**Hispanic Literature Collection Development Project**

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***Background Articles:***

Nilsson, Nina, L. (2005). How does Hispanic portrayal in children’s books measure up after 40 years? The answer is “It depends.” *The Reading Teacher* *58*(6) 534-548. Retrieved April 9, 2011, EBSCO online database ( [www.badgerlink.net](http://www.badgerlink.net)).

**Key Findings:**

* Landmark study in 1965 (Larrick) indicated that multi-cultural characters in children’s literature were scarce and stereotypical for the time.
* Since that time, efforts have been made to increase the representation of multi-cultural characters and decrease stereotypes. Incentives, such as assistance with publication and annual awards have helped encourage authors to accurately include multi-cultural protagonists in their works.
* Educational practice has also changed in that teachers are trying to supplement classroom content with authentic children’s literature. This includes a desire to have culturally-diverse characters that are accurately portrayed.
* Twenty-one content analysis studies, dating 1966-2003, were evaluated to determine if the representation of specifically Latino characters has improved in the past 40 years. The findings were mixed.
* Hispanic representation in children’s literature has improved but has lagged significantly when compared to the relative Hispanic population in the United States.
* Stereotyping still exists, but is more positively portrayed, especially for Hispanic males. Hispanic females, on the other hand, still suffer from sexual stereotyping and portrayal in subservient roles, but this is slowly starting to improve.
* It is assumed that children prefer to read literature about characters and themes related to their own situation, but as of this study, there was little evidence to support this theory.
* Offering culturally-diverse literature in the library of a non-culturally-diverse school community will still benefit the children served by that library.

**Shiocton School District:**

* 92.7% White, 5.9% Hispanic (steady), .8% American Indian, .3 % Black, .3% Other ethnic group(s) (*WINSS – Wisconsin Information Network for Successful Schools).*
* Collection contains a small number of Spanish language titles available at all reading levels.
* General feeling is that collection lacks fiction with culturally-diverse characters, especially Hispanics.
* Goal: Identify titles and sources that can be used in the development of a culturally-diverse collection, especially aimed at increasing literature with Hispanic characters.

**Websites/Organizations**

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| REFORMA – National Assoc. to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish-Speaking | [www.reforma.org](http://www.reforma.org) | Many resource and recommendations on their Children and Youth Services link. |
| Library Booklists and Bibliographies | <http://librarybooklists.org/> | Booklists for Children’s fiction and YA fiction that are targeted at Hispanic/Latino |
| Belpre Medal | <http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/belpremedal/belpreabout/index.cfm> | Established in 1996 to recognize Latino author and/or illustrator |
| Americas Book Award for Children’s and Young Adult Literature (CLACS) | <http://www4.uwm.edu/clacs/aa/index.cfm> | Established in 1993. Presented by UW-Milwaukee Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies |
| Imagínense Libros | <http://imaginenselibros.blogspot.com/> | Blog to assist librarians in the selection of Latino/Hispanic literature for children. |

**Bookslists**

***Young Adult (mainly)***

<http://librarybooklists.org/fiction/ya/yadiverse.htm>

<http://www.connectedyouth.org/books/index.cfm?booklist=hispanicteen>

<http://www.carmel.lib.in.us/ya/yabooklink.cfm?id=81>

<http://www.library.pima.gov/teenzone/read/latino.php>

<http://www.spl.org/default.asp?pageID=audience_teens_bmm_readinglist&cid=1246902494878>

<http://www.bcls.lib.nj.us/teens/reading/lists/latina.shtml>

<http://www.skokie.lib.il.us/s_teens/tn_books/tn_booklists/multcult.asp#HispanicF>

<http://www.springfieldlibrary.org/reading/hispanicYA.html>

<http://www.outreachworld.org/article.asp?articleid=107>

<http://www.pages.drexel.edu/~dea22/Hispanic.html>

<http://childrensbooks.about.com/od/culturalhispanic/tp/hispanic_latino.htm>

<http://ccb.lis.illinois.edu/Projects/Additions%20on%209-20-07/CCB/CCB/mhommel2/youngadult.htm>

<http://blog.schoollibraryjournal.com/teacozy/2010/12/17/celebramos-libros/>

Ramos-McDermott, Alma (2008). REFORMA and YALSA: Working together to reach Latino youth. *Young Adult Library Services*. 19-22+. Retrieved April 9, 2011 from EBSCO online database (www.badgerlink.net).

***Children’s (mainly)***

<http://www.multiculturalchildrenslit.com/latinowel.html>

<http://comminfo.rutgers.edu/professional-development/childlit/ChildrenLit/hispanic.html>

<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/belpremedal/belpreabout/index.cfm>

<http://www.libraryjournal.com/lj/reviewsspanish/887348-474/october_reviews_of_the_latest.html.csp>

<http://www.libraryjournal.com/lj/reviewsspanish/855374-278/story.csp>