

LEARNING COMMONS MANUAL

When analyzing the content of instructional material on Indigenous cultures, histories, and contemporary issues, the following criteria may be employed to identify forms of bias.

- Bias by omission: selecting information that reflects credit on only one group, frequently the writer's group.
- Bias by defamation: calling attention to the faults and ignoring the virtues of an individual or group.
- Bias by disparagement: denying or belittling the contributions of an

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- Think about how the book relates to your overall curriculum. Does it fit into a more global topic, such as families, so that children can see similarities as well as differences among cultures?
- Resist highlighting Indigenous American cultures as topics for study. Integrate Indigenous books and materials all year, just as you would with other groups.
- Do not include books that show children playing as Indigenous people or depicting animals dressed in traditional Indigenous clothing or ceremonial items. This degrades and objectifies Indigenous peoples and cultures.
- Look for books that portray Indigenous peoples today. Otherwise, non-Indigenous children will continue to regard Indigenous peoples as living only in the past, or as living today exactly as they did a hundred years ago.
- Seek out books that represent present-day Indigenous peoples for preschoolers. Children of this age do not understand historical references.
- Seek out books that are historically accurate and include an Indigenous perspective on historical events or periods for primary-

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CIRCULATION

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The library maintains a practice of on-going weeding based upon following criteria:

- outdated materials;
- materials no longer of interest;
- unused for three or more years to be determined by circulation statistics;
- inappropriate for curriculum;
- inaccurate information;
- duplicates; and
- worn or mutilated copies.

Exceptions:

- works by local authors;
- works related to local history; and
- works of famous authors including the “classics”.

Weeded material is disposed of according to the following procedure: