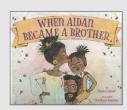


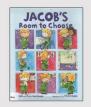
Who Do You See?:

Using Diversity Audits to Examine Representation in Children's Book Collections

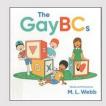
James Rosenzweig & Alicia G. Vaandering

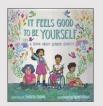


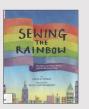


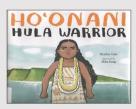














Hello!



James Rosenzweig
he/him/his
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Alicia G. Vaandering she/her/hers Student Success Librarian University of Rhode Island avaandering@uri.edu

Land Acknowledgements

I would like to acknowledge that I am speaking to you from the University of Rhode Island on the traditional land of the Niantic and Narragansett people in past and present, and honor with gratitude the land itself and the people who have stewarded it throughout the generations. This calls us to commit to continuing to learn how to be better stewards of the land we inhabit. (Adapted from URI College of Arts & Sciences)

And I would like to acknowledge that I am speaking to you from Eastern Washington University, which resides within the traditional homelands of the Spokane People and other tribes who are connected through their shared history of this region. This land holds their cultural DNA and it is their Ancestors who are here and bring forth the knowledge of this place—the knowledge that comes from the land. (Adapted from EWU Office of Native American Affairs)

Agenda

- Diverse Representation in Children's Book Collections
- Diversity Audits
- Diverse BookFinder Collection Analysis Tool: An Overview and Our Findings
- Analyzing LGBTQIA+ Representation
- Addressing Other Social Identities
- Q & A

Diverse Representation

in Children's Book Collections

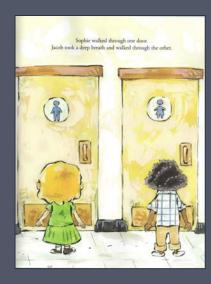


"Books are sometimes windows, offering views of worlds that may be real or imagined, familiar or strange."

(Bishop, 1990)



Sliding Glass Doors



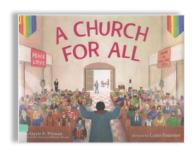
Jacob's Room to Choose, Ian Hoffman and Sarah Hoffman, 2019

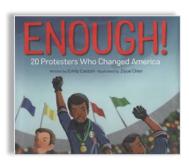
Mirrors



When Aidan Became a Brother, Kyle Lukoff, 2019

Auditing Picture Books





Content or literary analysis of smaller collections

- Award-winning books, e.g. winners of the Dolly Gray Children's Literature Award (Dyches et al., 2009)
- Themes or genres, e.g. science-related picture books (Kelly, 2018)
- Books used for programs, e.g. selections for storytime (Mortensen, 2019)

Large-scale audits

- Content analysis of entire collections (Adam et al., 2017; Adam & Barratt-Pugh, 2020)
- Content analysis of literature within a specific time frame (Aronson et al., 2018)



...Even when selected titles are free of stereotypes and misinformation, a collection can send messages that might not be what those who share books with children intend...

(Aronson et al., 2018, p. 168).

"Where did you sneak off fo?" they asked. "I just winds year of the parry han," said finerier.

Harriet Gets Carried Away, Jessie Sima, 2018



My Footprints, Bao Phi, 2019

A Note on Intersectionality

Intersectionality explores the "different dimensions of identity" and range of inequality and marginality that result from the "dislocation from multiple centers of power" (Alper et al., 2016, p. 108).

Recent research suggests that Common Core book exemplars that are often utilized in the classroom lack representation of intersectionality (Gomez-Najarro, 2020).

Diversity Audits

for Children's Book Collections



What is a Diversity Audit?



Old MacDonald Had a Baby, Emily Snape, 2019

"[A diversity audit] is not a program; it is a process of systemic organizational change. . . . [Diversity audits] employ a wide variety of techniques to clarify critical diversity and related issues that must be addressed to produce a sustained diversity-friendly environment" (Hubbard, 2015, pp. 270-271).

"Diversity audits cast light on the homogeneity embedded within library collections, providing data that identifies gaps in representations of race, gender, sexual orientation, ability, and other traditionally marginalized perspectives" (Mortensen, 2019, p. 28). What can a Diversity Audit show you?



