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Celebrating Cultural Diversity



Promoting Multicultural Perspective

A Public Library Initiative in conjunction with Community Partners

Program description

As a center of culture and learning, the library fosters the free flow of information and ideas, promote social awareness, and offers lifelong enrichment opportunities. This ongoing program will provide the children and youth of our diverse community with understanding of other cultures. This groundwork will help children to achieve their potential in an increasingly global community. The Celebrating Cultural Diversity program is offered to the general audience, will offer activities for children of all ages, and is extended in the form of ESL and computer technology classes.



Cultural Diversity Team

To offer an ongoing program a Multicultural Services Committee within the library and in the community will work together with educational institutions, social services, religious leaders, employers and business partners throughout the county to create an environment conducive to mutual respect, reciprocation, and learning. The collection, including periodicals, audiovisuals, and reference works that reflect cultures all over the world, for pre-K through high school. As a community team, we can achieve much more than we could individually.

Diversity Exchange

An opportunity to share ideas, resources and materials with other libraries and educators, an online database is a comprehensive tool for networking with other libraries, developing diversity programs and selecting materials. Diversity programs and training are offered on an ongoing basis in partnership with the community in order to enrich and broadens its views. The Diversity Exchange program was developed by a team of librarians at the Ocean County Library, <http://theoceancountylibrary.org/>. They have tools to assist in planning diversity programs. It offers an online database and is a comprehensive tool for networking with other libraries, developing diversity programs and selecting materials.

Programs and Services

Guest speakers, children's and young adult programs, and author receptions. For young children, offer story time, and an early literacy workshop focusing on ready to read skills. Other languages are easily integrated into the programs, utilizing computer classes, English as a second language, life skills and reading. Programs include author forums, talks by veterans and professionals, and movies for all age levels. Additionally, classes offered on genealogy, painting, crafts, and further exploration of cultural diversity. Library staff members will serve as resources and speakers for area organizations and schools to promote the Cultural Diversity Program. As library resources required will depend on the program plan for that month, this is best left flexible. The main resource required of the library would be staff time devoted to coordination, promotion and implementation. As a community project, this need not be cost prohibitive or exhaust library materials. As a multi-dimensional, ongoing project, this will work best as a collaborative effort.

Where to Begin



A logical starting place could be based on the geography, history and demographics of regions. For example, in Indiana this primarily includes Native Americans of the Illinois-Miami and Delaware tribes, European and African American heritage, and more recently, Latino, but does not exclude other cultures that have become part of the Indiana's population. The program is then expanded to represent nationalities that have immigrated to the United States and to reflect cultures around the globe.

Program schedule

This is an ongoing program that is offered continuously in the library, and throughout the community. An annual Ethnic Expo is held to celebrate many different cultures.



Annual Ethnic Expo

Ethnic food, market, entertainment, parade, costumes. Invite local vendors and clubs to participate and donate. This photo is from the Columbus, Indiana Ethnic Expo, as you can see it is well attended!



Feature a different culture every month

Program is announced on the website, on the websites of community partners, in the local newspaper, and the public radio station. Posters, fliers and brochures are distributed in schools, businesses, and churches. Promotional materials for displays, and give-aways such as bookmarks, fliers will be distributed. Announcements are made by

Email, World Wide Web, and community radio and newspaper announcements. Invite local artists and craftsmen to participate, and encourage local restaurants to offer discounts for "The Culture of The Month" cuisine.

Library exhibits: posters and displays will be posted at the front and back entrance bulletin boards and on display tables, and in the main lobby display case, in the restrooms, in the leisure reading areas. A large, colorful banner will greet visitors at the entrances each month.



Kick Off featuring sports and activities of different cultures. Chinese culture appears here as an example:

Shuttlecock kicking is not only of great fun, but also provides vigorous physical exercise. Shuttlecock kicking, Ti Jian Zi, is another traditional popular folk game.

Some records date its origin as far back as the Han Dynasty (206BC-220AD).



Draw Parallels: The shuttlecock is also the projectile used in badminton.



Language Parallels: Cognates

Go here: <http://www.latinamericalinks.com/spanish...> There's also what is called "false cognate". Those are words that are apparently similar but mean something different.

Look here: <http://www.spanish.bz/false-cognates.htm>



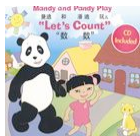
Host a Chinese New Year party



How To: <http://www.chinesefortunecalendar.com/NewYearParty.htm>

Children's books, movies about Chinese Customs: <http://www.chinesetapes.com/>

Wonderful illustrations and a CD teaches how to count in Chinese.



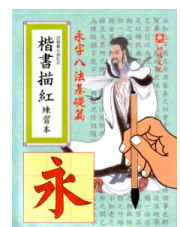
This book is a board book, which is great for toddlers. Pandy is Mandy's best friend, a giant panda bear. <http://www.childbook.com/>. Also offer other media.



Stir-up excitement with a recipe exchange of ethnic recipes at the library and start a blog.

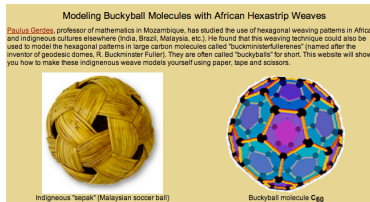


Cultural arts celebration in dance, music, painting, calligraphy, poetry, crafts . . . the list is endless!





