

Ann Low, Randy Williams: Building an Inclusive Global Collection

by Esther Rosenfeld

Ann Low and Randy Williams offered practical strategies for building a fiction collection which is global. They emphasized that you can only build an inclusive global collection by having sources of ideas, lists, and inspiration; and by having connections to link you to the information you need.

The bookstore Another Story in Toronto (416-462-1104) was seen as an invaluable resource. It stocks a wide variety of books on diversity themes, particularly multicultural and gender-related, and carries children's, young adult, and adult fiction by well known and lesser known authors from a wide geographic area. The presenters also recommended Bookworm, a Hamilton book dealer (905-523-4345), who can provide lists that are appropriate for your school population.

Contemporary Authors, one of the Galenet on-line databases, provides searchable annotated lists of authors by nationality and their works, to assist teacher-librarians in selection of materials. This database, intended for use by secondary schools, is more comprehensive than the *Discovering* series by Galenet and also includes authors' biographies, reviews, and critical essays. Another on-line database is *NoveList* by EBSCO. Users can browse over 1,200 theme-oriented book lists, 160 award lists and 1,000 fiction-related web sites, and search for books by author, title, and theme. The database contains materials for all

ages including picture books, children's "chapter" books, young adult titles and books for adult readers. *NoveList* also contains full-text reviews for adult, young adult, children's and easy fiction titles from a variety of journals.

Other useful electronic sources are the web sites maintained by several of the large Canadian book wholesalers. EduReference's site (<http://edureference.com>) provides annotated lists of titles for the publishers represented by the company. The NBS site (<http://www.nbs.com>) provides annotated theme lists as well as on-line catalogues. The sites maintained by Chapters and Indigo in Canada and Amazon in the United States are also useful in searching for a larger variety of authors.

The workshop session was informative, lively, and inspiring. Anne Low is the teacher-librarian at Lawrence Park Collegiate in Toronto and can be contacted at anne.low@stel.tdsb.on.ca, and Randy Williams is the teacher-librarian at The Bishop Strachan School in Toronto and can be contacted there. ■ ■ ■

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2000 Silver Birch/Red Maple winners Anita Horrocks, Kathy Kacer and Sheree Fitch were a dynamite trio at the traditional breakfast and in their own session. Great fun!