## Tackling Your Children's Collection Diversity Audit

Texas Library Association Annual Conference 2022 Fort Worth, Texas









#### **Your Presenters**

- Karen Jensen, Collection Development Senior Librarian
  - Selects children's and teen materials in English
- Kathryn King, Regional Manager for Collection Development









## Your library collection development policy probably addresses diversity.

If someone asked you to prove that your collection was diverse and inclusive, what kind of answer could you give?









#### The Basics:

What is a Diversity Audit and Why Should You Do One











#### So what is a diversity audit?

Quite literally a diversity audit is a count of titles in your collection to determine the number of titles and the representative percentages of specific categories of your collection.

For a diversity audit, we want to get a comprehensive look at our collection.

Who is represented on the page?

Who is represented as authors?









## What's the question we are trying to answer?

"What percentage of my collection is written by something other than the traditionally dominant voice?"

A diversity audit holds collection developers accountable to the community and the foundational ideals of librarianship.

A diversity audit helps us obtain measurable facts and figures to talk about our collection in meaningful ways









#### Why do a diversity audit?

- We must recognize our internal bias and privileges
  - 80% of librarianship is made up of 40-year-old white women
  - We each go into collection development with our own biases and privilege, which can influence purchasing
- Identifying and filling gaps for inclusive collections promotes learning, engagement, compassion and a more authentic world citizenship
- Creating meaningful data and statistics put the science back in library science and helps us really evaluate our collections









The goal is not to hit a specific number, but to get an idea of what your collection looks like, where you have gaps, and where internalized biases might exist









# Who do people see when they browse your collections?

## What messages are your collections sending?











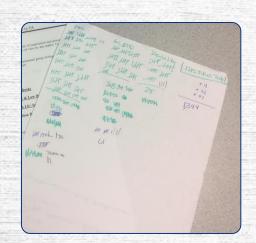
## In the Beginning: Fumbling **Towards Diversity** Audits











## How I Came About Doing Diversity Audits

- The initial question
- First attempts
- Refining the process

You can read more about my initial journey at: https://www.teenlibrariantoolbox.com/2017/11/doing-a-ya-collection-diversity-audit-part-2/





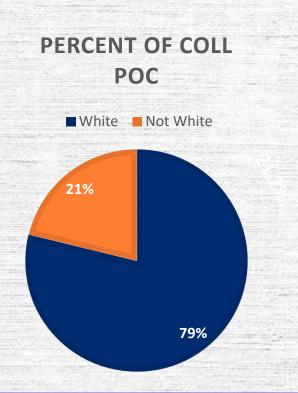


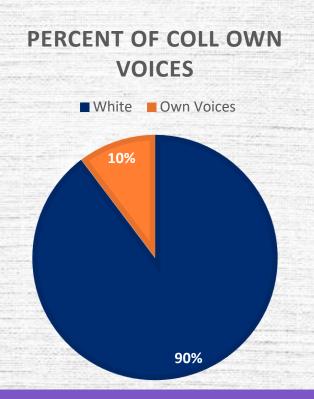


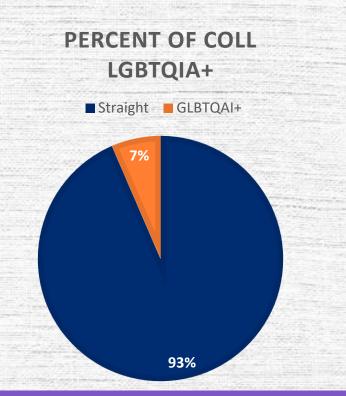
## What I learned about my YA collection after my first diversity audit

37 % of U.S. population are People of Color

9.2 % of U.S. population identify openly as GLBTQAI+









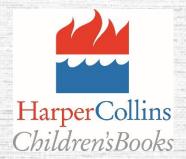


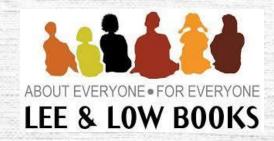




# Looking at Publishing to Answer the Question: Why do a Diversity Audit?











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#### **Meeting Community Needs**

#### 2017 CCBC **Statistics**

3500 books received from US Publishers

#### **BOOKS BY each** community

Population percentages based on 2015 US Census estimates1

Total books for each community from the Cooperative Children's Book Center (CCBC) website as of April 2018 ccbc.education.wisc.edu/books/pcstats.asp

<sup>1</sup>Census data from census.gov show percentages adding to 102.2%, likely due to the confusing way Latino/Hispanic race is reported. We have slightly rounded down to the closets 1/2-3/4 percentage point to equal 100%, ultimately this is less about the specificity of numbers and book counts and more about overall trends.



