

The School Library Monthly Update



PRACTICAL BOOK SELECTION

Selecting books for a school library requires a clear, structured approach to ensure the collection meets the academic and recreational needs of students while adhering to state policies, including SD House Bill 1197. Let's review essential procedures for book selection and highlight key considerations in building your library's collection.

See more on page 2.

RESOURCES

* Now might be the perfect time to check out the resources on the [School Library Services page](#) of the SDSL website! These are downloadable PDF documents that you can save and/or print for future use.

TO-DO

- ✓ Complete this year's [School Library Survey](#) by March 13!
- ✓ [Register for 1 of 2 courses that correspond with the School Library Survey](#) to earn credit for completing the survey, learn more about the 3 Pillars of Effective School Libraries, and complete an Annual Report.

UPCOMING CHATS

[School Library Collect + Connect](#)

Monday, Feb. 24, 3:30pm CT

Topic: Advocacy Panel

[School Library Collect + Connect](#)

Wednesday, March 6, 4:30pm CT

Topic: Open

[School Library Collect + Connect](#)

Wednesday, April 2, 3:30pm CT

Topic: Potpourri

Enroll [HERE](#)

Develop and Use a Selection Policy

A well-defined [collection development policy](#) guides decision-making and ensures consistency. Your policy should include:

- **Goals and Purpose:** State the primary objectives of your library collection.
- **Selection Criteria:** Define the specific factors for evaluating materials, such as alignment with curriculum, reading level, quality of content, and factual accuracy.
- **Process for Handling Challenges:** Include a clear procedure for addressing concerns about materials.
- **Ensure your policy is regularly reviewed and readily available for reference.**

Step-by-Step Selection Process

Follow a systematic process for evaluating and acquiring books:

- **Consult Reputable Reviews:** Use professional sources for objective evaluations of materials.
- **Assess Curriculum Needs:** Align purchases with current academic standards and identified gaps in the collection.
- **Examine the Content:** Evaluate books for age-appropriateness, readability, and quality of information.
- **Utilize Teacher and Student Input:** Gather feedback to identify materials that support learning and recreational interests.
- **Maintain records of your selection decisions to document the rationale behind purchases.**

Understanding South Dakota House Bill 1197

House Bill 1197 requires schools to have filters or filtered internet service and a policy in place to “restrict minors from accessing obscene matter or materials.” Schools will also be required to publish the policy on their website or annually in a newspaper.

[Learn more here.](#)

Regular Maintenance of the Collection

Building a strong collection doesn't stop with book selection. Regular maintenance ensures its continued relevance:

- **Weeding:** Use methods like the CREW process to remove outdated, damaged, or unused materials.
- **Ongoing Evaluation:** Identify gaps or areas needing expansion based on curriculum updates and usage patterns.
- **New Acquisitions:** Stay informed about newly published books.

Stay updated on best practices in book selection by participating in professional development opportunities, networking with other librarians, and keeping up with educational trends. An informed approach ensures your library continues to serve its purpose effectively while remaining compliant with current laws and standards.