The Diverse BookFinder Collection Analysis Tool

An Overview and Our Findings

3

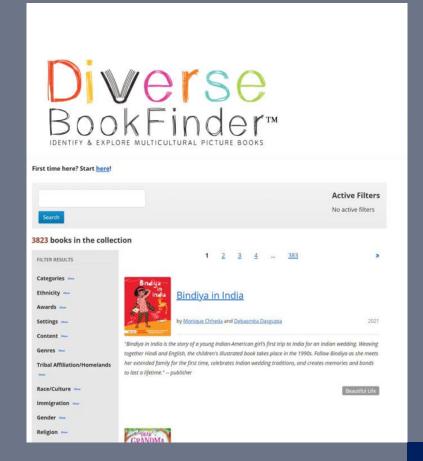
Diverse BookFinder (DBF)

diversebookfinder.org

History

Scope

Purpose



Diverse BookFinder Categories

Folklore

Any Child

Incidental
Ensemble or Background Characters

Beautiful Life
A Focus on Identity

Informational Factual Content

Biography

Oppression & Resilience

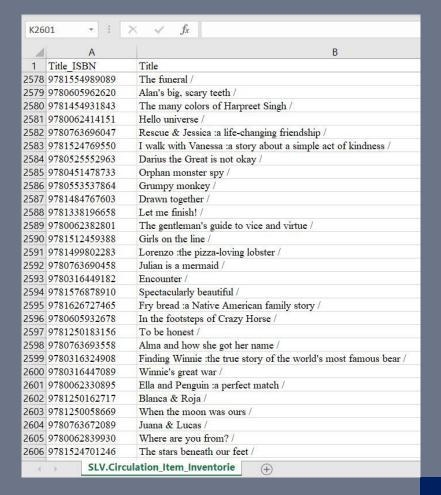
Cross-Group Relationships Across Difference Race/Culture Concepts
Examining Differences and Commonalities

Diverse BookFinder

Collection Analysis Tool (CAT)

Free tool that identifies...

- Which BIPOC are represented in your collection
- What types of stories are being told about BIPOC in your collection
- Focus: 2002-Present



From Diversity Audit to Collection Development



Submit File

Compile a .csv, .xlsx, or .ods file with titles and ISBNs from your collection.

Submit file.

Wait for email to confirm that your report is ready to view.

Review Results

Return to CAT to download your results.

Identify gaps in racial/cultural representation and types of stories.

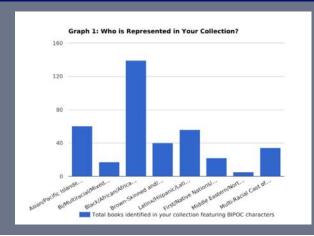
Build Collections

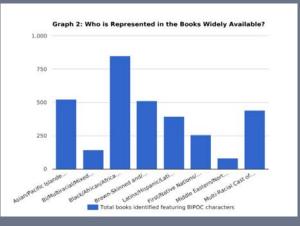
Use DBF catalog to identify books to fill gaps.

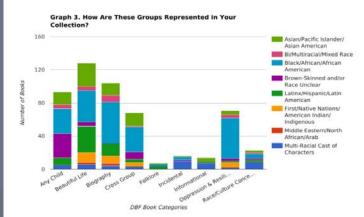
Order books.

Catalog, add to shelves, and promote to community.

What data do you get in your report?







	Asian / Pacific Islander / Asian American	Bi / Multiracial / Mixed Race	Black / African / African American	Brown- Skinned and / or Race Unclear	Latinx / Hispanic / Latin American	First / Native Nations / American Indian / Indigenous	Middle Eastern / North African / Arab	Multi- Racial Cast of Characters	Totals
Any Child	15	5	30	29	9	0	0	5	93
Beautiful Life	28	5	38	5	32	12	2	6	128
Biography	15	8	50	o	15	9	3	4	104
Cross Group	16	1	30	9	4	5	0	3	68
Folklore	1	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	7
Incidental	1	0	4	1	0	0	0	10	16
Informational	5	0	1	0	1	0	0	7	14
Oppression & Resilience	5	4	49	3	2	6	0	2	71
Race / Culture Concepts	3	1	6	2	2	0	0	9	23
Totals	89	24	211	49	68	32	5	46	524

About Our Collections and Files

Janet L. Robinson Curriculum Resource Center, Salve Regina University

Juvenile fiction and nonfiction, education theory & pedagogy, and special collections cataloged in one location: Curriculum Library (10,000+ items)