**US Pop.** 

AMERICAN INDIANS make up 1% of US Pop.

AFRICAN AMERICANS

make up

make up ETHNIC 17.5% of AMERICANS US Pop. make up US Pop.

\*We know that there are some population.

CREATED BY MAYA AND MATTHEW/REFLECTION PRESS/SCHOOL OF THE FREE MIND: WWW.REFLECTIONPRESS.COM/RADICALACT 0 books 0%\*

#ownvoices #firstvoice

books by multiracial authors out there, but they are currently not tracked separately from other communities. We include this as a reminder of the diversity of our communities and the US





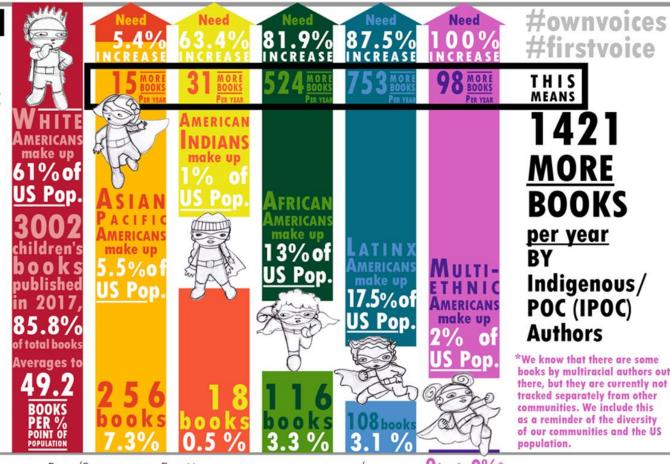




## State of publishing: where we should be

## To be equal with White Americans:

using 49.2 books per % point of population



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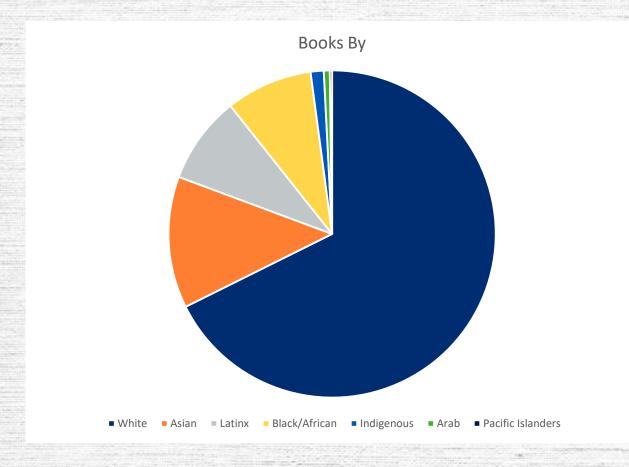


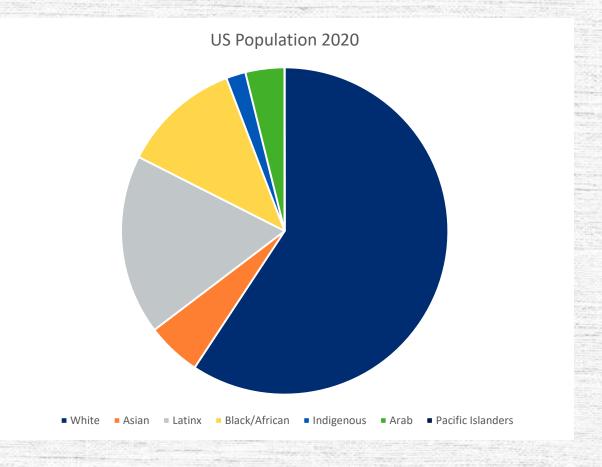






#### Where We Are Today





Note about source



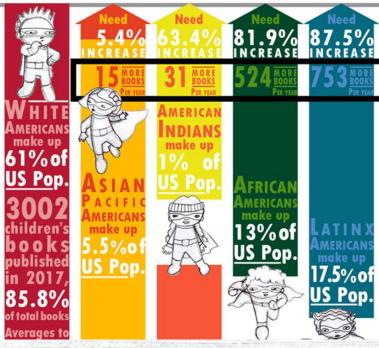






## To be equal with White Americans:

using 49.2 books per % point of population



In 2022 to be equal to White Americans: Using 39 books per % point of population

Asian	Indigenous	Latinx	Black/ African	Arab
Have surpassed White Americans Have 84 books per % point of population	32 more books per year	414 more books per year	more books per year	135 more books per year









#### What to Consider When Doing an Audit

- Who tells the story? Is it #ownvoices?\* (see discussion at end of slides)
- Are stereotypes and/or tropes used?
- Do the characters have authentic voices? (age, time period, geographic location, dialect)
- Every day diversity: Does the story depict characters of color doing everyday things like: getting a new pet, shopping with Mom, starting school, etc.?
- Are the characters portrayed in modern/urban settings or only in historical settings?
- Are the non-White characters auxiliary to the main White character?











