Diversifying Collections

2019 Minitex Technical Services Symposium
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Technical Services

Jessica Schomberg @schomj
Minnesota State University, Mankato
Scope

• Develop collections
• Promote collections
• Diversity as policy
• Advocating for funds
Develop Collections 1

• Are your collections representative of your community?
• Are your collections preparing dominant members of your community to engage in culturally competent relationships with people who have marginalized identities?

• Diversity Audits
  • Measuring Diversity in Collections Library Journal article

• State resources
  • Minnesota State Demographic Center
  • Minnesota Racial Equity Resources
Develop Collections 2

• General Diversity Lists
  • WeNeedDiverseBooks.org

• Race/Ethnicity
  • Arab American National Museum awards
  • Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association literary awards
  • Black Caucus of the ALA literary awards
  • Las Comadres Latino book of the month selections
  • American Indians in Children’s Literature children’s/YA books + curriculum
Develop Collections 3

• Disability
  • Disability Studies in the Humanities awards
  • Disability in KidLit reviews and blog posts
  • VPAT voluntary product accessibility template, for ER vendor reports on how they comply with Section 508 standards for IT accessibility

• LGBTQ+
  • Lambda literary awards
  • Rainbow youth lists
  • Over the Rainbow adult lists
  • Stonewall awards
Promote Diverse Collections

• Community outreach
  • Local diversity organizations
• Partnerships
  • Student diversity organizations
• Social media
• Swag (t-shirts, stickers, buttons)
• Recommended reads board

What else?
Diversity as Policy

• Examples
  • American Library Association Library Bill of Rights
  • MIT
  • University of Maryland

How to make this work for you?
Advocating for Funds 1

• What do you need funds for?
  • Acquiring materials
  • Community partnerships
  • ILL
  • Minitex courier service
Advocating for Funds 2

• External advocacy – grant applications
  • Inspire Collection Development Grant (K-12 schools)
  • Mitsubishi Electric American Foundation (disability focus)
  • LibraryGrants.blogspot.com (blog list of various grants)
  • connect.ebsco.com/s/article/Grants-Funding-Sources-for-Libraries (list maintained by EBSCO)

• Internal advocacy – What successes have you had?
Conclusion

• What is one thing you can commit to doing?