators. Not all suggestions are appropriate for ICPL's collection, especially if highly specialized or intended for academic or scholarly purposes. The Library will attempt to get sample copies of suggestions to review and evaluate. Parent/Teacher magazines may be added due to library professional use and/or membership in sponsoring associations (such as the National Association for the Education of Young Children.)

Most magazine titles held are long standing publications listed in Magazines for Libraries and Magazines for Young People. Newer titles typically receive excellent reviews in library professional tools. Effort is made to ensure that those offered are secular in nature and do not reflect a specific religious orientation.

There are no gift subscriptions in the children's magazine collection at this time, and none are sought, due to need for consistent delivery and catalog maintenance.