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## Methodology: How to Do a Collection Audit









## The Basic Data You Need for an Audit

- 1. The category headings and definitions you are investigating
- 2. A total number of holdings for the collection you are evaluating
- 3. A count of holdings that qualify as the categories you want to evaluate

And this basic formula for determining percentage:

Number of Category Titles/Number of Total Titles = Percentage (CT/TT=%)









## Category Headings: You can audit for any subject headings you want

- Ethnicity
- Religion
- Own Voices
- Socio-Economic Status
- Mental Health issues
- LGBTQIA+ representation
- Gender (of both main characters and authors)
- Neurodiversity
- Disability (?)









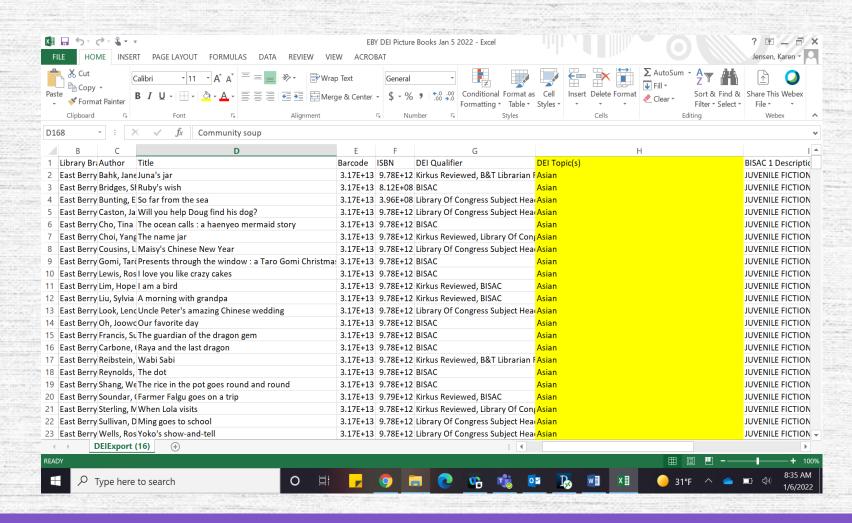
#### The one thing you need: A Shelflist

A shelflist WITH subject headings

OR

A way to create a shelflist with subject headings

I recommend Excel because it allows you to sort the data in various ways AND it does the counting and math for you











#### Ways to Get a Shelflist

#### Some ILS systems allow you to create a shelflist with subject categories

	What ILS does your libra	Can you create a shelflis	Can you export the shelfl	Can you include ISBNs in	Can you include subject headings in your s
	Evergreen	Yes	Yes	Yes	I think so, but haven't tested it.
3	Sierra (Innovative)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Symphony by Cirsidynix	No. We have a separate	From BCA, yes.	Yes	No
	Evergreen	Yes	Yes	Not sure. Not by default a	No
	Sierra	Yes	Yep!	Yes - the data to include	I've never done it, but Subject is one of the
0	Sierra	Yesbut I struggle every	Yes	Not sure	Not sure
	Alma	Yes, but it's a pain	Yes	Yes	Yes
i	Nassau BOCES School L	Yes through our Opals sy	I believe so. I have neve	I believe so.	I believe so. Opals is a wonderful circulatio
ĕ	Evergreen	Yes	Yes	Yes	No, or if so we haven't figured it out yet
ı	Polaris	yes	yes	yes	not sure
J	s Apollo from Biblionix	Yes	Yes	Yes	I don't think so

Some ILS systems allow you to create a shelflist with ISBN numbers. You can then bulk load the ISBN numbers into some vendors to create and download an Excel spreadsheet with subject headings

Vendor	Shelflist	ISBN	Subject Headings	Excel	Bulk Upload
Bibz	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (limits)
B&T 360	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Ingram iPage	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes









#### **Another Ways to Get a Shelflist**

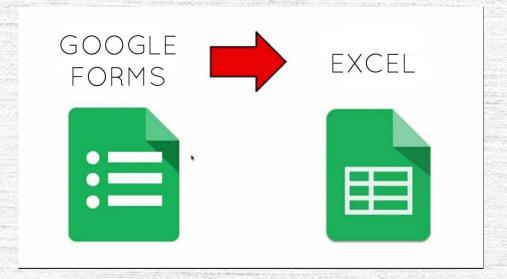
You can also set up a **Google form** an manually enter the data. Google Forms will allow you to export the data into an Excel Spreadhseet

