A BARE BONES JUVENILE NON-FICTION COLLECTION

This compilation is designed to help the librarian in a small public library develop the juvenile nonfiction collection. It is meant to be only one of the tools that the librarian uses. I have listed major areas to cover, given advice about things to look for, and, when appropriate, suggested specific titles. Because a list of titles dates very rapidly, I have included only superior ones that are too good to miss. More often there is just a mention of a subject to cover with no suggested titles. For specific titles, consult retrospective tools such as CHILDREN'S CORE COLLECTION, as well as reviews of new books.

Remember that the resources of the CBEC (including me!) are available to help. Please call or email with any questions or concerns.

Grace W. Greene  
Youth Services Consultant  
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000 - COMPUTER SCIENCE, INFORMATION AND GENERAL WORKS

This area can be confusing since it contains subjects not apparently related. Reference books are usually located in a separate area; in small libraries the adult and juvenile reference materials may be interfiled for optimum usage. Major areas to cover include the following:

001.9 CONTROVERSIAL KNOWLEDGE - UFO's, monsters, Bermuda Triangle, etc. Topics sometimes popular with kids. Buy as interest dictates, but beware of sensationalized treatments.

004 & 005 DATA PROCESSING. COMPUTER SCIENCE - Books are being published so rapidly in this field that it is very difficult to keep the material current. Aim for a solid background book on the history, basic workings, etc. Supplement this with magazines and online information. Nothing should be over five years old.

011.6-025.4 BIBLIOGRAPHIES AND OTHER COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT TOOLS - Plan to borrow these books on Interlibrary loan from the Department of Libraries collection.

027 LIBRARIES - Have available at least one book that shows the range of experiences and materials at a modern public library.


070.5 PUBLISHING - Titles on this subject are especially helpful to supplement projects when kids are making their own books.

100 - PHILOSOPHY & PSYCHOLOGY

This section comprises a very small portion of the total juvenile collection. Be sure you cover the following:

130s THE OCCULT - This is usually a popular, high demand area. Purchase titles on ghosts, astrology, ESP, magic, witches, etc. as need dictates. Look for balanced, accurate, non-sensationalized treatment. Be sure to include a book on the Salem witchcraft trials, too.
155.4 **CHILD PSYCHOLOGY** - Include several books to help children cope with feelings and problems.

155.9 **ENVIRONMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY (DEATH)** - Have something for all age levels. Recommended title:


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**200 - RELIGION**

This area of the collection tends not to be used heavily and since the material does not generally date rapidly, unattractive, very old titles are often left on the shelf. Weed heavily and purchase a core collection of appealing titles. Avoid religious tracts, catechisms, or other "teaching" books. Cover religions in your community, but also include information on world religions.

200 Choose at least one title that offers basic information on the world’s religions.

220 **THE BIBLE** - If you have complete versions of the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament in the adult collection, you do not need to have duplicate copies in the juvenile area. Instead, rely on attractively illustrated, well-retold Bible story collections such as:


In addition to at least one of the collections above, buy some individually illustrated Bible stories as well. You may want to shelve these books with your picture books instead of in the nonfiction.

232.9 **FAMILY AND LIFE OF JESUS** - At least one story of the birth of Christ.

292 **CLASSICAL RELIGION (MYTHOLOGY)** - An important area in any juvenile collection. Look for retellings that retain the flavor of the stories. Include collections of Greek, Roman and Norse myths. A classic is *D’Aulaires’ Book of Greek Myths* by Ingri D’Aulaire (Doubleday, 1962. ISBN 978-0-3850-1583-7). Other good collections include:


297.3 **ISLAMIC WORSHIP** - Choose at least one overview of Islam, and individual titles on specific holidays like Ramadan.

300 - **SOCIAL SCIENCES**

302.3 **SOCIAL INTERACTION WITHIN GROUPS** - Most schools have active anti-bullying programs. Have an overview on bullying and one on cyber bullying.

303.6 **CONFLICT AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION** - This area includes peace, conflict resolution and terrorism. Have enough for reports and to answer children’s questions.