Library of Congress classification

Submitted 1 file ~5500 items

328 matches to the DBF catalog

Curriculum Center, Eastern Washington University

Juvenile fiction and nonfiction, curriculum materials, kits, and a separate graphic novel collection cataloged in 4 locations within one Curriculum Center (30,000+ items)

Library of Congress / Dewey / In-house classification

Submitted 1 file ~17,000 items

790 matches to the DBF catalog

Any Child Beautiful Life Biography Cross Group Example 1 Folklore Salve Regina University Incidental Informational Oppression & Resilience Race/Culture

Black/

African/Africa

n American

Brown-Skinned

and/or Race

Unclear

First/Native

Latinx/Hispanic/

Latin American

Middle

Nations/American Eastern/North

Indian/Indigenous African/Arab

Bi/

Multiracial/

Mixed Race

Asian/Pacific

Islander/Asian

American

Totals

Multi-Racial

Characters

Totals

Cast of

Example 1 Salve Regina University

	Asian/Pacific Islander/Asian American	Bi/ Multiracial/ Mixed Race	Black/ African/Africa n American	Brown-Skinned and/or Race Unclear	Latinx/Hispanic/	Nations/American	Eastern/North	Multi-Racial Cast of Characters	Totals
Any Child	15	5	30	29	9	0	0	5	93
Beautiful Life	28	5	38	5	32	12	2	6	128
Biography	15	8	50	0	15	9	3	4	104
Cross Group	16	1	30	9	4	5	0	3	68
Folklore	1	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	7
Incidental	1	0	4	1	0	0	0	10	16
Informational	5	0	1	0	1	0	1	7	15
Oppression & Resilience	5	4	49	3	2	6	0	2	71
Race/Culture	3	1	6	2	2	0	0	9	23
Totals	89	24	211	49	68	32	6	46	525

Example 2 Eastern Washingtor University

		A Asian/Pacific Islander/Asian American	B Bi/ Multiracial/ Mixed Race	C Black/ African/African American	D Brown-Skinned and/or Race Unclear	E Latinx/Hispanic/ Latin American	F First/Native Nations/American Indian/Indigenous	G Middle Eastern/North African/Arab	H Multi-Racial Cast of Characters	Totals
	1 Any Child	19	9	53	26	24	4	0	9	144
	2 Beautiful Life	61	14	91	10	99	42	12	16	345
	3 Biography	23	15	102	2	35	17	6	8	208
	4 Cross Group	22	6	62	15	16	8	7	5	141
on	5 Folklore	16	0	10	4	11	1	4	3	49
	6 Incidental	2	0	5	3	0	1	0	27	38
	7 Informational	10	1	12	4	8	3	2	24	64
	8 Oppression & Resilience	12	6	96	6	11	12	5	5	153
	9 Race/Culture	6	5	18	5	11	4	2	46	97
	Totals	171	56	449	75	215	92	38	143	1239

Example 2 Eastern Washingtor University

		A Asian/Pacific Islander/Asian American	B Bi/ Multiracial/ Mixed Race	C Black/ African/African American	D Brown-Skinned and/or Race Unclear	E Latinx/Hispanic/ Latin American	F First/Native Nations/American Indian/Indigenous	G Middle Eastern/North African/Arab	H Multi-Racial Cast of Characters	Totals
	1 Any Child	19	9	53	26	24	4	0	9	144
	2 Beautiful Life	61	14	91	10	99	42	12	16	345
	3 Biography	23	15	102	2	35	17	6	8	208
	4 Cross Group	22	6	62	15	16	8	7	5	141
on	5 Folklore	16	0	10	4	11	1	4	3	49
	6 Incidental	2	0	5	3	0	1	0	27	38
	7 Informational	10	1	12	4	8	3	2	24	64
	8 Oppression & Resilience	12	6	96	6	11	12	5	5	153
	9 Race/Culture	6	5	18	5	11	4	2	46	97
	Totals	171	56	449	75	215	92	38	143	1239

