

Instruction

Media Center (Library)

Objectives of Media Selection

The school library media center program is one of services built around an organized collection of learning resources appropriate to students who have a wide range of abilities and interests. The library media center exists to implement, enrich, and support the philosophy and the educational program of the school. It is the objective of the center to provide a wide range of materials on all levels of difficulty, with diversity of appeal, and the presentation of different points of view.

The responsibility of the school library media center is:

1. To provide materials that will enrich and support the curriculum, taking into consideration the varied interests, abilities, and maturity levels of the students served.
2. To provide materials that will stimulate growth in factual knowledge, literary appreciation, aesthetic values, and ethical standards.
3. To provide a background of information which will enable students to make intelligent judgments in their daily lives.
4. To provide materials representative of the many religious, ethnic, and cultural groups and their contribution to our American heritage.
5. To place principle above personal opinion and reason above prejudice in selection of materials of the highest quality in order to assure a comprehensive collection appropriate for the users of the library media center.

Media Selection Responsibility

The Orange Board of Education is legally responsible for all matters relating to the operation of the Orange Elementary Schools.

Materials will be selected by the librarian. Consultation with the principal and teacher is an important part of the selection process. Student recommendations are encouraged.

In selecting materials for purchase the media specialist evaluates the existing collection and consults standard bibliographic tools and reputable, unbiased selection aids.

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Media Selection Responsibility (continued)

The collection will be evaluated periodically by the library media specialist to eliminate obsolete or no longer useful materials.

Selection policies and procedures should be reviewed periodically and revised as necessary.

Gifts

The library welcomes gifts from individuals and organizations but reserves the right to refuse unsuitable materials. The materials, to be acceptable, should meet the same criteria established for the selection of all library materials. Gifts to be housed in the library media center will remain under the control of the library.

Criteria for Selection

Materials should be of permanent and/or timely value. They should have literary and artistic worth. The format should be appropriate to the user, the topic and the medium.

The materials must be factually correct and up to date. The author should be a qualified expert. The reputation of the publisher/producer should be considered. The vocabulary and concepts should be appropriate to the level of the users. The materials should have an impartial presentation. It should stimulate curiosity and have broad appeal. A logical clear presentation appropriate to the medium is needed. The material must be durable quality. The visuals and auditory/print must be clear and synchronized.

Material is chosen for its contribution to the total balance of the collection. A balanced viewpoint will be maintained.

Special group interests will be considered in the light of general demand. Opposing sides of controversial issues will be presented. Inclusion does not mean endorsement.

Materials of doubtful value are occasionally included for their timeliness (e.g., flying saucers, current sports figures, etc.). The scarcity of material on a subject may be taken into account. The unimportant, cheap, trivial, distorted, sensational, or offensive will be eliminated.

Media in a series are evaluated as individual titles.

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Criteria for Selection (continued)

Media on human physical development will be selected as to scientific accuracy, simplicity, and dignity.

Fiction and non-fiction print and non-print materials are purchased to support the curriculum and provide the student with creative use of his/her leisure time.

Materials on Orange will be bought.

Multiple copies of high demand materials may be purchased.

Inter-library cooperation will be used in the purchase of expensive or seldom used materials.

Periodicals will be purchased to keep the library material up to date and to provide recreational reading.

Paperbacks are brought if a title is out of print in other format; if a title is in heavy demand; or if a title is used occasionally.

“How-to” media on jujitsu and karate are not purchased, as a certain amount of maturity and adult supervision are necessary for wise use. This is also true of media on guns except for historical perspective (e.g., guns of the Civil War).

Motion picture films will not be purchased due to membership in the area film cooperative.

Procedure for Challenge of Materials

Criticisms about library materials may be registered on a special form, which should be submitted to the librarian, the principal, and the superintendent. Information as to the material in question must be specific as to author, title, publisher, and page number. The statement must be signed and identification given to that a proper reply can be made.

ORANGE SCHOOL SYSTEM
Orange, Connecticut