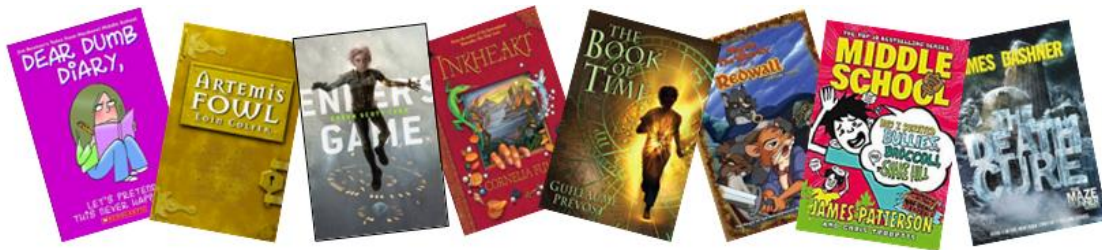


Collection Development



Lisa L. Fish

University of Colorado

School Libraries in the Digital Age - SCHL 5100

Professor Large-Swope

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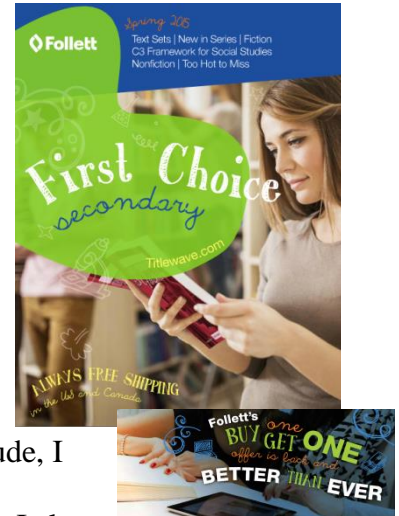
This report is very timely as I'm coming up on my Fall ordering next month, so everything I do for this research will result in an actual order for our library. Also, because of our discussions during Banned Book Week, I am wondering about how to go about determining which books will add the greatest value to our collection. Which criteria do I use? There is only so much shelf space and limited funds, so how do I go about choosing the best possible book for use in our library? For aid in helping me make these choices, I will seek out my Teacher Librarian's advice, and I will also utilize the following sources of information to help me determine the content of my order:

- Fish bowl: This is our "suggestion box" in the library.
- Frog competition: This was a data mining technique I used this month. Kids had to guess how many marbles were in the frog and add their favorite book on the form to win. I wanted to know what they were reading because many of those books aren't currently in our library.
- "Books beyond repair" replacements
- Follett and Perma-Bound recommendations
- Titlewise report

My budget is \$4,500 for the development of our collection and will be split evenly between fiction, non-fiction and digital. Here is a solid preliminary list to start with:

<u>Fiction</u>	<u>Nonfiction</u>	<u>Digital</u> (starter library series/includes all in fiction list plus following)
1. Harry Potter	1. DK Stars and Planets	1. Eragon
2. Ranger's Apprentice	2. Iqbal	2. Heroes of Olympus/ Percy series
3. Brotherband	3. Guinness World Records	3. Hunger Games
4. Spirit Animals	4. Building Computers	4. Divergent
5. Tokyo Mew Mew	5. Presidential Elections and Other Cool Facts	5. Wimpy Kid
6. Stoneheart	6. Communications and Broadcasting	6. Artemis Fowl
7. Lord of the Rings	7. Show Me Science: Robotics	7. Ender's Game
8. I Funny	8. Genetic Engineering	8. Gary Paulsen collection
9. Maze Runner	9. Cyber Literacy	9. James Patterson collection
10. Crenshaw	10. World Book Atlas	10. Classics like Chronicles of Narnia, Time Quintet etc...

My vendors will be Follett and Perma-Bound. I will begin with the Follett magazine recommendations; a great place to start in my search to fill up shelves. The publication comes out twice a year and lists favorite fiction titles according to genre, new books in series, favorite authors, books into movies and more. I am very excited that we are going to add a starter library of Follett e-books this year for easier student access on their iPads! In order to determine what to include, I



will examine the most checked out books from the Titlewise report, but I also plan to create a Google survey for all the Language Arts teachers to take and see what their students would be interested in reading. With \$1,500 to spend, there won't be a huge amount of books since unlimited check outs run from \$30 to \$50 for each multi-person use (cheaper for 12 month leases, but more expensive in the long run for renewals). Happily, Follett is running a special right now from a large list of publishers: if schools buy the e-book version of the book, then they receive a printed copy for free. This is a fabulous deal that I plan to take advantage of if anything looks appealing.