305.8 **ETHNIC AND NATIONAL GROUPS** - Have something on major American ethnic groups, and then buy as community needs dictate.

306.8 **MARRIAGE AND FAMILY** - This section includes books on all aspects of families: divorce, stepfamilies, new babies. Have at least one title in each age level for divorce, stepfamilies and different kinds of families. Some recommended titles:


323.11 **CIVIL RIGHTS** - Choose at least one book to cover human rights in America.


325.73 **IMMIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATES** - Have at least one overview of immigration, with information on Ellis Island.

326 **SLAVERY AND EMANCIPATION** - Include a couple of titles on the history of slavery. Recommended:


332.024 **PERSONAL FINANCE** - This is a subject that is getting a lot more attention lately. Choose one beginning book and one for kids old enough to make money.

333.72 **CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION** - Select a couple of books with ideas on how children can protect the environment.

333.79 **ENERGY** - Keep this area current by weeding regularly. Include an overview of the different types of energy, and titles on saving energy and alternative energies.

333.95 **BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (INCLUDES ENDANGERED SPECIES)** - Endangered species are of great interest, both as report topics and for recreational reading. Buy an overview, and then books on specific species, as money and demand warrants. Weed regularly since the status of species can change quickly.

342-353 **GOVERNMENT** - Have a book on the Constitution.

355 **MILITARY SCIENCE** - Include books on the history of weapons, military uniforms and armor.

362.1 **PHYSICAL ILLNESS** - Choose several titles to help children of all ages cope with illness and hospital care.

362.2 **SUBSTANCE ABUSE** - You will need information on smoking, alcohol and drugs.

362.4 **PROBLEMS OF AND SERVICES TO PEOPLE WITH PHYSICAL DISABILITIES** - Be sure to weed outdated points of view, and replace them with some recent titles.
**PROBLEMS OF AND SERVICES TO YOUNG PEOPLE** - This area includes a wide range of topics: child abuse, child safety, sexual abuse, adoption, foster care and daycare. All of these subjects are very important and should be adequately covered and frequently updated. Be sure to have books for different age ranges.

**POLICE SERVICES** - Books about police are still very popular with many young children, and many older ones are fascinated by forensics.

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS** - Heavy demand in this area, particularly for school assignments. Have up-to-date explanations of global warming, clean water and pollution (including environmental disasters) as well as books suggesting what children can do to make a difference.

**LANGUAGE ARTS (COMMUNICATION SKILLS)** - For a list of recommended titles see the CBEC's "Storyteller's Survival Kit." Plan to have one or two books for your professional shelf, and borrow others from the Department of Libraries to supplement.

**POSTAL COMMUNICATION** - A big topic in preschools and primary grades.

**TRANSPORTATION** - Very popular section. Include books on trains, boats and airplanes. Some of the younger titles you may want to shelve with your picture books.

**COSTUME AND PERSONAL APPEARANCE** - Heavily used, especially at Halloween. Include an historical overview and at least a couple of how-to’s. For teens, have books on body art and piercing.

**HOLIDAYS** - This section has heavy seasonal use. Purchase titles that encompass many holidays as well as individual titles on popular celebrations such as Christmas, Halloween and Kwanzaa.

**FOLK LITERATURE** - A major area of importance in any juvenile collection. Illustrated versions of single tales are usually better shelved with the picture books for optimum use. Collections of stories are usually not in as heavy demand and therefore have a longer shelf life. Weed out unattractive editions. First editions of well-known titles may be worth money - check with a local antiquarian book dealer before weeding. Buy collections as needed, but try to cover the following major areas:

**AFRICA** - A collection of Anansi stories and individual tales by Verna Aardema.

**ENGLAND** - Collections of King Arthur and Robin Hood stories.

**FRANCE** - Collection of Charles Perrault's stories.

**GERMANY** - Collection of the Grimms' fairy tales.
NORWAY - Asbjornsen and Moe – East of the Sun and West of the Moon (Several editions available).

