



EBSCO Information Services *Core Collections* Collection Development Policy



Selection Process

Titles endorsed by the *Core Collections* are chosen through a systematic surveillance of review literature with the express purpose of assisting with the collection development decisions made in a variety of libraries. Subject specialists and highly trained collection development librarians with ALA-accredited degrees nominate preliminary title selections from a variety of review sources, including: publisher catalogs, starred review and best lists included in respected industry periodicals, award winning title lists as well as other review source recommendations. Journals used for review purposes include: *Booklist*, *The Horn Book*, *Kirkus Reviews*, *Library Journal*, *Publishers Weekly*, *School Library Journal*, and many more.

Titles are evaluated according to standard library collection development review criteria which include the following: authoritative nature of the work, quality of content, usefulness and intended purpose, relevance to audience or community, enduring value/demand and cost relative to overall value. All titles selected for the *Core Collections* have received positive reviews in professional journals and/or have been selected by librarians who are experts in their field.

Subject-Specific Selection for Fiction

The fiction works across all databases have been selected with guidance from review sources and the advice of librarian advisors with expertise in fiction. Works in the *Fiction Core Collection* are considered appropriate for libraries serving adult readers. Titles selected for endorsement include works deemed to have lasting value to readers as well as new literary and genre titles that have been recognized as significant achievements in their respected areas of literature.

Scope

The *Core Collections* exclude the following: non-English-language materials, with the exception of bilingual materials and similar items; books widely used in curricula such as textbooks; books about individual computer programs or versions of programs; and other topics that quickly become outdated. Out-of-print titles are eligible for inclusion in *Core Collections*. We believe that good literature is not obsolete simply because it goes out of print. This may mean the addition of out-of-print works to the databases even after their change in print status in order to ensure a well-rounded collection or a complete series list. Older titles may be selected to fill gaps in the collections. Selection choices and cataloging may also be influenced by new metadata such as best list inclusion and literary awards.

Advisory Board

EBSCO Information Services convenes an all-librarian Advisory Board for the purposes of developing the *Core Collections*. These advisors have collection development expertise, subject-specific backgrounds, curriculum expertise, and more. This board is charged with a number of tasks, including selecting and weeding titles, advising the editors—also librarians—on ways to enhance and improve the collections, and providing guidance to editors when assessing the collections. On a periodic basis the Advisory Board discusses current issues facing libraries and resulting changes in collection development trends and materials usage. Advisors are encouraged to select materials that build a well-rounded collection which includes all viewpoints and opinions, as well as fulfills the core mission of libraries. All Advisors are given access to a number of well-respected independent review sources, including but not limited to those named above, to ensure the quality of their assessments is thorough and unbiased.

Diverse Books

The librarians of *Core Collections* are committed to creating and maintaining collections that reflect the diversity of the human experience. We consider a multitude of factors when choosing a title for the *Core Collections*, such as the book's critical consensus and its contribution to the breadth and depth of viewpoints present in the databases. We mitigate biases to the best of our ability by seeking out multiple opinions on books and actively staying educated on issues of diversity and representation in publishing. We are always seeking to improve the *Core Collections* and welcome feedback and suggestions regarding potential prejudices or blind spots. Email us at corecollections@ebSCO.com.

Recommendation Levels

Most Highly Recommended – Highest priority purchase/retain for all libraries. Provided in online databases and print.

Core Collection – Recommended purchase/retain for a well-rounded collection. Provided in online databases and print.

Supplementary Materials – Good titles to purchase/retain for in-depth subject collections, larger libraries, and bigger budgets. Provided only in online databases.

Archival Materials – Titles that were once at higher recommendation levels but have been lowered, AKA weeded. Purchase/retain not recommended. Reasons for this rank include: out-of-print status, out of date content, superseded by newer edition, etc. Provided only in online databases.