

RECENT REVIEWS

Children's Core Collection

"This is the 22d edition of *Children's Core Collection* (CCC) and comes for the first time in two volumes, considerably helpful because it now runs over 3,100 pages. For those who prefer to search CCC online, it is available through EBSCOhost, where it is updated weekly. The CCC is comprised of fiction and nonfiction books recommended for children from preschool through sixth grade. An advisory committee of public and school librarians (listed on page ix of the front matter) selects books for inclusion. This edition has over 15,000 titles at the most highly recommended or core collection book level.

The book is designed to help librarians with purchasing, user service, curriculum support, collection development, and professional development and is divided into two parts. The first, Classified Collection, uses the Dewey Decimal system and starts with nonfiction followed by easy books, fiction, and story collections. Entries have full bibliographical descriptions, price information, recommended subject headings based on the *Sears List of Subject Headings*, a suggested classification number from the *Abridged Dewey Decimal Classification and Relative Index*, a short description, and an evaluation from a quoted source like *School Library Journal*. A star at the beginning of the entry indicates that the book is highly recommended. The second part is comprised of the author, title, and subject index. This list is alphabetical; classification numbers in bold help users locate the main entry for the book. The index employs "see" and "see also references." This title is a valuable tool for children's librarians."

-ARBA

"Collection development decisions can be overwhelming and time-consuming, as librarians try to maximize acquisitions budgets while also making sure that selected items are diverse and high-quality. Reference works such as the respected *Core Collections* series provide an unbiased, "one-stop shopping" resource. Librarians working with juvenile literature collections (specifically those intended for preschool through Grade 6) can utilize the *Children's Core Collection* to streamline the selection process when purchasing, as well as to make withdrawal decisions when weeding. It is also a great resource to have on hand when looking for individual titles in specific subject areas, such as when responding to reference questions or when finding materials to support elementary school curricula.

The 21st edition of *Children's Core Collection* is a huge bibliography, listing over 17,000 titles, including 4,000 new works since the previous edition. All of the included titles are in-print, English-language and published in the USA, Canada or the UK. The titles are well-organized, and overall, this is an easy-to-use resource. The organization is based on the Dewey Decimal Classification, which may be a concern for academic librarians and other Library of Congress Classification aficionados. Fortunately, there is an outline of the Dewey Classification table provided, as well as Dewey headings within the bibliography itself. Alternatively, searching can be carried out using the extensive Author, Title and Subject Index.

The entries are split into four sections according to genre: Nonfiction, Easy Picture Books, Fiction and Story Collections. Each of the entries provides detailed information including a citation which is aligned with *Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules, Second Edition* (AACR2), book price, grade levels for which the title is

H.W. Wilson

2 University Plaza, Suite 310, Hackensack, NJ 07601

(844) 630-6369 | FAX (201) 968-0511

www.hwwilsoninprint.com | info@hwwilsoninprint.com

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appropriate, subject headings, aligned with the *Sears List of Subject Headings*, ISBN(s) and awards such as Caldecott and Newbery Medals. Following this basic information are notes that include a brief plot synopsis or summary of book contents, as well as excerpts of critical reviews from publications such as *Booklist*, *Publishers Weekly*, *Kirkus Reviews*, and *School Library Journal*.

Print volumes like this run the risk of becoming quickly dated, as new children's titles are published frequently. Fortunately, *Children's Core Collection* now appears to be issued annually, with the 22nd edition listed for August 2015. Users may also want to investigate the alternative electronic version. This is available through EBSCOhost with weekly updates, more search options and additional features (such as book cover images and featured reviews). Librarians generally provide service to a variety of patron groups, so in addition to the *Children's Core Curriculum*, online subscriptions can be bundled to include other series including the *Middle and Junior High Core Collection*, *Senior High Core Collection* and/or the *Public Library Core Collection*. However, with its 3.5-inch spine and 2,300 pages, the print version has the added benefit of helping you take care of the spider in your office!

The intended audience for *Children's Core Collection* is clearly public and school media librarians looking to create well-rounded and comprehensive children's collections. Individuals who work with children's literature collections, teacher preparation programmes and those who work with library schools will find this a helpful, if heavy, companion."

-Reference Reviews, Volume 29, Number 8

"*Children's Core Collection* is a selective, annotated listing of fiction and nonfiction books recommended for children from preschool to grade six. This edition covers 17,000 titles; more than 4,000 titles are new since the 20th edition. The volume includes only English-language materials published in Canada, the US, and the UK. Because major customers are public and school libraries, the titles are classified by the Dewey Decimal system. Within each class, titles are accompanied by bibliographical and cataloging information, grade level, and critical reviews, mainly from *School Library Journal*, *Booklist*, *Kirkus Reviews*, and *Publishers Weekly*. The "most highly recommended" titles are marked with a star. This resource is indispensable for librarians and school media specialists involved with collection development and user advisory services."

- Choice, December 2014 Issue

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