USA - Include tales of African Americans, Native Americans, Appalachia, and tall tale heroes. Recommended:


Also, choose a collection of Aesop's Fables such as Jerry Pinkney’s Aesop’s Fables (Chronicle Books, 2000. ISBN 978-1-5871-7000-3) and a collection of the tales of the Arabian Nights. In addition, purchase one or two collections of tales from many countries, such as Amy Ehrlich's Random House Book of Fairy Tales (Random, 1985. ISBN 978-0-3948-5693-3.).

398.8 RHYMES AND RHYMING GAMES - In this number are collections of Mother Goose rhymes. Because of the importance of Mother Goose in developing language and a love of literature in the youngest, even the smallest library should have several compilations. Recommended:


400 - LANGUAGE

419 SIGN LANGUAGE - Children are fascinated by sign language, so have at least one book for younger children, and one for older ones.

423 DICTIONARIES OF STANDARD ENGLISH - Consider having two dictionaries, one for beginning readers and one for older children although older children mostly look up words online.

SPECIFIC LANGUAGES - Purchase dictionaries and how-to-speak books in a foreign language as community need dictates.

500 - SCIENCE

It is extremely important to keep certain areas of the 500s up-to-date. This is especially true for astronomy and the universe, where each space probe brings back new information. A science encyclopedia can act as a back-up for small collections that cannot afford a book on every subject. In addition, here are highlights to cover:

507 EDUCATION, RESEARCH, AND RELATED TOPICS - Usually a public library has many requests in this area. Have a selection of science experiment and science fair books on hand.

508 NATURAL HISTORY - Include here at least one book to help children explore nature and books on the four seasons.

510-519 MATHEMATICS - With new methods and theories, publishing in this area has skyrocketed the past few years. There are now fun introductions to all areas of math, from counting to algebra.

523 SPECIFIC CELESTIAL BODIES AND PHENOMENA (i.e. the universe and the planets) - It is extremely important to keep this area weeded and up-to-date since information changes so quickly. Have on hand an overview, a star guide, a book on the sun and one on the moon. You need to have books that explain that Pluto is no longer considered a planet.

537 ELECTRICITY AND ELECTRONICS - Have books on the properties of electricity and ones on electrical experiments.

539.7 ATOMIC AND NUCLEAR PHYSICS - Keep this area up-to-date since information and point of view change rapidly.

540 CHEMISTRY - Buy a basic concept book. Add others, especially books on experiments, depending on demand.
MINERALOGY - Purchase a field guide aimed at children, and share a more detailed one with the adult department.

EARTH SCIENCES - Includes books on volcanoes, the ocean, meteorology, climate and geology. Titles should be no older than 5-10 years; purchase individual topics as need dictates. Children love books on weather as well as geologic disasters such as tornadoes, volcanoes and earthquakes.

PALEONTOLOGY, PALEOZOOLOGY: FOSSILS, EARLY MAN, DINOSAURS - A subject area that has endless fascination for children. A library can never have enough dinosaur books, and there are many excellent ones to choose from. Weed old titles ruthlessly; because of recent discoveries you should have nothing over ten years old, and most titles should be no more than five years old.

EVOLUTION - Buy an overview as well as a popular treatment for younger children.

ECOLOGY - This area features all the different ecosystems of the world (e.g. rainforest, desert, etc.) Buy as budget and demand warrant.

PLANTS - Choose at least one book in each of these major subjects: plants, seeds, flowers, trees, and leaves. Share field guides with the adult section.

ANIMALS - You could spend all of your money in this section alone, because of interest and number of titles. Buy some overviews of animal families, and then as many individual titles as you can manage. Be sure to cover all the major areas: shells, mollusks, spiders, insects, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals, marsupials, rodents, whales, carnivores, monkeys and apes. Have several titles on sharks, snakes, spiders and whales - subjects that are very popular with kids. There are many good series and individual books on animals. This area does not date as rapidly as some others, so weed mainly on appearance and usage.

600 - TECHNOLOGY

The 600s are the practical side of your collection, containing many "how-to" books and topics popular with children. It is important to keep current with trends and to offer a good selection of titles in high demand subjects such as pets. Make sure to include:


INVENTIONS AND PATENTS - Choose an historical overview.

