Library Collection Shelf Audit for Diversity and Inclusion

How culturally responsive, diverse, and inclusive is your school library collection?

Use this worksheet to analyze your school library book collections and determine where there are strengths and where there are gaps in diversity.

Let's start by seeing how many books on a randomly selected shelf you have that are 'diverse' – that is, feature a main character from a historically marginalized community (race, ethnicity, ability, LGBTQIA, religion, etc.).

Count the number of books on a randomly selected shelf. This is our base/sample number.

N=_____

Count the number of books which feature a main character from a historically marginalized community (race, ethnicity, ability, LGBTQIA, religion, etc.). This is the set of books we'll be working with. [Note: if you know you have a book that would be here and it is checked out, include it, but make sure to also add it to your N.]

R = _____

First Checkpoint:

R/N = _____

This is your percentage of 'diverse' books on this shelf. Reflect for a moment on this percentage. What are your goals for this number in your library?

Now let's see what percentage of our diverse books are #ownvoices – written by an author or authors who belong to the marginalized community the book portrays.

Count the number of #ownvoices books found in the subset R.

V=_____

© 2017 Julie Stivers. Licensed for reuse with attribution under Creative Commons. Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike - CC BY-NC-SA



Second Checkpoint:

V/R =

NOTES:

This is the percentage of diverse titles on this shelf that are #ownvoices titles. How high do we want this? As high as possible. This is the number we want to keep increasing. Absorb that number, then focus on growing it.

Final step. To make sure we're collecting books featuring people of color and people from historically marginalized groups that JUST AREN'T social justice books, biographies, historical fiction or award winners (the Big Four).

Count the number that of books **are not** from those four categories. We'll call this F.

F = _____

Third Checkpoint:

Now go back to your number R.

F/R = _____

This is your percentage of diverse books that are outside the Big Four.

What does this number tell you about your collections?

© 2017 Julie Stivers. Licensed for reuse with attribution under Creative Commons. Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike - CC BY-NC-SA