Changes to Collections Salve Regina University

	A Asian/Pacific Islander/Asian American	B Bi/ Multiracial/ Mixed Race	C Black/ African/African American	Brown-Skinned	E Latinx/Hispanic/ Latin American	F First/Native Nations/American Indian/Indigenous	G Middle Eastern/North African/Arab	H Multi-Racial Cast of Characters	Totals
1 Any Child	15	5	30	29	11 (+2)	4 (+4)	4 (+4)	5	103 (+10)
2 Beautiful Life	28	5	38	5	33 (+1)	12	3 (+1)	6	130 (+2)
3 Biography	15	8	50	1 (+1)	18 (+3)	9	4 (+1)	4	109 (+5)
4 Cross Group	16	1	30	9	5 (+1)	5	4 (+4)	3	73 (+5)
5 Folklore	1	1 (+1)	3	2 (+2)	3	2 (+2)	2 (+2)	3 (+3)	17 (+10)
6 Incidental	1	2 (+2)	4	1	2 (+2)	2 (+2)	1 (+1)	10	23 (+7)
7 Informational	5	2 (+2)	1	2 (+2)	3 (+2)	2 (+2)	3 (+2)	7	25 (+10)
8 Oppression & Resilience	5	4	49	3	4 (+2)	6	2 (+2)	2	75 (+4)
9 Race/Culture	3	1	6	2	2	2 (+2)	1 (+1)	9	26 (+3)
Totals	89	29 (+5)	211	54 (+5)	81 (+13)	44 (+12)	24 (+18)	49 (+3)	581 (+56)

Changes to Collections Eastern Washington University

	Asian/Pacific	B Bi/ Multiracial/ Mixed Race	C Black/ African/African American	D Brown-Skinned and/or Race Unclear	E Latinx/Hispanic/ Latin American	F First/Native Nations/American Indian/Indigenous	G Middle Eastern/North African/Arab	H Multi-Racial Cast of Characters	Totals
1 Any Child	26 (+7)	13 (+4)	58 (+5)	35 (+9)	25 (+1)	4	2 (+2)	11 (+2)	173 (+29)
2 Beautiful Life	71 (+10)	19 (+5)	97 (+6)	11 (+1)	103 (+4)	48 (+6)	14 (+2)	18 (+2)	381 (+36)
3 Biography	27 (+4)	18 (+3)	110 (+8)	2	36 (+1)	20 (+3)	6	8	227 (+19)
4 Cross Group	29 (+7)	10 (+4)	69 (+7)	20 (+5)	19 (+3)	15 (+7)	10 (+3)	5	177 (+36)
5 Folklore	17 (+1)	1 (+1)	11 (+1)	5 (+1)	12 (+1)	2 (+1)	5 (+1)	3	56 (+7)
6 Incidental	3 (+1)	1 (+1)	5	3	1 (+1)	1	1 (+1)	30 (+3)	45 (+7)
7 Informational	11 (+1)	2 (+1)	14 (+2)	7 (+3)	9 (+1)	4 (+1)	2	25 (+1)	74 (+10)
8 Oppression & Resilience	16 (+4)	8 (+2)	107 (+11)	10 (+4)	15 (+4)	19 (+7)	7 (+2)	6 (+1)	188 (+35)
9 Race/Culture	8 (+2)	8 (+3)	20 (+2)	6 (+1)	11	4	2	47 (+1)	106 (+9)
Totals	208 (+37)	80 (+24)	491 (+42)	99 (+24)	231 (+16)	117 (+25)	49 (+11)	152 (+9)	1424 (+185)

Diverse Bookfinder: Strengths and Weaknesses



Strengths

- Ease of use
- Time-saving: Quick results for large number of books
- Easy to move from results to collection development

Weaknesses

- Occasionally books get missed (ISBN problem?)
- Results are limited to racial and cultural identity

Analyzing LGBTQIA+ Representation



Sources we drew from in developing a rubric for LGBTQIA+ representation in picture books

- Diverse Book Finder https://diversebookfinder.org/
- Aronson, Callahan, & O'Brien, (2018), "Messages Matter:
 Investigating the Thematic Content of Picture Books Portraying
 Underrepresented Racial and Cultural Groups", Sociological
 Forum, 33(1)
- A literature review regarding diverse representation, especially of LGBTQIA+ characters and themes, in children's literature
- Our experience reading and analyzing the sample of books

