**Table Talk - Assessing Diversity in Collections**  
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Abstract

In June 2022, the presenters organized a kick-off event for a community of practice focused on assessing collections for diversity, equity, and inclusion. As librarians involved with collections and DEI at our respective institutions, we perceived a need and a desire for librarians to share their practices around DEI assessment. The goal of creating diverse collections is becoming increasingly widespread, but many are uncertain of what methods to use to assess progress towards that goal. After a well-attended Zoom event, participants expressed interest in continuing the conversation. To that end, we have created an email list and a shared bibliography. We see this table talk as a way of continuing to build a community whose members can share their strategies and questions. Attendees will be invited to share projects they have done or are considering, or to come with questions. Topics could include setting diversity goals; finding author information; using existing metadata; focused projects or projects scaleable for larger collections; collaborating with students or faculty; and promotion and discovery of DEI collections.

Questions

For those of you whose libraries are doing DEI assessment, what is driving this work? Is it in response to a library-wide strategic plan, a collections committee, or someone else? Is it driven by a specific desired action or an attempt to create a baseline?

Has your library set goals related to diversity, equity, and inclusion in collections?

If you’ve done an assessment, what was the scope of it? In other words, did you assess the entire collection or just a portion? For instance, new books only, a sample of past books, just the children’s collection, or some other part.

Have you done assessment of journals, journal packages, or databases? If so, how did you focus your assessment?

Does your assessment project involve looking at author identities or topics covered in the works?

How do you go about finding author information? What have you treated as a reputable/appropriate source of author information? Have you encountered any issues related to the privacy of authors’ data?

If your assessment is focused on the topics covered in the works, are you relying on metadata that is already in the catalog or applying your own? (i.e. alternate thesauri, local codes)

Do you have strategies for assessing your own institutional efforts towards diversifying the collection?

Has anyone taken action or planned to take action based on an assessment?

Have you involved students or faculty in either assessment or purchasing/selection? (library advisory board, for example) Do you ask for input or contributions from campus community?

Do you promote or provide outreach around DEI collections? How does your catalog make the diversity of your collection visible, and can you do so without othering certain books?

Presenter Contact Information & Links

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Zotero group with articles related to Assessment for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion <https://www.zotero.org/groups/4633903/dei_assessment>

Sign-Up for Assessing Diversity in Collections Community of Practice email list <https://forms.gle/CSo1dNmhGoh6T9mz7>