Annabelle Mortensen discusses doing this:

https://www.libraryjournal.com/?detailStory=Measuring-Diversity-in-the-

Collection

This works better for smaller collections







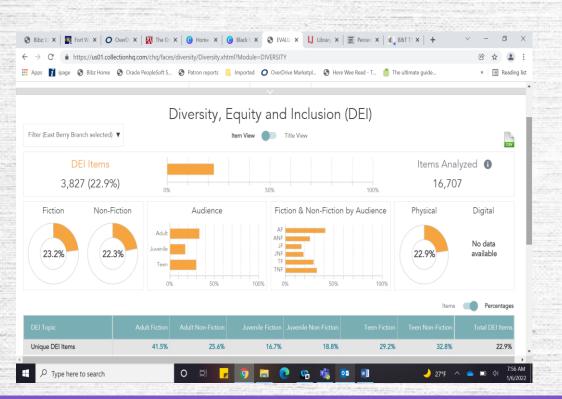


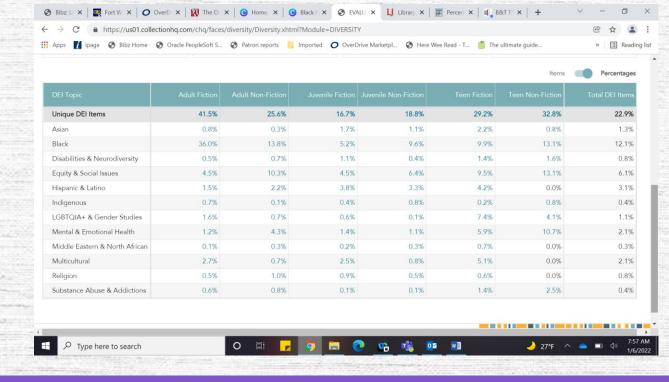


#### **Using Collection HQ**

Pros: Fast, Some Easy and Quick Control

Cons: Doesn't break down categories as deeply as you may like, you have less control over the data



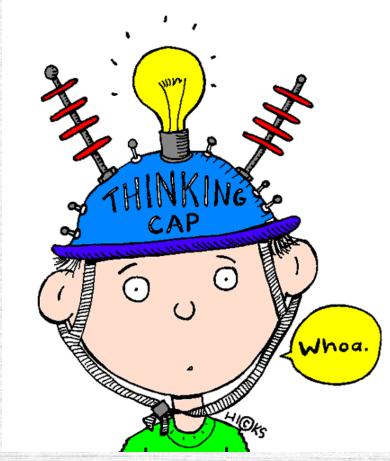












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## Findings and Implications from Our Diversity Audit



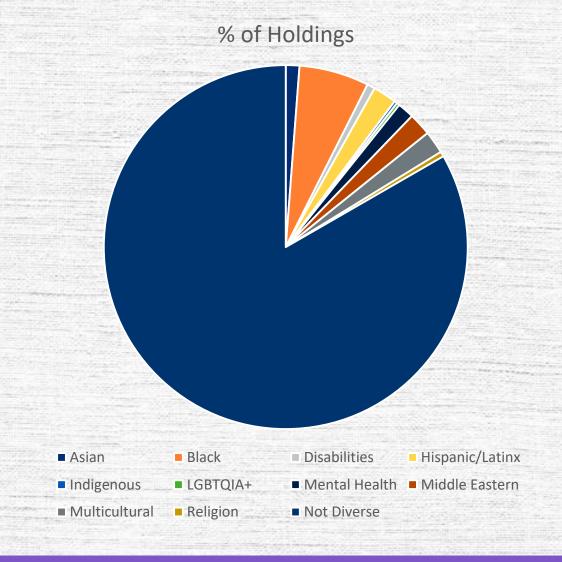






#### Our Findings: 1 Branch, Picture Books

Category Holdings	Number of Titles	% of Holdings
Asian	33	1.21
Black	169	6.21
Disabilities	19	0.70
Hispanic/Latinx	57	2.09
Indigenous	7	0.26
LGBTQIA+	7	0.26
Mental Health	40	1.47
Middle Eastern	55	2.02
Multicultural	55	2.02
Religion	12	0.44
Not Designated Diverse	2267	83.32
Total Holdings	2721	100.00











#### Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Switch to DEI Trend View Filter by Library Branch ▼ Filter by Topic ▼ DEI Items Items Analyzed 🚯 154,888 (18.0%) 859,310 Fiction & Non-Fiction by Audience Fiction Non-Fiction Audience Physical Digital 20.0% 16.9% 17.1% 18.4% 096 50% 100% 0% 50% 100%