Earn Culture Badges - Cultural diversity with regard to different aspects of culture can be explored, learned, or made and badges earned. Awards like ribbons or certificates are inexpensive.



Fascinating Math - Culturally Situated Design Tools:
Teaching Math Through Culture -
<http://www.rpi.edu/~eglash/csdt.html>.

Tech Trekker – utilizing technology in cultural education

Kids Culture Blog share how families celebrate holidays, birthdays, weddings, etc.

Wikis and Pathfinders that could be added to and updated by library staff, other educators, and student volunteers. Sometimes teens want to participate, but many times don't feel that they are needed or listened to.

History Detective – and present a culturally inclusive view of history and culture.
<http://pbskids.org/historydetectives/>



Genealogy - to encourage understanding of and pride in their heritage. Include online resources for access from homes and schools. These activities are also a great way to learn research skills.
<http://GenealogySpot.com/>



Books Drive/Exchange (include Media, Games, Posters, magazines, etc.)
This is a pro-active way to foster and share materials that help promote good will and understanding of others. Left over books and materials will be sent to children in other countries who are in need of these materials.
Materials in the Library Book Sale may be used to complete a collection exchange or to send. This is done in cooperation with public and private schools, and corporate and local booksellers and collectors.

Collection Objective in Conjunction with The Cultural Diversity Program

To meet the interests and needs of actual and potential users, promote cultural competency, to acknowledge and learn from our different experiences, viewpoints and stories. Priority is placed on acquiring materials that inform, educate, entertain, and enrich persons as individuals and members of society. Library resources are considered to encourage research, preserve cultural heritage and pride, to encourage understanding and tolerance, and to promote social responsibility, literacy and education. Covered in-depth are the materials reflecting the cultural heritage of the community and state. Also collected are materials on cross-cultural collaboration, social issues and biographies representing different ethnic backgrounds, and picture books featuring characters that reflect the many ethnicities of the United States. Collection of native language and dialects of local ethnic minorities, as well as foreign language materials to meet the informational and recreational needs of the community. Vision and values promote sensitivity to multicultural diversity, and to provide

patrons with a diversity of materials in multilingual formats.

Books & Book Lists

The American Library Association, <http://www.ala.org/ala/alsc/alscresources/resources.cfm>, *Notable Children's Book List* Each year a committee of the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) identifies the best of the best in children's books for age levels (birth – 14 yrs.)

Readings and discussions celebrating diversity: Two books were chosen in 2007 for children and young adults, *What's the difference: A children's guide to cultural diversity* (The Aware bears), by Holler, Jean and *Hearing all the voices: multicultural books for adolescents*, by Mary Ann Darby and Miki Pryne.

Recommend Books for the Holidays - 2006 A list of books about holidays (Hanukkah, Christmas, Chinese New Year) and good books to give as gifts for the holidays.

Growing Up Around the World Books as Passports to Global Understanding for Children in the U.S. - Five Bibliographies by the ALSC International Relations Committee

Books Dealing with Diversity *Child* magazine requested a list of books dealing with diversity. This book list was compiled in March 2004 by the ALSC Quicklists Consulting Committee.

Growing Up Latino in the USA A bibliography of children's books prepared by the ALSC to serve the needs of Latinos in the US through children's literature."

The American Experience: Strength from Diversity A bibliography of books that celebrate the diversity found in communities in the United States..

Bilingual Books for Children A bibliography of books currently available with bilingual text. Books on the list include books in two or more languages, published 1995-1999 or currently in print.

Sharing Cultures Bibliography A bibliography of books by Asian-American children's book authors compiled by the ALSC International Relations Committee.

Multi-media



Multicultural Media

CD's, DVD's, Video, Music & Society DVD's
<http://www.multiculturalmedia.com/>



Traditional and contemporary world music compact discs, videos and DVDs. Hard-to-find titles of folkloric, ethnographic and significant cultural musical examples. <http://www.worldmusicstore.com/>

Websites:

Awesome Library, Multicultural Toolkit (Toolkit for Cross-Cultural Collaboration).
<http://www.awesomelibrary.org/>.

Fact Monster, <http://www.factmonster.com/>. Fun and educational, this website has games, quizzes and is loaded with facts. The layout is very easy to navigate.

The International Children's Digital Library, <http://www.icdlbooks.org/>. Features onlinematerials that help children accept and value diverse cultures, languages and ideas.

Kaboose, <http://crafts.kaboose.com/>. Crafts, games, party planning, recipes.

The Library of Congress, Global Gateway. An excellent place to locate resources.
<http://www.loc.gov/rr/international/int-treasures.html>

Noggin, <http://www.noggin.com/>. This is a Commercial-free, educational TV network from the makers of Sesame Street and Nick Jr. Schedule features a mix of signature series from these networks and original series and shorts.

Multicultural Education through Miniatures, Cultural Activities and Games for Children and Teachers, <http://www.coedu.usf.edu/culture/activity.htm>.

Smithsonian Global Sound, <http://www.smithsonianglobalsound.org/>. Offers music and video clips, along with pertinent cultural information. This website is not geared toward children, but it is a great cultural resource for young adults, parents and educators.

StoryPlace, The Children's Digital Library, <http://www.storyplace.org/storyplace.asp>, Offers pages full of stories and activities for children of all ages, in English and Spanish. It links to a sister site, the Bee Hive, a guide to children's literature and books
<http://www.bookhive.org/>