



Multicultural Acquisitions (The Acquisitions Librarian, Nos 9/10)

Linda S Katz

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Discover the importance of developing a library collection that reflects the multicultural issues important to the global populations that patronize libraries today. With the arrival of a global economy, it has become more and more important that our population, both young and old, be aware of and respectful of other cultures. Whether it is an Hispanic first grader in New York City seeking information about her Puerto Rican heritage or a Los Angeles businessman inquiring about the customs of a client from China, it is the responsibility of information specialists to provide accurate references to answer these questions.

Multicultural Acquisitions presents a multitude of ideas from contributors including graduate students, school media specialists, and authors that help librarians realize the importance of establishing collections that address multiculturalism. This informative book begins with a description of the philosophical basis of multiculturalism in libraries. It also examines ways to introduce multicultural materials at all levels of librarianship including the importance and problems of getting materials on our diverse populace into the hands of our youth, the availability of materials to students for research, and how the issue of multiculturalism is handled in training future librarians. Multicultural Acquisitions explores the historical relationship between libraries and minorities and its relationship to the current debate concerning multiculturalism in education. This book also discusses the resources available on several specific individual cultural and subcultural groups. This book helps information specialists gain an awareness of multicultural materials and their importance in libraries at all levels--from children's services to university research libraries. Some of the insightful topics discussed include:

- promoting multicultural learning through children's literature
 - incorporating multicultural literature in suburban public libraries
 - the valuable but often-overlooked resource of U.S. government publications on ethnic studies
 - building Hispanic collections in public libraries
 - a comparative analysis of libraries in historically black colleges and universities
 - developing a collection that meets the needs of students doing research in Native American studies
 - a bibliography of the most significant books available on the history of women in the United States
- Multicultural Acquisitions presents a wide variety of topics to consider when approaching the subject of multiculturalism that will be invaluable to all types of libraries. By exploring the approaches that other libraries have used, information specialists can implement their own strategies for developing collections that meet the diverse needs of multicultural patrons and patrons desiring access to a wider range of ethnic materials.



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