After making two Fall lists, I have decided to order from both vendors. I try to get Follett-bound books first because those seem to hold together the best. But Follett didn't have the complete *Spirit Animals* and *Maze Runner* book series and others in that binding, so I will need to go to Perma-Bound after that. Hardcover and paperback are my two last choices in binding. It was interesting to see which books from my repair list were no longer available. Our complete series of Pita-Ten books are falling apart and are out of print. We may need to get secondhand books through Amazon to replace those, along with some older short stories collections, Animorphs, Goosebumps, and Charlie Browns, which I wouldn't want to leave out of the collection.

Using the aforementioned criteria, I have filled up the Follett shelf at a total cost of \$1,513.65 and 102 books. The Perma-Bound order is at \$904.27 with 55 books total. The nice thing about both vendors is that I can go into our account and set up preferences in an area called Book Cataloging & Processing Specifications. This is where I can state whether or not I want mylar covers where available for hardback books, placement of spine labels, how I would like the labels for biographies to look and so on. I can also specify exactly the range of barcoding that will be used for this vendor to keep it all organized. This is what our cataloging specifications look like for Skyview Middle School:

<p>Processing Specifications</p> <p>Spine label: 1" measurement</p> <p>Mylar: Tape Mylar on Dust Jackets Only</p> <p>Bar code label: Front Cover Lower Left Vertical</p> <p>Bar code inscription: SKYVIEW MIDDLE SCHOOL</p> <p>KAPCO Easy Covers</p> <hr/> <p>Cataloging Specifications</p> <p>Subject Headings: Sears subjects</p> <p>Fiction: F with first 3 letters of author's surname</p> <p>Nonfiction: Class number with first 3 letters of author's surname</p> <p>Individual Biography: 92 with first 3 letters of biographee's surname</p> <p>Collective Biography: 920 with first 3 letters of author's surname</p> <p>Easy Fiction: E with first 3 letters of author's surname</p> <p>Short Story: SC with first 3 letters of author's surname</p> <p>Foreign Language: Class number assigned by subject (no special coding)</p> <p>Reference: REF above class number with first 3 letters of author</p> <p>Professional: P above class number assigned by subject</p> <hr/> <p>Bar code and Automation System Information</p> <p>Automation System: DESTINY</p> <p>Bar code number: 44844 to 44999</p> <p>Bar code symbology: Code 39</p> <p>Bar code length: Variable</p> <p>Data format: MARC21</p>

Each company has its own terms for processing book orders and in the end both seem to come out pretty close. Perma-Bound's cataloging and shipping is free, but their books are generally more expensive. Follett charges for shipping and cataloging services, which comes out to approximately \$0.70 per book to make it barcode ready for the shelves. This is totally worth the

cost as it saves an enormous amount of time in printing up labels and barcodes through Destiny, which often misaligns with my printer and ends up being a big sticky label mess. Overall Follett books are cheaper, so adding this service still keeps the cost the same between the two vendors. Additionally, both Follett-bound and Perm-Bound books have a lifetime guarantee. So if one is falling apart, we can contact our representative and send it back for a brand new copy. That's a very cool deal!

The five books I chose for review are ones that were from the suggestion bowl and are ones that I know nothing about:

- Paper Towns
- Speak
- Summer of Fear
- Isle of the Lost
- Trigun Maximum Omnibus 1

Our district doesn't have any kind of oversight committee for book inclusion in our libraries and leaves it completely up to the discretion of the Teacher Librarian. And since right before Banned Book week I had a set of Naruto books, as well as a teen novel with profanity on the cover, become the target of complaints and subsequent pulling from our collection, I want to make sure I research these books thoroughly before adding them to our library.

I began my review with the book *Speak*, because it seemed to carry the most controversy. I started at Amazon and checked the age level first. It specified the age of 12 and up, which is appropriate for our student population. One of the themes of the book is sexual abuse, so that sends up a red flag. These are questions I then ask myself: Does she handle the subject well? Is it graphic or is it tactful? Do kids feel empowered or powerless after reading this book? After reading Amazon's editorials and many reader comments, I then checked all the reviews on the Follett site. Here I find six full-text editorial reviews and read up. I am satisfied that the subject is

handled with intelligence and not only that, but as the School Library Journal states: “This powerful novel deals with a difficult yet important topic-rape. . . . Anderson expresses the emotions and the struggles of teenagers perfectly.” The story chronicles the journey of a girl who finds her voice in the midst of a tragedy and helps her classmates realize the truth, and I believe will provide courage to those in similar situations and help them stand up for the truth as well. I accepted this book onto my collection!

Ordering was really fun, albeit time consuming. It took me an entire day to make decisions and place books in the Fall list with both vendors and I have only completed two-thirds of the book ordering at this point. Both the TL and I will ponder our choices over the next few weeks and do our Google survey for the starter digital library in the meantime. It felt like Christmas picking and choosing all these beautiful books, and I know when those boxes arrive in the library, it will feel even more so . . . all shiny and new and ready to put out for everyone to enjoy!