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10/7/14
Collection Development
Selecting a Vendor

The first big name I looked at was Baker and Taylor. This is a very popular vendor and, after reviewing their website, it makes a pretty strong case for one of the easiest browsing wise. The website offers a variety of resources for librarians to quickly browse to find bestsellers in every category. Baker and Taylor serves a wide variety of libraries in a variety of ways and has a long track record of experience. Despite the troubles it had in the past (as noted), most libraries highly support the Baker and Taylor service. For me, Baker and Taylor offers a wider variety of resources than most other services offered. I would be hesitant, after the lawsuit issues, but it seems to be a very strong contender as a choice of a primary vendor.

Midwest Library Services offers a wide range of selections for different types of libraries. It is hard to tell what the site offers without an account to work through, but what is available without login information shows a wide scope of subjects to browse. There are other collection development tools for libraries to use through the site, including a full list of major presses and cataloging/processing services with the Dewey Decimal or Library of Congress catalog information, with options of levels of processing that libraries can choose from. The library offers a great number of services outside of the standard selection process and order fulfillment that appear in many vendors, but also offer their clients the opportunity to take on more of their services.

The Book House is another very strong choice for the selection of a vendor. It advertises to offer "Every Book in Print" though there's no guarantee that everything is in stock. The Book House also offers cataloging option, much like the Midwest Library

Services, such as cataloging options and book processing services. The Book House also offers gives the option of rush orders, offering as soon as next day or second day delivery to rush deliveries. The service, much like Baker and Taylor, offers web services and a few resources for selecting the materials that will be used in the library.

With the new growth in the town proposed by the assignment, any of these options would 'get the job done'. Each offers a wide variety of materials and two of the three have services to help speed up the collection creation process. Most libraries I've talked with (Guilford, Westbrook and South Windsor) all seem to agree that Baker and Taylor. It has many resources that librarians can use to select items that their patrons might not have suggested, it also presents the bestsellers for the libraries that need to be a little more choosey about which items are put on the shelves first. The Baker and Taylor Company also gives the best resources for libraries to make informed decisions about their options. With this in mind, I believe the best vendor for the new, hypothetical library would be Baker and Taylor. It is also the system that seems to, despite problems in the past, have provided a strong enough service to customers that it has held the reputation that others might consider no longer useful.