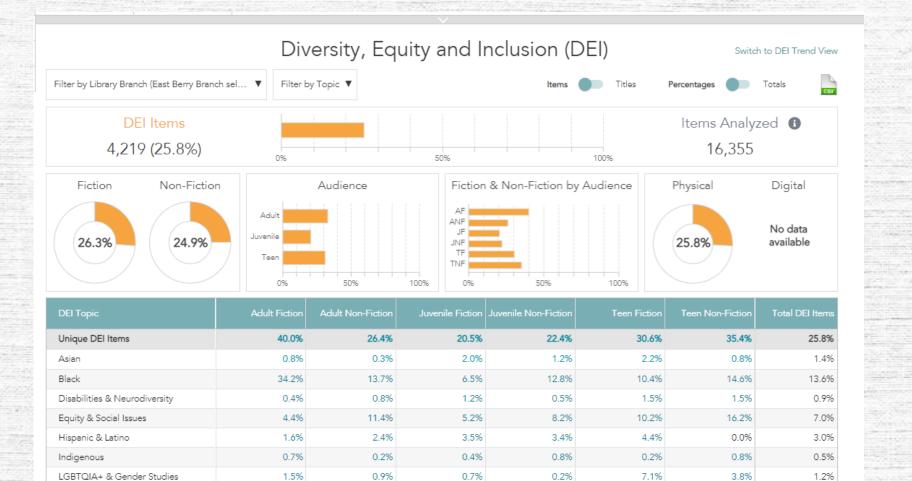
DEI Topic	Adult Fiction	Adult Non-Fiction	Juvenile Fiction	Juvenile Non-Fiction	Teen Fiction	Teen Non-Fiction	Total DEI Items
Unique DEI Items	13.3%	20.2%	18.2%	18.6%	31.5%	34.4%	18.0%
Asian	0.9%	1.1%	2.1%	1.8%	3.5%	1.7%	1.6%
Black	5.6%	4.6%	4.0%	6.4%	5.2%	7.8%	5.0%
Disabilities & Neurodiversity	0.3%	1.1%	1.2%	0.9%	2.4%	3.8%	1.0%
Equity & Social Issues	2.6%	7.1%	4.4%	6.5%	9.6%	14.8%	5.0%
Hispanic & Latino	0.6%	1.2%	2.6%	2.2%	3.3%	1.6%	1.7%
Indigenous	0.9%	1.0%	0.5%	1.7%	0.4%	1.1%	0.9%
LGBTQIA+ & Gender Studies	1.3%	1.2%	0.7%	0.2%	7.4%	4.3%	1.4%
Mental & Emotional Health	1.1%	4.5%	4.9%	1.8%	9.1%	12.8%	3.6%
Middle Eastern & North African	0.1%	0.5%	0.2%	0.7%	0.6%	0.4%	0.3%
Multicultural	0.8%	0.6%	2.3%	0.7%	5.3%	1.6%	1.5%
Religion	1.0%	1.9%	1.2%	1.1%	1.7%	1.4%	1.3%
Substance Abuse & Addictions	0.3%	0.6%	0.1%	0.1%	1.0%	1.0%	0.3%