Our LGBTQIA+ Categories

Community

Any Child

Incidental
Ensemble or Background Characters

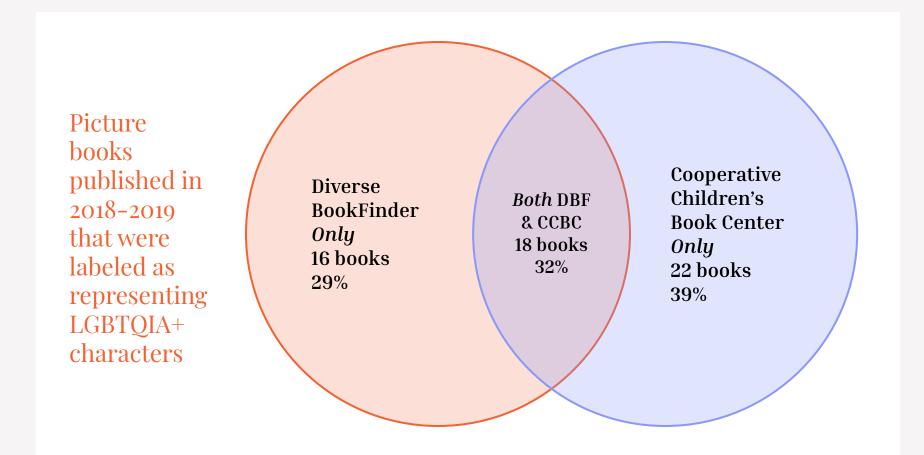
Beautiful Life A Focus on Identity Informational Factual Content

Biography

Resilience

Coming Out

Concepts
Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity



Selecting an LGBTQIA+ Glossary



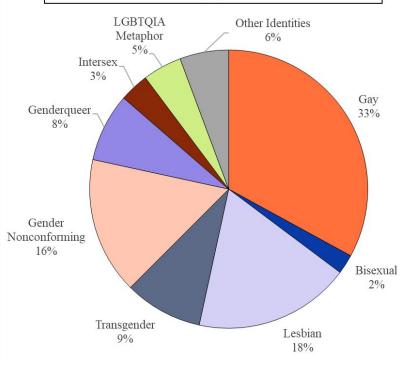


An ABC of Equality, Chana Ginelle Ewing, 2019

- We settled on LGBTQIA+ as the acronym that was inclusive of the range of identities we wanted to examine, and also most prevalent in the literature
- We needed a single glossary for language to label identities and orientations represented
- We chose the National LGBT Health Education Center's <u>Glossary of LGBT Terms for Health</u> <u>Care Teams</u>, again for its broad inclusivity of identities and orientations

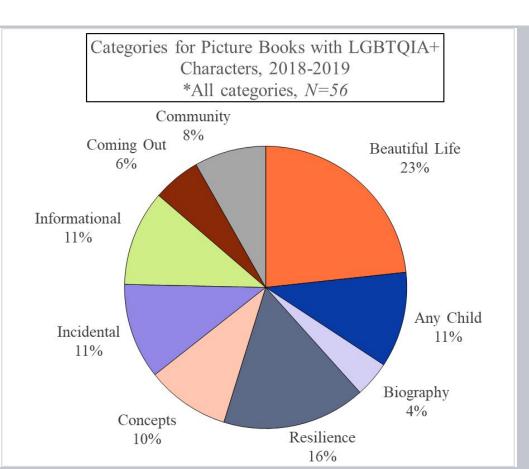
What We Found: Identity and Orientation





- Broad extent of coverage, balanced broadly between gender identities and sexual orientations
- Within orientation, some imbalance between gay and lesbian characters
- The oft-discussed phenomenon of bi erasure prevails, with virtually no representation of bisexual identity
- Within gender identity, a lean towards characters who are gender non-conforming or express genderqueer identity over characters whose identity is specifically transgender

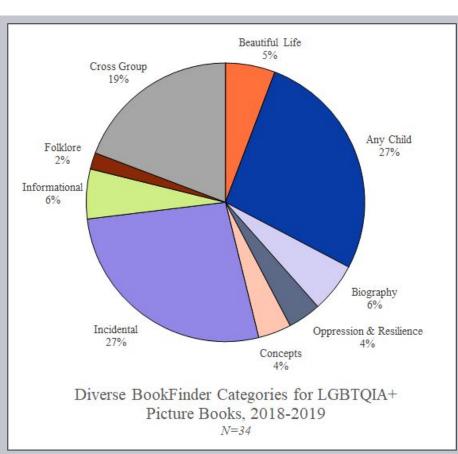
What We Found: Narratives and Approaches

