

### The Librarian's Guide to Developing Christian Fiction Collections for Young Adults

Barbara J. Walker  
Neal-Schuman, 2005  
ISBN 10: 1555705456  
ISBN 13: 9781555705459  
\$66.00

In 1998, Walker wrote *Developing a Christian Fiction Collection for Children and Adults: Selection Criteria and a Core Collection*. In an effort to update this work, she has now published three more focused books, one each on collections for children, young adults, and adults. The young adult title, *The Librarian's Guide to Developing Christian Fiction Collections for Young Adults*, is the focus of this review.

The book is divided into three sections. Part One, Essential Background, introduces and explains Christian Fiction, discusses the building of the collection, and offers suggestions for marketing the collection. Part Two, A Recommended Core Collection for Young Adults, suggests key book titles and series titles in a variety of genres and provides a list of the top 40 DVDs and videos. Part Three, Collection Development Resources, provides information about Christian Fiction award win-

ners, authors, publishers, and review sources.

It should be noted that Christian, as used by those describing Christian Fiction, is rather narrowly defined to include only evangelical Protestantism. While the fiction might appeal to readers outside this group, this is the target audience. Public schools include students from diverse religious backgrounds, including evangelical Christianity. Teacher-librarians interested in developing inclusive collections will want to consider all of these groups—in so far as budget allows—and *The Librarian's Guide to Developing Christian Fiction Collections for Young Adults* will help teacher-librarians target an often-neglected group of students.

This is an essential purchase for teacher-librarians in Christian schools. Recommended for district professional collections in public school boards.

### Reaching Out to Religious Youth: A Guide to Services, Programs, and Collections

L. Kay Carman, editor  
Libraries Unlimited, 2004  
ISBN 10: 0313320411  
ISBN 13: 9780313320415  
\$48.00

*Reaching Out to Religious Youth* includes chapters on both Christian and non-Christian faiths, selected based on the number of American adherents to these faiths. The faiths included are: Protestantism, Evangelical Christianity, Roman Catholicism, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Orthodox Christianity, Seventh-Day Adventists, Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, and Hinduism. Many of the ideas and suggestions can be applied to meeting the needs of other religious groups as well. Each chapter includes background information about the faith (including history, doctrine, common misconceptions and stereotypes, and the formative experiences faced by teens), as well as suggestions for library programming and collection development (including bibliographies of suggested materials). Whenever possible, the editors chose contributors who were both librarians and practicing members of the faith about which they were writing. A few of the contributors are librarians who don't have the religious background, in which case the chapter was vetted by religious experts, and a few of the contributors are religious experts who are

not librarians. In short, every effort was made to tap both library and religious expertise in order to provide a reliable, authoritative guide to library services, programs, and collections for religious youth.

While the American focus will have to be supplemented with Canadian information about both demographics and resources, *Reaching Out* is a useful starting point for Canadian teacher-librarians. Although written for public librarians, *Reaching Out* will also be of interest and use to teacher-librarians, particularly at the middle school and high school levels. Canadian schools, especially in urban areas, typically include students from many religious backgrounds, all of whom should feel themselves included in their school libraries. *Reaching Out* will help teacher-librarians make that happen. As a bonus, this book will be a useful resource for the grade 11 World Religions course!

This is an essential purchase for district collections. Highly recommended reading for middle school and high school teacher-librarians—buy school library copies if necessary. If budget is a concern, then *Reaching Out to Religious Youth*

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