



# Diversity Audit of Longview Public Library's Adult Collection

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# The Team

Alexandria Brumbaugh - Online MLIS student responsible for the fiction portion of the audit.

Grace Fuller - Residential MLIS student responsible for the nonfiction portion of the audit.

Jacob Cole - Director of the Longview Public Library and project sponsor.



# Information Problem

Longview Public Library is looking to diversify their book collection by expanding the variety of author's and character's identities included in their collections. Specifically, they wish to expand their collections to have more representation of non-white races, LGBTQ+ community members, are disabled or neurodiverse persons, and adherents of non-Christian religions.



# Project Objectives

- Research diversity audit methodologies.
  - We chose to utilize a random sampling method, which gave us 383 (nonfiction) and 376 (fiction) titles to audit.
- Conduct the diversity audit by determining which titles had diverse authors and/or characters along the axes of race/ethnicity, LGBTQ+, religion, disability, and/or neurodiversity.
- Research local (Washington state) and national demographics to create benchmarks against which the results of the audit will be measured.
- Create a list of recommendations of where the collection development team should focus their acquisition and weeding efforts in order to most effectively diversify the collection, as well as providing a list of purchasing resources where the team can find diverse books.

# An Example of the Audit Sample

Adult Nonfiction AUDIT SAMPLE .XLSX

docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1PpMvSUIIEUbtLXHJIH2AtgwATsv6-CJw/edit#gid=1284078552

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	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	Call number	Author	Title		Diverse? (Y/N)	In what way? (All that apply from Author, POV; separated by commas)	Along which axes? (All that apply from Race, LGBT, Disability, ND, Religion; separated by commas)
2	001.9 BEL	Belzer, Richard.	UFOs, JFK, and Elvis : conspiracies you don't have to be crazy to believe		N		
3	001.942 ALS	Alschuler, William R.	The science of UFOs : what if they're real?		N		
4	001.942 YEN	Yenne, Bill, 1949-	UFO : evaluating the evidence		N		
5	001.944 MEL	Meldrum, Jeff.	Sasquatch : legend meets science		Y	POV	Race, religion
6	003.54 TAL	Taleb, Nassim Nicholas, 1960-	The black swan : the impact of the highly improbable		Y	Author	Ethnicity
7	025.197 HAL	Hall, Kate, 1979- author.	The public library director's toolkit		N		
8	027.473 BAK	Baker, Sharon L.	The responsive public library : how to develop and market a winning collection		N		
9	027.626 BRA	Braun, Linda W.	Teens.library : developing Internet services for young adults		N		
10	152.41 EPL	Epley, Nicholas, author.	Mindwise : how we understand what others think, believe, feel, and want		N		
11	133.03 MAN		0 Man, myth & magic : the illustrated encyclopedia of mythology, religion and the unkn		Y	POV	Religion
12	141.6 BER	Berlin, Isaiah, 1909-1997.	The roots of romanticism		N		
13	150.1952 CRE	Crews, Frederick C., author.	Freud : the making of an illusion		N		
14	153.35 GRA	Grant, Adam M., author.	Originals : how non-conformists move the world		N		
15	153.35 RUB	Rubin, Rick, author.	The creative act : a way of being		Y	Author	Religion
16	155.25 BYR	Byrne, Rhonda.	The power		N		
17	155.93 CRO	Crowe, Kelsey, author.	There is no good card for this : what to say and do when life is scary, awful, and unfa		N		
18	158.1 BER	Bernstein, Gabrielle.	Spirit junkie : a radical road to self-love and miracles		Y	Author	ND
19	158.1 NIC	Nichols, Lisa.	No matter what! : 9 steps to living the life you love		Y	Author	Race
20	158.1 SHE	Sher, Barbara, 1943-	Wishcraft : how to get what you really want		N		
21	170 FLE	Fleming, Thomas, 1945-	The morality of everyday life : rediscovering an ancient alternative to the liberal tra		N		
22	170.44 BIE	Bieri, Peter, 1944- author.	Human dignity : a way of living		N		
23	179.7 WEI	Weikart, Richard, 1958- author.	The death of humanity : and the case for life		N		
24	192 EDM	Edmonds, David, 1964-	Wittgenstein's poker : the story of a ten-minute argument between two great philo		N		
25	273.108 WIL	Wilson, R. McL. (Robert McLachla	Gnosis and the New Testament		N		
26	200.19 VAI	Vaillant, George E., 1934-	Spiritual evolution : a scientific defense of faith		N		
27	202.3 BRO	Browne, Sylvia, 1936-2013-	End of days : predictions and prophecies about the end of the world		Y	POV	Religion
28	202.3 CUP	Chapman, Deborah, 1947-	Life after death : the burden of proof		Y	Author	Race

Adult Nonfiction list.xls



# Project Insights

The results of the audit showed that 23.5% of the nonfiction titles and 15.96% of the fiction titles were diverse.

Of the <i>nonfiction</i> sample (383 titles)...	LPL NON-FIC	WA	USA
<i>Race</i>	<b>16.45%</b>	33.41%	38.37%
<i>LGBTQ+</i>	<b>1.31%</b>	6.9%	5.5%
<i>Disability</i>	<b>1.04%</b>	27%	27%
<i>Neurodiversity</i>	<b>1.31%</b>	21.30%	13.0%
<i>Religion</i>	<b>3.66%</b>	6.0%	5.9%

Of the <i>fiction</i> sample (376 titles)...	LPL FIC	WA	USA
<i>Race</i>	<b>11.70%</b>	33.41%	38.37%
<i>LGBTQ+</i>	<b>3.72%</b>	6.9%	5.5%
<i>Disability</i>	<b>1.06%</b>	27%	27%
<i>Neurodiversity</i>	<b>1.06%</b>	21.30%	13.0%
<i>Religion</i>	<b>1.06%</b>	6.0%	5.9%



# Our Solution

We recommended that the collection development team focus their purchasing efforts in the order below. This ranking was determined by the discrepancy between the percentages of current representation in the collection and in local and national data (1 being the largest discrepancy and 5 being the smallest):

1. Disability
2. Race
3. Neurodiversity
4. Religion
5. LGBTQ+



# Evaluation of Project Experience

We determined that diversity audits, though imperfect, are a good place to start if a library wants to evaluate the levels of diversity in their collection. When auditing, we emphasized that some axes of identity - especially sexuality, neurodiversity, and disability - aren't immediately apparent when researching an individual author. It is important to recognize that unearthing and revealing such information can have significant consequences. We have found the diversity audit process to be a good starting place when diversifying a collection, but true change occurs in future purchasing and weeding decisions and other choices library staff make when curating their collections' materials.





## Next Steps

We agreed with Longview Public Library leadership that further diversity audits of their juvenile, young adult, and media collections were necessary. These future efforts will utilize the methodology, framework, and research compiled in this project and will take place over the coming months. Contact information for current project members will be retained for any necessary onboarding of future auditing teams.