4.7%

0.2%

3.0%

1.1%

0.1%

1.5%

0.4%

1.0%

0.5%

0.0%

4.4%

0.2%

0.8%

0.9%

0.9%

1.0%

0.1%

2.7%

0.4%

0.5%



Mental & Emotional Health

Multicultural

Religion

Middle Eastern & North African

Substance Abuse & Addictions



1.2%

3.8%

0.3%

2.4%

0.8%

0.4%

11.5%

0.0%

0.8%

0.0%

2.3%

7.3%

0.7%

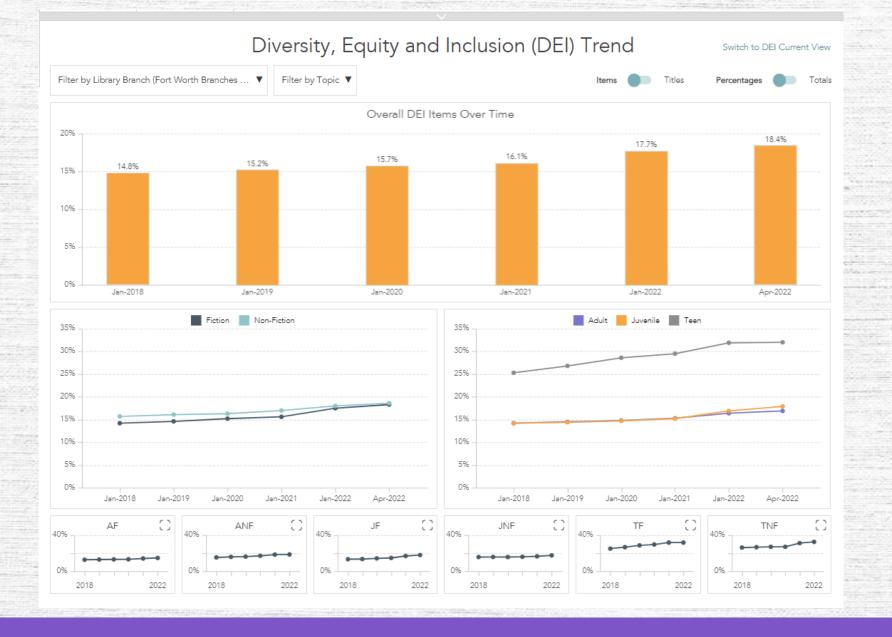
5.2%

1.0%

1.4%





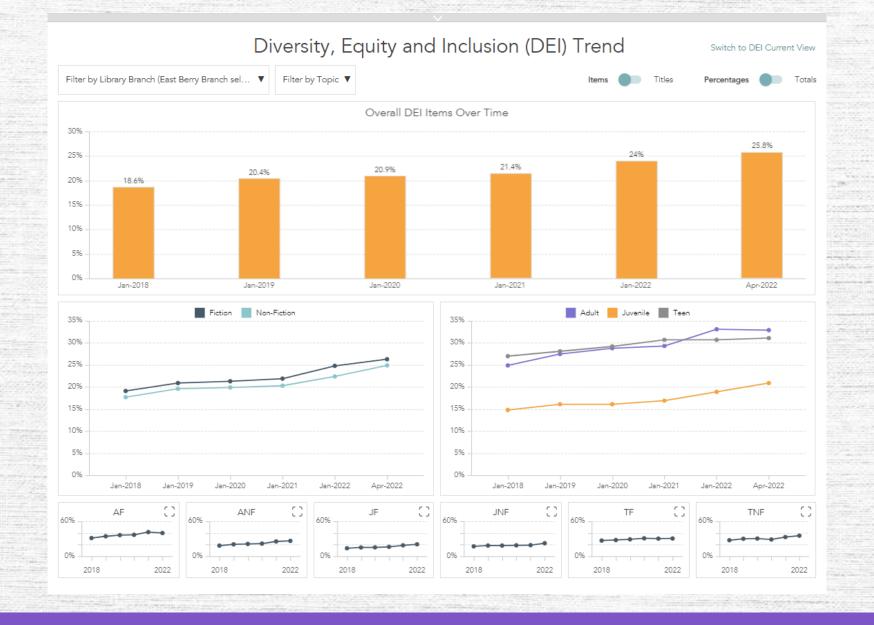












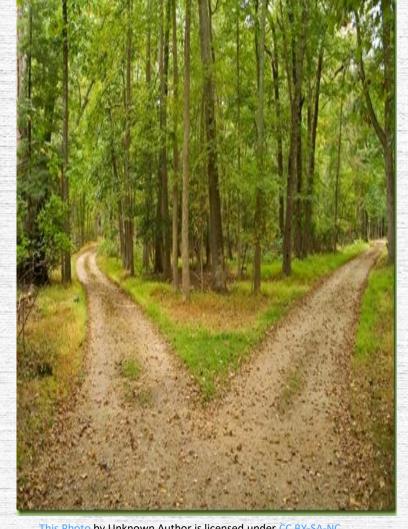








## Alternative Ways to Examine Your Library Collection for Diversity



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## Overwhelmed thinking about auditing a larger collection?

- Start by auditing smaller genres or collections.
- Do your audit in chunks over time; develop an audit schedule as you would an inventory or weeding schedule.

 Audit random samples of your collection and extrapolate the data.









#### **Reverse Diversity Audit**

Another way to tackle this challenge is by doing what I call a Reverse Diversity Audit. Instead of auditing the collection as a whole, target specific topics using curated resources.

- Pick topics you want to audit
- Find recent, reputable book lists for that topic
- Check to see how many of the titles you have in your collection
- Fill holes accordingly
- Again, you could develop a schedule to be sure you look at each topic over the course of a year.









