Fort Worth Public Library, Central: Gap Assignment

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**Gap Details**

1. **Gap Identification**
   1. As indicated in the Texas Public Libraries Annual Report 2021 report, attendance for programs aimed at young adults is significantly lower than any other group (Texas Public Libraries Annual Report, 2021). It is possible that by building the young adult materials in the collection, it could encourage more young adults to utilize library resources as a whole. Therefore, this collection plan focuses on young adult materials. Due to the sometimes more general, vague, or unclear labelling of some materials, there are materials included in this compilation that could be considered teen or adult, in addition to young adult. Additionally, an often-underserved area in libraries is the LGBTQIA+ community. This gap assessment focuses on materials related to this topic, most of which are fiction, which are also aimed at the young adult age group.
2. **Formats Included**
   1. Per the Fort Worth Public Library’s Collection Development Policy, “[m]aterials are acquired in multiple formats when appropriate including print, audiovisual and digital resources” (Fort Worth Public Library, 2020). In consideration of this, materials that are available in multiple formats are considered for purchase in several formats. Three major formats are collected; these include physical books, e-Books and audio. Some of these audio formats include physical audio CDs, as well as downloadable formats. For the majority of the materials compiled, two copies are made available—one physical, and one digital or auditory. This allows for engagement from users who do not physically visit the library, however, with many physical copies of new items available, it may encourage more users to visit or stay in person. Electronically available materials including e-Books and audiobooks are taken into special consideration—as of the 2021 Texas Public Libraries Annual Report, books in print outnumber e-Books at 729,447 compared to a total 86,181 of e-Books (Texas Public Libraries Annual Report, 2021). Downloadable audio was totaled at 105,250 (Texas Public Libraries Annual Report, 2021). A small portion of other formats including large print and pre-downloaded audio devices are also included in this list for purchase.
3. **Gap Limits**
   1. There are two major constraints in purchasing items for the library: No single item may cost over $300, and no more than two copies of any item may be purchased. It is also preferable to choose materials that have reviews available from credible sources. Summarizing from the Materials Collection Policy, broadly, materials should be in a common format, have positive professional reviews, provide “a viewpoint not represented adequately in the collection”, and are current (Fort Worth Public Library, 2005). Additionally, the policy states that “there is no established ‘cap’ on the price of materials that are placed in the various units”, however no item in this compilation exceeds $109 (Fort Worth Public Library, 2005).

**Resources Used**

1. **Selection Sources**Information for books primarily came from Bowker’s Books in Print in order to locate relevant publication information and pricing, however retail sources such as Barnes & Noble were also utilized. Bowker’s Books in Print provides information, as well as reviews with a high level of detail. In the case that information for an eBook was not available, ebooks.com was referenced. Additionally, WorldCat and Scholastic were consulted, however certain information was not available on WorldCat and Scholastic did not include many items that fit the criteria for this gap fulfillment as it is focused primarily in the context of education institutions. WorldCat was able to provide more thorough subject descriptions, some vendor information and other formats that are available—such as large print—that were not always apparent from other selection sources, however.
2. **Review Sources**The majority of the books selected had associated reviews from major sources such as *Kirkus*, *Publisher’s Weekly*, *Booklist* and *Library Journal* accessible from the selection source; in many cases, this was Bowker’s Books in Print. These, as well as other professional review sources were referenced, including *Book Review Digest*. Material that may be considered LGBT+ is not always labelled as such, or it may be labelled as any variation of LGBT, lesbian, gay, LGBTQIA+, etc. Therefore, several outside sources were consulted, including a list compiled by the Over the Rainbow Committee of the American Library Association’s Rainbow Roundtable, which also aided in the selection process. Their mission is to improve accessibility and quality of LGBT+ literature through an annual booklist (American Library Association, 2022). This past year, 2022, the committee reviewed the content of a total of 332 books of varying genres and produced a list of ten books they assert as being representative of a variety of different queer narratives (American Library Association, 2022). Additionally, lists provided by Kirkus Reviews and the New York Public Library were also used in order to select materials. Some of these materials were used in both the selection process as well as for review sources. The resource from the New York Public Library is a list compiled by Emily Pullen, manager of reader services (Pullen, 2022). The list provides a range of new fiction for Pride 2022, with short overview statements on each title (Pullen, 2022). Other resources used include Comics Worth Reading, Diverse Books and YA Pride, which provided lists of books either written by or including characters who are LGBT+. For this gap fulfillment, books including LGBT+ characters were the focus. YA Pride included reading lists for several branches of the LGBT+ community, however, the majority of the titles had publication dates exceeding five years and were therefore not included.

Many resources focus on LGBT+ literature for children, however, as this collecting project focused on young adults, these resources were not utilized. These include resources such as Scholastic Books and many lists provided by the ALA and independent groups.

**Works Cited/Consulted**

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**Table of Selections**

Please see separate Excel attachment.