



# DEIA Webinar Bundle: Collections

## Conducting a Diversity Audit of Your Collections and Ordering: Where to Start

[Recorded on 6/12/24]

For libraries to effectively meet their mission of serving the educational, informational, and entertainment needs of their communities, their collections must be diverse and inclusive, offering windows into and mirrors of the vast array of perspectives and stories that make up our world. Library selectors and readers' advisors must have a keen understanding of the basic frameworks for building and maintaining collections through an equitable lens, including the ability to apply that knowledge to a collection audit.

In this course, learn from Collection Managers Dontaná McPherson-Joseph and Betsy Bird as they explore key concepts essential to cultivating and promoting inclusive and equitable collections. You'll find out more about conducting a diversity audit of your collections, and learn how to include diverse books with wider perspectives that allow you to be more responsive to the community you serve and more reflective of the diversity of our world.

### Learning Objectives:

- To have a thorough understanding of the different types of equity audits and which methods suit your collection best.
- To understand how equity begins with purchasing and does not stop after the audit stops.
- To consider weeding, displays, and community outreach and how each one of those factors affects the representation found in your collection.

Presenters: Betsy Bird, Collection Development Manager of Evanston Public Library & Dontaná McPherson-Joseph (she/her), collection management librarian at Oak Park (IL) Public Library.

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## Challenged, banned but in high demand: Why all children need LGBTQIA+ books more than ever

*[Recorded on 5/24/22]*

Making certain LGBTQIA+ books accessible for all children is more important than ever, but would-be censors are making it much more difficult. We will talk about why these books are a critical part of your collection and how to deal with would-be censors and other stakeholders. We will suggest ways to make sure your teens continue to view your library as a safe space with the books they need. And finally, we will share some of the newest books published in the past year.

Presenters: Dr. Christina Door & Liz Deskins

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## Putting It Out There: Diversity and Dewey in Adult Nonfiction

*[Recorded on 3/23/22]*

This is for new adult paraprofessionals/librarians or staff who may be new to collecting, providing reader's advisory or creating displays for the diverse non-fiction found throughout library collections.

Learning objectives:

- Define and explore the various types of diversity
- Find diversity throughout the Dewey centuries of adult nonfiction collections
- Incorporate diversity into displays, discussions, and programming to promote empathy, equity, and inclusion

Presenter: Ericableu Bartik, Cuyahoga County Public Library

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## Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Youth Literature

[Recorded on 11/9/21]

All children need to see themselves and people in our world in books. Building an inclusive collection is challenging. It's more than a diversity list. It requires reflection, investigation, exploration, and analysis. Tiffeni Fontno, Head Librarian, Educational Resource Center, Boston College, will talk about diverse collection building, evaluating, and resources to acquire diverse children's literature.

### Learning Objectives:

- Evaluating how cultural competency influences book selection and services
- Defining criteria to evaluate diverse children's literature
- Assemble resources to develop a profile for selecting diverse materials

Presenter: Tiffeni Fontno, Head Librarian of the Educational Resource Center at Boston College

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## Diversity and Inclusion as an Essential Ingredient of Collection Building

[Recorded on 11/4/21]

Many colleges and universities are (re)affirming their commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion. To highlight and demonstrate that commitment, all units from across the institution are being asked how they are advancing this work. The development of collections, both print and electronic, is essential in academic libraries. They are also an obvious way for libraries to support these initiatives. Courtney L. Young, University Librarian at Colgate University and a Past President of the American Library Association, will discuss the importance of developing a diverse academic library collection.

- Learning Objectives:
- The role of an intentionally diverse collection on a college/university campus
- The importance of diversity collection development statements
- Strategies for building a diverse collection
- The importance of assessing collections for diversity and inclusion

Presenter: Courtney L. Young, University Librarian at Colgate University

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## Building Empathetic Collections: Fostering Empathy and Kindness in your Community

[Recorded on 4/28/21]

Literature creates a gateway to help library patrons understand concepts of empathy, compassion and kindness. Creating a curated collection of library resources inspires and fosters understanding of others and different perspectives and is the foundation of building a climate of empathy in the library. Empathy is transformative and can bring about positive change in the community.

Presenter: Meghan Harper, Ph.D, Professor, Kent State University in Kent, Ohio.

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## LGBTQ+ Readers' Advisory

[Recorded on 4/1/21]

Join us for a series of book talks on LGBTQ+ fiction and non-fiction for young adult and middle grade readers. We'll talk about some classic LGBTQ+ titles as well as the newest offerings and examine resources available to provide your own recommendations. We will also talk about the importance of "own voices" books to teens and tweens, allowing libraries to better relate to their LGBTQ+ population and to provide better resources to their communities as a whole.

Learning Objectives:

- Make recommendations to students asking for LGBTQ+ books and feel empowered to booktalk these resources for students who may not feel comfortable asking individually
- Gain familiarity with blogs, message boards, and review sites that focus on LGBTQ+ books and their place in the community
- Understand why it is important to provide "own voices" books to teens and tweens and understand the varying degrees of the LGBTQ+ spectrum

Presenters: Christopher Brackett, librarian at the James Weldon Johnson Community Library in St. Petersburg, FL & Tricia Smith, librarian in the St. Petersburg Library System

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## Cataloging is not neutral: improving equity and inclusion in resource description

*[Recorded on 3/26/19]*

Working toward equity and inclusion in library services is not just the responsibility of public-facing staff. As catalogers and other metadata professionals, viewing our controlled vocabularies and classification systems with a critical perspective can make us more aware of the inherent biases and oppressive language present in those systems. This presentation will discuss the political and social aspects of systems including Dewey Decimal Classification, Library of Congress Classification, and Library of Congress Subject Headings. It will give examples of problematic structures and language, and offer some practical steps libraries have undertaken to improve inclusion and social consciousness in the ways we describe our resources.

### Learning Objectives:

- Participants will engage critically with the structural and cultural biases in controlled vocabularies and classification systems.
- Participants will examine specific examples of exclusionary language and problematic arrangement of resources used in libraries today.
- Participants will learn about measures libraries have taken to put critical cataloging into practice.

Presenter: Andrew Clark, Discovery and Metadata Librarian for Simmons University Library

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