#### **Book Order Audits**

For every book order that I do, before I hit submit I do a quick audit to make sure that I am doing the work to build an inclusive collection each and every day









## Using the Data to Affect Change in Your Library



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#### Training Staff to Do Inclusive RA

- Present a new topic at each Youth Services staff meeting
  - 2018: African American literature, Asian American literature, LatinX literature, LGBTQIA+ literature, Native American literature, Disability representation in literature
- Items discussed: Statistical data, Tropes/stereotypes to be aware of, Own Voices authors, current controversies, recommended titles/book list
- Make staff away of controversial or challenged materials.
  - For example, Little House on the Prairie books
  - Before using a book in a program, searching the title with the term controversy to vet it
- Booktalk recommended titles
- Share a variety of vetted resources









### Other Ways to Challenge Staff to Hold Themselves Accountable

- Book display audits
- Book discussion choices/materials audit
- Audit programming materials, including story time books and publicly shown movies
  - See <u>Annabelle Mortensen's discussion of auditing</u> programming materials
- Audit recommended reading lists
  - Staff picks, best of, targeted age or genre lists









## Making diverse titles more discoverable

Making sure we bring in the 650 with the ethnicity

Adding local 655 tags to make everyday diversity titles discoverable

Highlighting diverse titles in our OPAC carousels and in curated collections with our digital vendor

ĺ	049		‡alFAA
ı	099		‡pCHILDREN FICTION‡bPEREZ‡f2017
ı	100	1	‡aPérez, Celia C.,‡d1972-‡eauthor.
ı	245	14	‡aThe first rule of punk /‡cCelia C. Pérez.
ı	246	3	‡a1st rule of punk
ı	264	1	‡aNew York :‡bViking,‡c2017.
ı	300		#a310 pages :#billustrations ;#c22 cm
ı	336		‡atext‡btxt‡2rdacontent
ı	337		‡aunmediated‡bn‡2rdamedia
ı	338		‡avolume‡bnc‡2rdacarrier
ı	520		‡aTwelve-year-old María Luisa O'Neill-Morales (who really prefers to
ı			mother to Chicago and starts seventh grade with a bangviolating t
ı			middle school's most popular girl in favor of starting a band with a
ı	586		‡aTomas Rivera Mexican Children's Book Award winner, 2018.
ı	586		‡aTexas Lone Star Reading List, 2019.
ı	650	0	‡aIndividuality‡vJuvenile fiction.
ı	650	0	‡aFriendship‡vJuvenile fiction.
ı	650	0	‡aMexican Americans‡vJuvenile fiction.
ı	650	0	‡aHispanic Americans‡vJuvenile fiction.
ı	650	0	‡aPunk rock music‡vJuvenile fiction.
ı	650	0	‡aBands (Music)‡vJuvenile fiction.
	650	0	‡aMiddle schools‡vJuvenile fiction.
ı	650	0	‡aSchools‡vJuvenile fiction.
ı	651	0	‡aChicago (Ill.)‡vJuvenile fiction.
١	655	7	‡aTomas Rivera Mexican Children's Book Award winners. ‡2local
۱	655	7	‡aTexas Lone Star Reading List, 2019.‡2local
ı	655	7	‡a#OwnVoices - Latinx.‡2local
1			









## Wrapping it All Up











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#### Resources: Diversity Audit Basics and Blog Posts

Teen Librarian Toolbox how to conduct a diversity audit with resources:

http://www.teenlibrariantoolbox.com/files/2017/11/Diversity-Audit-Outline-2017-with-Sources.pdf

Lib Guide on Diversity Audits <a href="https://cod-lis.libguides.com/c.php?g=1144450&p=8354287">https://cod-lis.libguides.com/c.php?g=1144450&p=8354287</a>

Don't You Shush Me <a href="https://dontyoushushme.com/2020/06/15/diversity-audit-a-practical-guide/">https://dontyoushushme.com/2020/12/16/diversity-audit-final-presentation/</a>

Lerner Diversity Audits https://lernerbooks.blog/2019/10/diversity-audits-and-choosing-books.html

Cornell University Libraries have identified some subject headings useful for auditing diversity: "Feminism"; "Gender"; "Sexuality"; "Race"; "Class"; "Disability/Ability." Using all or some of these headings will help identify what books are in the library, where gaps exist, and opportunities to make the collection more inclusive and representative. To keep our task manageable, we focused on one topic at a time, with race as the first subject of our audit. — Source:

<a href="https://www.libraryjournal.com/story/Counting-the-Collection-Conducting-a-Diversity-Audit-of-Adult-Biographies">https://www.libraryjournal.com/story/Counting-the-Collection-Conducting-a-Diversity-Audit-of-Adult-Biographies</a>

Measuring Diversity in the Collection by Annabelle Mortenson <a href="https://www.libraryjournal.com/story/Measuring-Diversity-in-the-Collection">https://www.libraryjournal.com/story/Measuring-Diversity-in-the-Collection</a>