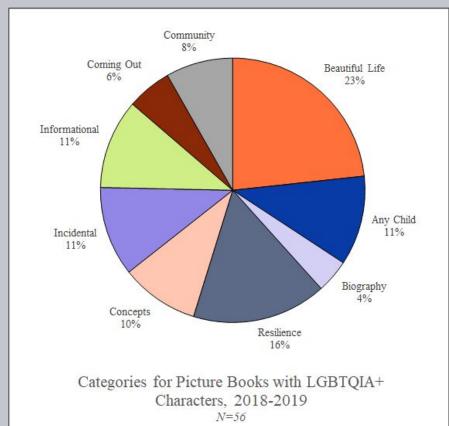


- While some categories are more prevalent -- Beautiful Life and Resilience in particular -- there is great breadth in this sample
- Non-fictional approaches

 (Biography, Informational,
 Concepts) are less common than fiction
- Coming Out narratives are not common in this sample

What We Found: Shift in Categories from a Race & Culture Focus to a Gender & Sexual Orientation Focus





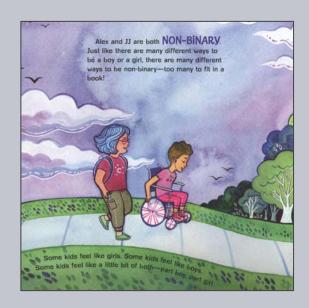
Intersectionality

How we asked these questions

- Are any characters who are part of the LGBTQIA+ community also depicted as having a disability as defined in IDEA, Section 300.8?
- Are any characters who are part of the LGBTQIA+ community also BIPOC?

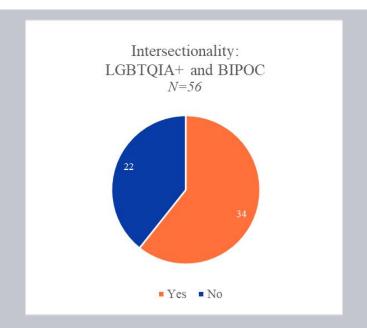
Why we asked these questions

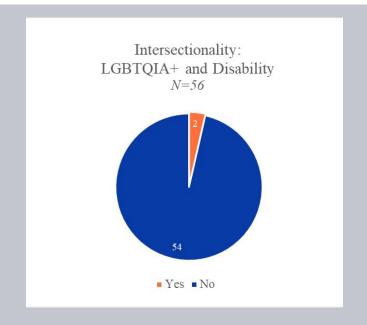
- An interest in tracking representation along multiple axes
- A desire to build towards more holistic approaches to diversity audits



It Feels Good to Be Yourself, Theresa Thorn, 2019

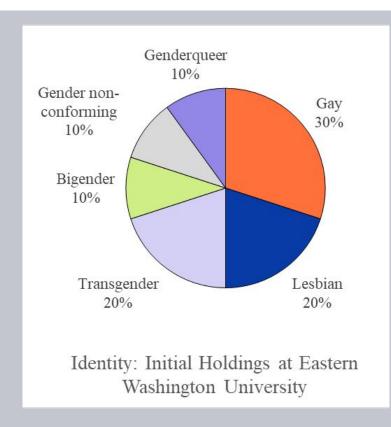
Intersectionality Statistics

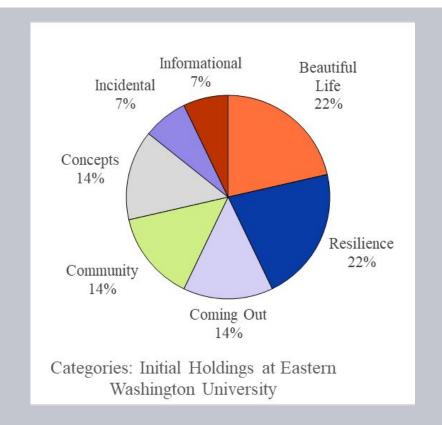




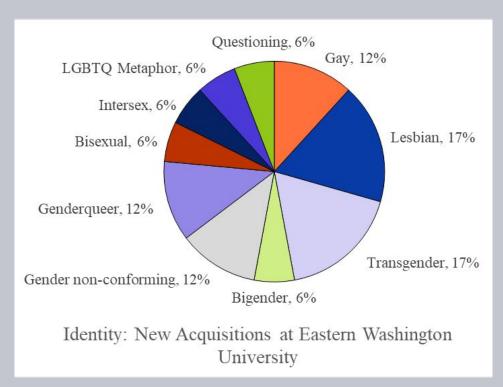
- 60% of books in the sample depicted LGBTQIA+ characters as racial/ethnic minorities (34 of 56)
- 4% of books in the sample depicted LGBTQIA+ characters with one or more disabilities (2 of 56)

