

Iowa State University Library

Collection Development Policy

Children's Literature

I. General Purpose

The purpose for collecting children's literature at Parks Library is to support the Literature for Children course taught in the Human Development and Family Studies department, and to support several courses offered by the English department.

II. History

Children's literature was introduced as an academic component of the Child Development program that was created within ISU's Home Economics department in the 1930-31 academic year. It has been taught in that department, in one form or another, ever since. The English department, whose history at ISU developed more slowly throughout the 20th Century, began to incorporate children's literature into its course offerings much later.

III. Iowa State University Program

The Literature for Children course is a requirement for students majoring in elementary education within the College of Family and Consumer Sciences, and many students majoring in child development within the College also take this course. The fundamental purpose of this course is to familiarize students with the nature of children's literature, and to foster an appreciation for the literature itself as well as how it can impact and enrich a child's well-being. This course covers books for infants to pre-teens.

The English Department, as stated above, offers three courses dealing with children's literature – ENGL 307, Writing and Publishing Young Adult Fiction, ENGL 393, The History of Children's Literature, and ENGL 394, Young Adult Literature. The first course is a workshop primarily deals with children's (young adult) literature from a creative perspective – writing short stories and novels for young adult readers. ENGL 394, Young Adult Literature, provides a counterpart to the College of Family and Consumer Sciences' Literature for Children, and is a required course for English students seeking teaching certification. Finally, ENGL 393, History of Children's Literature, is a unique course in that it looks at the history of the genre, with a focus on literary analysis rather than the impact on the reading child.

IV. Subject Boundaries

Children's literature of all ages is purchased, from pre-school to young adult, and all aspects of the literature are purchased, including the various fictional genres as well as non-fiction. In addition, scholarly works dealing with the analysis of children's literature are purchased.

V. General Collection Guidelines

A. Linguistic.

Primary consideration is given to English language books, particularly at the young adult level. However, there is a rapidly growing Hispanic and Asian population at the national, state, and local (Ames) levels, and materials will be selected in these languages to represent these trends.

B. Geographical Areas.

To encourage a diverse and multicultural awareness in the area of children's literature, particular attention will be paid to authors (in translation when possible) who, through their work, represent other cultures and lifestyles, both in the U.S. and in other countries.

C. Types of Materials Collected.

The primary focus is on collecting books. The Ames Public Library is an excellent source for children's audiovisual and multimedia items. Journals that deal with the analysis and selection of children's literature are also collected.

D. Format of Materials Collected

Every attempt will be made to purchase hardcover books, in library binding, when such a choice exists, due to potentially heavy use. "Board" books are also purchased, for use with preschool children – these books are kept in the Parks Library "Cage". Due to the prevalence of paperbound-only books in the area of young adult literature, paperbound books will be purchased when necessary.

VI. Specific Collection Guidelines

The Children's Literature Bibliographer will continue to collect materials according to the guidelines listed elsewhere in this policy. Future changes in the curriculum may necessitate changes in these guidelines, and it is the

responsibility of the Department Chair and/or the Chair of the appropriate academic program(s), the library liaison(s), and the bibliographer to communicate regarding necessary changes.

VIII. Cross-references to Collection Policies

- ❑ ISU Library General Collection Development Policy
- ❑ ISU Reference Collection Development Policy
- ❑ ISU Library Special Collections Department Collection Development Policy
- ❑ ISU Library Gift Policy
- ❑ ISU Library Electronic Materials Collection Development Policy
- ❑ ISU Library Approval Plans
- ❑ American Library Association's *Library Bill of Rights*
- ❑ Existing English Department Strategic Plans, Mission Statements, and Curriculum Guides

IX. Creation date

September 28, 2000

X. Revision History

Previous revision, Spring 1996.

XI. LC Class(es), if applicable.

LB Storytelling
PZ Children's Literature
Z Bibliographies

XII. Bibliographer name

Dan Coffey