## Resources: Discussions of Representation and Statistics for Kidlit

Cooperative Children's Book Center (CCBC) Statistics on Representation in Children's Literature: <a href="https://ccbc.education.wisc.edu/books/pcstats.asp">https://ccbc.education.wisc.edu/books/pcstats.asp</a>

Lee and Low Books has a breakdown of various diversity in publishing and children's book statistics: <a href="https://www.leeandlow.com/">https://www.leeandlow.com/</a>

Reflection Press has a look at how many additional books would need to be published by Own Voices authors to get equal representation with current demographics: <a href="https://reflectionpress.com/childrens-books-radicalact/">https://reflectionpress.com/childrens-books-radicalact/</a>

Dr. Rudine Sims Bishop on Windows, Mirrors and Sliding Glass Doors: <a href="https://scenicregional.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Mirrors-Windows-and-Sliding-Glass-Doors.pdf">https://scenicregional.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Mirrors-Windows-and-Sliding-Glass-Doors.pdf</a>









#### Resources: Regarding Own Voices

Why We Need Diverse Books Is No Longer Using the Term #OwnVoices <a href="https://diversebooks.org/why-we-need-diverse-books-is-no-longer-using-the-term-ownvoices/">https://diversebooks.org/why-we-need-diverse-books-is-no-longer-using-the-term-ownvoices/</a>

A Critical Look at #OwnVoices Books - Diverse BookFinder <a href="https://diversebookfinder.org/about/a-critical-look-at-ownvoices-books/">https://diversebookfinder.org/about/a-critical-look-at-ownvoices-books/</a>

#OwnVoices: Tagging, Cataloging, and Making Your Library Collection Completely Searchable - A Fuse #8

Production <a href="https://blogs.slj.com/afuse8production/2021/06/14/ownvoices-tagging-cataloging-and-making-your-library-collection-completely-searchable/">https://blogs.slj.com/afuse8production/2021/06/14/ownvoices-tagging-cataloging-and-making-your-library-collection-completely-searchable/</a>

What is Own Voices doing to our books? <a href="https://www.refinery29.com/en-us/2019/04/228847/own-voices-movement-ya-literature-impact">https://www.refinery29.com/en-us/2019/04/228847/own-voices-movement-ya-literature-impact</a>









#### Resources: Sources to Check for Representation

CCBC-Recommended Book Search <a href="https://ccbc.education.wisc.edu/recommended-books/">https://ccbc.education.wisc.edu/recommended-books/</a>

Diverse Bookfinder <a href="https://diversebookfinder.org/">https://diversebookfinder.org/</a>

Social Justice Books <a href="https://socialjusticebooks.org/">https://socialjusticebooks.org/</a>

Equity in the Library has a great list of diversity centered publishers, blogs and book lists to get you started: <a href="http://libequity.web.unc.edu/selecting-diverse-books/publishers-bloggers/">http://libequity.web.unc.edu/selecting-diverse-books/publishers-bloggers/</a>

Lee and Low also has a good resource list for finding and evaluating diverse books for quality and matters of representation: <a href="https://blog.leeandlow.com/2020/01/09/finding-the-best-diverse-books-for-your-classroom/">https://blog.leeandlow.com/2020/01/09/finding-the-best-diverse-books-for-your-classroom/</a>

Megalist of Good Resources can be found at DiverseBooks.org <a href="https://diversebooks.org/resources-old/where-to-find-diverse-books/">https://diversebooks.org/resources-old/where-to-find-diverse-books/</a>

Multicultural Children's Book Day <a href="https://multiculturalchildrensbookday.com/multicultural-reading-resources/diversity-book-lists-for-kids/diversity-in-kidlit-presented-as-every-day/">https://multiculturalchildrensbookday.com/multicultural-reading-resources/diversity-book-lists-for-kids/diversity-in-kidlit-presented-as-every-day/</a>

Reading Middle Grade <a href="https://readingmiddlegrade.com/">https://readingmiddlegrade.com/</a>

Don't forget to check the book award sites









#### Resources: Sample Audit Questionnaire

Lee and Low Classroom Library Questionnaire

https://www.leeandlow.com/ uploads/loaded\_document/4 08/Classroom-Library-Questionnaire\_FINAL.pdf





#### Classroom Library Questionnaire

**Educators, how culturally responsive and diverse is your classroom library?** Use the following questions as a guide to analyze your classroom library book collections and determine where there are strengths and where there are gaps in diversity.

To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

- The classroom library contains numerous books that . . . Strongly Agree Agree or Disagree Strongly







