INFO 5405 Mentor Interview December 11, 2022

1. How do you decide which titles you want to purchase as ebooks? Do you use professional reviews, and if so, which ones/what kind? Are they promoted in a "package" by Overdrive? How do you decide on what kind of license to order---for example, pay for only one copy of an eBook vs. multiple copies of a title? What makes you choose one over the other? Do you use different sources for making your decision in ordering Fiction vs. Non-Fiction books?

When we were first building our eBook collection we essentially just ran a report on Destiny with our most circulated titles and that is what became our core eBook collection. After that we rounded it out with additional books in popular series and a couple of manga titles that we have had a hard time sourcing in paper. We then went on to add books that are used in classrooms and books that are frequently lost, stolen, or have long hold lists. We also use eBooks as a way to provide students with books almost instantaneously. This is especially useful for DP students who are doing research on a very specific topic and need resources that would not be widely circulated in our collection during the rest of the year. I use professional reviews and bestseller lists for all of our collection development.

For licensing, I usually try to purchase books that we can own and circulate forever (called "OC/OU" or "one circulation/one user") as we don't have to worry about renewing the license every year. The next option I choose is the shortest term option as our budgeting works on an annual basis. If necessary, I will purchase a title that has a limited number of circulations but that makes it difficult to gauge when we will no longer have access to the title. For many titles, there aren't options for circulation type given. The publisher sets one type of lease and you can take it or leave it.

2. How do you decide which periodicals to use for the library?

We just shifted to Sora's periodical system so we no longer have to make decisions about individual titles. Before we started using Sora, we chose periodicals that had either been requested by teachers and departments or magazines that we thought would be popular with students. Unfortunately we found that even titles like Thrasher Magazine didn't get much attention from students. The only magazines that we still get in print are either for the Japanese department or for the elementary students.

3. Can you talk a little bit about the decision to weed DVD's in the library? How are video recordings supported?

The DVD collection was deleted because our devices no longer supported the format and they weren't circulating very well anyway. If a teacher really wants to show a DVD, we have external DVD drives that they can borrow but they don't always work with the USB-C drives on our school laptops. Most video content is available online for streaming and that is what most teachers use.

4. What are your "go-to" sources for book reviews when ordering for the library? Which sources do you rely on the most and why?

My most reliable sources are Horn Book, Kirkus Reviews, and School Library Journal. I like that the titles are thoughtfully reviewed and vetted by teachers and librarians. I also use bestseller lists and websites like BookRiot to find books that might be really popular but lacking attention from professional sources. Just because a book isn't overflowing with academic merit or considered "high quality" doesn't mean that it wouldn't be popular or interesting for our students! I also put a lot of trust in the Book Depository recommendations algorithm. Often I will go to BD to look for a certain book and see a bunch of related recommendations that I hadn't heard about anywhere else. This is how I have been able to add materials outside of the US purview of some reviewers.

5. Do we support audiobooks through SORA? How are these promoted?

Yes! We have a small but mighty collection of audiobooks in Sora and they are primarily promoted via classroom teachers and the learning support and EAL teams as the main purpose of the audiobook collection (at this point) is to support multiple means of perception. I would like to grow our audiobook collection a bit in the coming years but the price tags can be a bit steep (~\$80/copy) especially for popular titles.