REPRODUCTION, DEVELOPMENT, MATURATION - Purchase several titles on this topic to satisfy the needs of children of all ages and families with different sensibilities. Weed regularly since attitudes (and some information) change rapidly. Recommended titles include:


DISEASES - For most diseases buy as need dictates, but you will probably want to cover diabetes, asthma and cancer.

DISEASES OF DIGESTIVE SYSTEM - Include books on the causes and risks of obesity.
**DENTISTRY** - Include a picture book format for a young child just beginning dental treatment and an overview of dental care for older kids.

**MACHINE ENGINEERING** - Since children are very interested in large machines, buy as many books as you can on this topic, especially ones for younger children.

**RAILROADS** - Include here simple books on trains and at least one book for older kids.

**OTHER BRANCHES OF SANITARY AND MUNICIPAL ENGINEERING** - Firefighting is another popular subject, so buy as much as your budget allows.

**AERONAUTICS** - Cover: history of flight, books on specific aircraft types and at least one book on making paper airplanes.

**TYPES OF VEHICLES** - Purchase a good up-to-date selection for this popular area. You will need highly illustrated books on trucks, tractors, racing cars, cars, and motorcycles.

**ASTRONAUTICS** - Include histories of early missions and up to date information on what is happening now.

**AUTOMATIC CONTROL ENGINEERING** - Robotics is a popular topic, so have a history and a new book about technological advances.

**AGRICULTURE** - Vermont libraries need several titles in this subject area.

**SUGAR, SYRUP, STARCH CROPS** - You must have books on sugaring - as many as you can find!

**ORCHARDS, FRUIT, FORESTRY** - The most popular topic here (for teachers) is apples. Buy a couple of titles.

**GARDEN CROPS** - Purchase a couple of how-to's: one for younger children and one for older ones.

**FARM ANIMALS AND PETS** - You can never have enough books in this area. Buy a standard title that covers many pets and then individual titles on dogs, cats, horses, rabbits, gerbils, hamsters, guinea pigs, ferrets and birds. You will definitely need more than one title on horses, dogs and cats. Particularly in rural areas also cover sheep, pigs, chickens, and cows. Also have a book about being a veterinarian.

**PROCESSING DAIRY AND RELATED PRODUCTS** - You need books on both milk and ice cream.
CONSERVATION OF BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES - A rapidly growing section, this area covers work done to save wildlife. Children will want materials for reports and leisure reading.

COOKING - Have at least one basic cookbook for kids and consider buying some of the ethnic cookbooks if you have demand for international recipes. For older kids you should have a vegetarian cookbook.

CHILD REARING - Include here books on toilet training and babysitting.

PROCESSES OF WRITTEN COMMUNICATION - Children love to learn and figure out codes. Buy as many on this topic as you can.

BOOK ARTS - To help with projects, buy a book that shows how to make books with children.

BUILDINGS - Many children are interested in how buildings are built, as well as how they're taken down. Include a book for younger children, and more intricate ones for older kids such as titles by David Macaulay.

WOOD CONSTRUCTION. CARPENTRY - Select at least one basic carpentry book.

700 - ARTS AND RECREATION

This section includes some very popular subjects such as crafts and sports, as well as those of more curricular interest such as art history.

ART PHILOSOPHY AND THEORY - Have at least one book about how to look at art.

ART - GALLERIES, MUSEUMS, PRIVATE COLLECTIONS - Select a book about how to visit an art museum.

ART HISTORY - One general title should be sufficient.


CARVING AND CARVINGS. PAPER CUTTING AND FOLDING - Buy at least one book on origami and one on making pop-up books.
DRAWING - This is an extremely popular area with children. Buy as many titles as possible. Be sure to include titles that encourage freedom and creativity, as well as those that have a step-by-step approach.

CARTOON, CARICATURES, COMICS - Have books on drawing manga and other cartoon types. This is also the number where graphic novels are classified; take them out and make a separate section.

HANDICRAFTS - This is a large and very popular subject. Choose books both for kids and for adults working with kids. Be sure to include holiday crafts as well as books on specific crafts.

KNITTING, CROCHETING, TATTING - Knitting has become popular with lots of kids, so have a couple of books for them to borrow.

