

Gov. Thomas Johnson High School Collection Overview 2011

Worksheet 1

Student population: 1,700

Average publication copyright: 1992

Total number of holdings: 21,227

Average number of items per student: 12.5 items

(Some national figures recommend 16 to 24 per student)

| DEWEY | Number of holdings | Percentage of collection | Recommended percentage | Average copyright date | Age in years | Acceptable age in years | Difference | Circulation figures | Collection comments |
|--|--------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|------------|---|---|
| 000 Generalities | 227 | 1.07% | 6-8% | 2000 | 10 | 3 | -7 | 11 (2 related to DVDs) | Need to consider electronic and other nonprint resources because current percentage and age are far below recommended percentage. |
| 100 Philosophy and related disciplines | 297 | 1.40% | 1-2% | 1997 | 14 | 5 | -9 | 57 | Because of resurgence in a philosophy course this year and outdated materials, collaboration with instructor (Atwell) on collection development is necessary. |
| 200 Religion | 257 | 1.21% | 1-2% | 1991 | 20 | 5 | -15 | 33 (5 related to DVDs, 2 related to videos) | Needs weeding and updating to increase copyright average. Collaboration with world religions instructor (Herman) is necessary. |
| 300 Social Sciences | 2,082 | 9.81% | 10-15% | 1996 | 15 | 5 | -10 | 102 (7 related to DVDs, 5 related to videos) | Circulation figures may be inaccurate because media specialist does not check out materials used by classes. |

| | | | | | | | | | Needs weeding. |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|------------|--|--|
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| 400 Languages | 97 | 0.45% | 2-5% | 1987 | 24 | 5 | -19 | 8 | Needs weeding and updating to meet acceptable national standards and curricular goals. Age, circulation figures and collection numbers are concerns. Could benefit from more relevant, multilingual resources. |
| 500 Pure Sciences | 1,036 | 4.88% | 5-10% | 1991 | 20 | 5 | -15 | 114 (8 related to DVDs, 24 related to videos) | Age, circulation figures and collection numbers are concerns. Reading and interest levels target higher-level students. |
| 600 Technology/Health/Medicine | 1,049 | 4.94% | 5-10% | 1997 | 14 | 5 | -9 | 111 (4 related to DVDs, 8 related to videos) | Need to consider electronic and other nonprint resources before making this area a top priority. |
| 700 The Arts | 2,092 | 9.86% | 5-10% | 1993 | 18 | 5 | -13 | 1,881 (14 related to DVDs, 6 related to videos) | 740s make up more than 1,000 of circulation figures. Age of collection and lack of circulation are concerns. |
| 800 Literature | 3,536 | 16.66% | 5-10% | 1985 | 26 | 5 | -21 | 235 (18 related to DVDs, 23 related to videos) | Extreme age of collection due to early editions of literature, however, newer adapted versions may be helpful for struggling readers, English language learners, etc. Have more items than recommended. Weeding |

| | | | | | | | | | may make this collection healthier. |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|--------------|--|------------|---|--|
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| 900 General Geography and History | 4,941 | 23.28% | 20% | 1985 | 26 | 5 | -21 | 232 (42 related to DVDs, 92 related to videos) | Dismal circulation and extreme age call for careful examination. Circulation figures may be inaccurate because media specialist does not check out materials used by classes. |
| Fiction | 4,978 | 23.45% | 20-25% | 1999 | 12 | Varies, but newer materials contain more modern references, enticing stories and covers. | NA | 2,097 | Strong, high-interest collection, especially for average and advanced readers. Collection needs publicity and additional titles geared toward struggling readers. More audiobooks and ebooks should be easily accessible for students. |

Top Priorities

I. Social Sciences (300s)

Several categories within the 300s fall below the acceptable age range. Many titles are old and contain misleading information and images. Books in political science, social problems and services, and education are especially outdated. Covers reflect a far different time period and era. While it may be historically interesting to consider such titles written in the 1940s and 1950s, students deserve more relevant and accurate information. As pointed out by School Library Media Program Coordinator Mona Kerby, “Students have trouble discriminating between correct and misleading information. It’s important to keep old materials in museums, archives and university libraries, but not in school library media centers, which should never be historical collections.” The social studies teachers are very open to using the media center for support on curricular projects, and this relationship could be stronger through closer collaboration on collection development and promotion.

II. Pure Sciences (500s)

Although some titles may be kept indefinitely, at least 65 titles in the 500s were published before 1960. Many of these titles do not contain “timeless” information. Several subcategories have at least 80% of the titles considered beyond age range, according to Follett Titlewave Collection Analysis and national standards. Although there are pockets of high-interest, relevant texts, circulation figures indicate that these titles are being overlooked. Not only are students not accessing this

collection, but math and science teachers are not collaborating with the media specialist to strengthen and utilize resources. This is especially alarming when considering the National Common Core Standards and STEM initiatives, which place more emphasis on content literacy within these fields.

III. The Arts (700s)

The 700s did not register on Follett’s Collection Analysis as having significantly aged materials, however, this collection should meet higher standards demanded by the Frederick County Arts and Communications Academy, a special program housed at TJHS. Accepted students from throughout the county attend rigorous creative arts, music, theater and graphics classes and should have access to a stellar collection. Unfortunately, graphic novels are the only pieces circulating. The average copyright age is unacceptable, especially when considering circulation and titles. Collaboration with ACA staff will help elevate the current collection through the selection of more current, relevant and high-interest materials. Building this relationship will also promote circulation as the media specialist develops ways to promote the collection in support of the ACA’s curriculum.