



Massachusetts School Library Association

Massachusetts Library Association Youth Services Section

Joint Statement

Collection Development in School and Public Libraries

Public Library and School Library Media Center collections MUST:

- ❖ Honor the rights of children and young adults to free access to materials
- ❖ Be based on written selection, weeding, and reconsideration policies
- ❖ Be responsive to overall community needs
- ❖ Serve a wide range of recreational and informational reading interests
- ❖ Reflect differing points of view
- ❖ Contain up-to-date and accurate materials
- ❖ Include attractive and appealing resources
- ❖ Provide a variety of formats
- ❖ Incorporate new information technologies
- ❖ Offer duplicate copies of high-demand materials
- ❖ Overlap and complement one another
- ❖ Be supported by sufficient funds for new and replacement materials



Public libraries and school library media centers have individual collection responsibilities as well:

Public Library Collection Responsibilities

- ❖ Serves homework needs
- ❖ Serves infants through young adults
- ❖ Serves parents, teachers, and adults working with children
- ❖ Supports personal reading interests
- ❖ Reinforces reading and information skills

School Library Media Center Collection Responsibilities

- ❖ Supports curriculum and homework
- ❖ Serves students kindergarten through 12th grade
- ❖ Serves teachers, school support staff, and parents
- ❖ Supports the learning of information skills
- ❖ Supports reading skills and interests

Both libraries need to work together to support each other through a variety of resource-sharing methods and means. This resource-sharing may include shared catalog information, inter-library loan, and deposit collections. Librarians in the two settings should communicate and work together on planning acquisitions and collection development, bibliographic instruction, and teacher support.

The principles of collection development in public libraries and school library media centers rest on the American Library Association *Library Bill of Rights*, the *Massachusetts Library Association Standards for Public Library Service to Children in Massachusetts*, and the *Massachusetts School Library Association School Library Media Program Standards for 21st Century Learning*.