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Collection Development
Unit 2

“Collection management, to be effective, must be responsive to the *total* community’s needs, not just to those of the current or most active users.”

1) Academic

The community for an academic library can often depend on what academics are expected to use it. An academic library for the use of a law school, for example, would not need to supply their community with a collection of scientific research. For most academic libraries, those students doing research and looking for resources they can use for academic assignments. The academic library, on the whole, should work with a community that is looking for research based on their fields. An academic library on a law school campus will need law-specific resources, while an academic library for a school like MIT would have more engineering based research. The academic library community is based heavily on what the nearest academies need to serve. The academic library has a strong community of students and educators who are looking to do their research and build on the knowledge that the library already has.

2) Public

The public library community can be as varied as the local populations. An inner city public library may have very different community needs as opposed to a more suburban environment. The public library communities that need to be served come in a variety of ages, races, backgrounds and reasons for coming to the library. Trying to assist every possible community by each library is a challenge. However, a few things remain constant for the communities of a public library. The community that a public library

must serve is arriving to the library for either information (by use of public computers, reference materials, non-fiction materials, etc) or entertainment (in the form of novels and entertainment videos). The public library must look at their local community in order to best serve their groups. The library is one of the first places a community member will go to for information. This can come from students doing research, elder people looking for information they can't find through a computer or adults looking for more accurate resources they can use. The library also provides people with an option for entertainment without having to spend a lot of additional income. The Public Library community is incredibly diverse depending on where the library is located, which can lead to very different efforts to serve that community.

3) School

A school library community differs slightly from the 'Academic Library' (in my opinion). The school library is used to provide students (particularly younger students) with resources that they can use to better understand the world around them and help them realize "what they want to learn about" when they graduate from pre-college level. Academic libraries tend to be more specified to their groups. School libraries need to provide their student communities with enough material to research their interest. The library also needs to serve the teachers by giving the teachers enough resources to assign their students work that they know their students have access to. In this way, the school library serves the student community that comes to properly research and educate themselves.