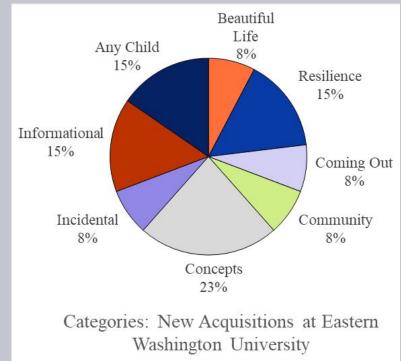
EWU Curriculum Center Initial Holdings (7 books)



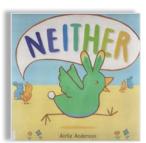


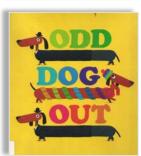
EWU Curriculum Center New Additions (7 books)





Building a Diversity Audit Based on Existing Resources





Successes

- Categories are both flexible and descriptive
- Diversity audit outcomes are achieved
- Collections are impacted positively as a result of the audit

Challenges

- DBF/CCBC approach to selecting titles can't extend earlier than 2018
- Category boundaries are diffuse
- Assessing and assigning represented identities is problematic

Addressing Other Social Identities



Other Aspects & Social Identities:

Socio-Economic Status/Class

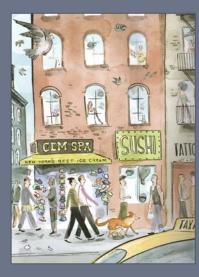
Political ideology

Religion

Geographical location



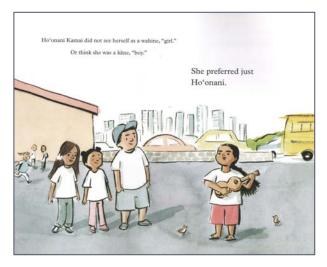




Honey and Leon Take the High Road, Alan Cumming, 2019

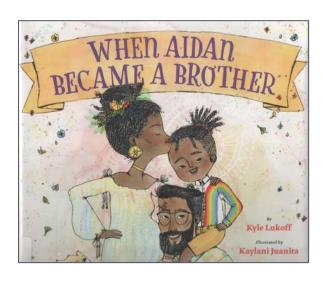
Additional Considerations

Intersectionality



Ho'onani: Hula Warrior, Heather Gale, 2019

#0wnVoices



When Aidan Became a Brother, Kyle Lukoff, 2019





My Shape is Sam, Amanda Jackson, 2019

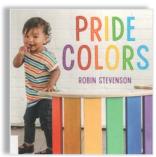


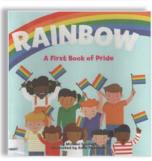
Neither, Airlie Anderson, 2018

Creating and Implementing A Diversity Audit

- 1. Use, adapt, or build upon available tools and resources like Diversity BookFinder and the CCBC catalog.
- 2. Establish clear goals for your audit, keeping in mind how you intend to use the results.
- 3. Be flexible.
- 4. Start with a smaller sample.
- 5. Prepare yourself for discomfort.

Next Steps in Our Research





- Developing a better method for identifying LGBTQIA+ books to assess
- Applying our analysis to a broader sample
- Testing our rubric in the hands of others
- Exploring #ownvoices representation
- Expanding our approach to other types of representation

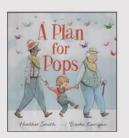
Thanks!

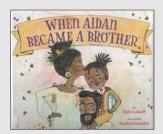
Any questions?

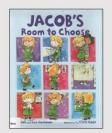
You can find us at:

James Rosenzweig jrosenzweig@ewu.edu

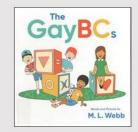
Alicia G. Vaandering avaandering@uri.edu



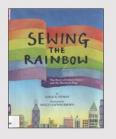


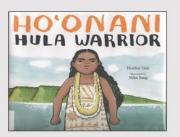














References

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