

FOCUS AREA: LIBRARY COLLECTIONS

Objectives :

Effective library collections should nurture the resolve of BIYOC, help them reconcile their different identities, and imagine their place in the world.

Characteristics :

Effective library collections are:

- *Meaningful:* They help BIYOC understand themselves and their world.
- *Reflective:* They positively and accurately represent BIYOC; all youth can see themselves in the collection.
- *Validating:* They affirm the value of diversity.
- *Relevant:* They relate to the lived experiences of BIYOC.
- *Enabling:* They empower youth to make positive change in their own lives and communities.
- *Inclusive:* They reflect the broadest possible spectrum of diversity in terms of content and authorship.

Examples	Observations/Wonderings	Action Steps
<p>Meaningful:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ BIYOC have input into collection development decisions ➤ Culturally sustaining, award-winning multicultural literature is purchased <p>Reflective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Members of the community and BIYOC are asked to help check resources for authenticity ➤ Books, videos, library newsletters, program flyers, etc. are available in BIYOC’s home languages ➤ Resources offer multiple cultural perspectives and viewpoints ➤ Resources represent the diversity within racial and cultural groups 		

Examples	Observations/Wonderings	Action Steps
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Resources include both “mirror” and “window” texts <p>Validating:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Newspapers and magazines in the youth’s home languages are available ➤ Culturally relevant materials are included in book displays, on recommended reading lists, and in booktalks ➤ The website contains links to culturally relevant resources and information in the home languages of BIYOC ➤ Resources have been evaluated based on language, pictures and stereotypes <p>Relevant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Culturally diverse community resources are utilized (e.g. civic leaders, business leaders, artists, writers, members of police/fire department, etc.) ➤ Technologies such as laptops, iPads, eReaders, and wi-fi hotspots are available for checkout <p>Enabling:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Resources are provided that allow youth to express themselves— e.g. blogging platforms, video and audio recording tools / software, word processing tools ➤ Librarians mediate texts with youth, helping them relate texts to their lives and interests ➤ Collection includes resources that support youth activism and civic engagement 		

Examples	Observations/Wonderings	Action Steps
<p>Inclusive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Collection development policy includes criteria for evaluating and selecting culturally relevant and enabling texts ➤ Collection includes resources that are written by members of marginalized communities (#OwnVoices) 		