

Texas Woman's University

Library Policy Manual

Policy Name: Children's Historical Collection Development Policy

Last Library Review: March 2022

Next Library Review: March 2023

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Introduction

The Children's Historical Collection is a rare book collection consisting of approximately 5,000 rare, vintage, and out of print titles. The collection includes titles autographed by authors and illustrators, award winning writings, and notable Texas authors and illustrators. Works set in Texas both past and present are a staple of the collection.

The Collection was established in January of 2002 by the Texas Woman's University (TWU) School of Library and Information Studies as a resource for the scholarly study and teaching of children's literature of the twentieth century. It features classic children's works, including those of notable authors and illustrators. Many of the titles in the Collection came from the Fred Moore Library.

All materials are securely housed on the second floor of the Blagg-Huey Library (Denton) in the Special Collections and University Archives department. They are accessible during the department's business hours.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to document the guidelines followed in adding materials to the Historical Children's Collection located in the Special Collections Vault in Blagg-Huey Library.

Noteworthy

Some noteworthy items in the Children's Historical Collection include a rare edition of *Pilgrim's Progress*, *New England Primer (1777)*, and Hans Christian Andersen's *Fairy Tales (1889)*.

Scope

The collections includes milestone books from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, general fiction, novelty picture books, series titles, story collections, Mother Goose titles, poetry, nonfiction, biographies, and early readers. Related professional reference works are also included.

Collection Criteria

The following criteria is used for including items in the Children's Historical Collection:

- Classic children's and juvenile works
- Historically significant children's books
- Books significant in the history of children's literature
- Works about folklore
- Children's reading primers
- Children's books by local authors and illustrators
- Works no longer under copyright protection
- Important illustrators
- Early award winning books (Newbery Medal, Caldecott Medal, Coretta Scott King Award, Pura Belpré Medal, Theodor Seuss Geisel Medal, and Carolyn W. Field Award)
- Works that represent a record of the past and historical documents which reflect the attitudes, perspectives, and beliefs of different times

- Children’s books that explore problematic stereotypes from twentieth century children’s literature, including those that reinforce negative stereotypes and those that contain offensive portrayals of race, ethnicity, or gender
- Materials related to Special Collections subject areas

Collection Maintenance

Special Collections and University Archives staff routinely review the Historical Children’s Collection to assess the condition of the materials, looking for signs of degradation beyond normal wear. Deteriorating items are evaluated to determine if in-house preservation or conservation treatments can assist to lessen or minimize the effects of degradation.

Withdrawal/Replacement of Historical Materials

Materials are only withdrawn from the Collection if there is degradation and damage beyond repair.

TWU Libraries does not automatically replace damaged materials that may require withdrawal from the Children’s Historical Collection. Several factors are considered when assessing replacement of rare and historic works. Titles may be out of print, cost-prohibitive, one-of-a-kind items, or historic materials.

Review:

The Library’s Policy Work Group will review this policy with recommendations forwarded through normal administrative channels to the Dean of Libraries.