

## JUVENILE PAPERBACK COLLECTION PLAN

### DESCRIPTION

The children's uncatalogued paperback collection at the Iowa City Public Library consists of a free-standing spinner of juvenile fiction paperbacks and a two-bin shelving unit for juvenile reader and picture book paperbacks. Most paperback collection items are duplicate titles of books found in the catalogued collection of the Children's Room. The paperbacks are strictly for browsing and kept in no particular order. Spine labels indicate Children's Paperback or JE Paperback to distinguish them from other paperbacks in the library. Generally, books in popular children's series are not added to the paperback racks but are catalogued and on the regular J Fiction shelves.

### AUDIENCE

The audience for paperbacks is children in grades 3-6 for the free-standing spinner and pre-school--grade 2 for the JE bins. The paperback format offers an easy to use browsing collection of well-chosen titles to interest a wide range of users. Paperbacks are particularly popular in the summer for travel since they are light and easy to pack or tote along on a trip. Often the paperback cover art is more appealing to kids than the original hardback book jacket art.

### SIZE AND DUPLICATION

The size of the paperback collection for kids is 725 J paperbacks and 550 JE paperbacks or a total of 1275 items. Usually two copies of any given title are purchased. The J Paperback spinner comfortably holds up to 1000 children's paperbacks. The JE paperback bins can accommodate 500 paperback copies of picture books or readers. As such, the paperback collection for children will not grow beyond the shelving spaces allocated.

### MAINTENANCE

Weeding is based on physical condition and declining popularity of titles. The collection is in excellent condition since all new paperbacks were purchased for the library grand opening in June, 2004. Weeding is done book by book in August and again in December when demand is the lowest. Routine maintenance is also done as worn copies are discovered and withdrawn.

### SELECTION

Selection was done through I-Page for the opening day collection and based on titles that were previously in the uncatalogued paperback collection. Purchasing paperbacks twice a year in September and January at a local bookstore is a preferred method of selecting in the future. Gift paperbacks are added only when they are in excellent condition and might add some breadth to the selection of titles available.

### GOALS/SUGGESTIONS

With the purchase of a larger new metal spinner in May, 2005, the problems encountered with the old unit are gone. A recommendation might be made to add some kind of rubber pad on the bottom of the JE paperback bins so the books wouldn't slide around and get bent as much. Also, some signage for both collections would be helpful. Finally, having paperback items catalogued and searchable in the library catalog would be something we should consider library-wide to serve patrons better.

(May, 2005)