PHOTOGRAPHY - Provide how-to's for younger and older children, including info on picture-editing software.


MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS - Choose at least one title that introduces the various instruments, and one on how to make instruments.

SONGS - Choose several collections of songs. Illustrated renditions of individual songs will probably move better in the picture book collection.

CIRCUSES - Most kids love the circus, so provide at least one overview.

PUPPETRY - Both children and adults working with children require books on puppets.


PARTIES, GAMES - Adults frequently ask for suggestions of games and activities for parties, so choose at least two party books. Also provide a book of instructions for many games such as Jack Maguire's Hopsotch, Hangman, Hot-Potato, and Ha Ha Ha: A Rule Book of Children's Games. (Fireside, 1990. ISBN 978-0-06717-632-9 (pap.)). In addition, be sure to have a book on noncompetitive games.

PUZZLES AND PUZZLE GAMES - Jokes and riddles, perennially popular subjects, are in this area. Buy as many as you can afford, and be prepared to be asked hundreds of stupid riddles! Also included here are the very popular picture puzzle books of Walter Wick.
MAGIC AND RELATED ACTIVITIES - Since magic is always popular with children, choose at least one book for beginners and one for older kids. Buy a beginning juggling book, too.

ATHLETIC AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AND GAMES - Choose a well-written clearly illustrated middle grade title on each subject. If local interest in a particular sport is high, buy several titles. Be sure to include:

796.1 - MISCELLANEOUS GAMES. Here are shelved books on finger plays - great for librarians, teachers and parents.

796.22 - SKATEBOARDING.

796.323 - BASKETBALL.

796.332 - FOOTBALL.

796.334 - SOCCER.

796.342 - TENNIS.

796.357 - BASEBALL.

796.44 - GYMNASTICS.

796.48 - OLYMPIC GAMES

796.5 - OUTDOOR LIFE. Choose a book on camping basics.

796.6 - CYCLING AND RELATED ACTIVITIES. Include regular bicycling, BMX and all terrain bicycles.

796.72 - AUTOMOBILE RACING.

796.8 - COMBAT SPORTS. (Wrestling, Martial Arts)

796.9 - SNOWBOARDING.

796.91 - ICE SKATING.

796.93 - SKIING.

796.962 - ICE HOCKEY.

797.1 - BOATING.
797.2 - SWIMMING.

798.2 - HORSEMANSHIP. A popular topic, especially in Vermont.

799.1 - FISHING.

799.2 - HUNTING.

800 - LITERATURE

This section of juvenile nonfiction is not generally heavily used. Therefore, it is especially important to weed out the shabby old tomes that never move, and buy some new attractive titles.

808  **RHETORIC** - Choose a basic book on how to write, and one on writing school reports. Be sure to include Eileen Christelow’s *What Do Authors Do?* (Sandpiper, 1997. ISBN 978-0-3958-6621-4 (pap.)).

808.8  **LITERATURE - COLLECTIONS** - Compilations tend to be shelf sitters, unless parents and teachers know about them. Consider a basic anthology as a reference and back-up source for smaller collections

808.81,  **POETRY - COLLECTIONS. AMERICAN POETRY-Collections and**

811.008,  **ENGLISH POETRY-Collections** - There are dozens of excellent poetry collections available, so let demand dictate how many to buy. Ones too good to miss include:


811 **AMERICAN POETRY** - Again, there are too many good volumes available to list them all. You should include some light verse by Douglas Florian, Jack Prelutsky, J. Patrick Lewis and Shel Silverstein, as well as books by more serious poets like Arnold Adoff, Nikki Giovanni, Eloise Greenfield, Nikki Grimes, X.J. Kennedy, Myra Cohn Livingston, Eve Merriam, Naomi Shihab Nye, Joyce Sidman and Gary Soto.

812 **AMERICAN DRAMA** - Choose some plays in traditional format, and some that are more innovative.


822.3 **WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE** - If you need a retelling, Charles and Mary Lamb's *Tales from Shakespeare* (several editions available) is the classic one, but there are new ones, too. Also available are retellings by Bruce Coville of several of the most popular plays, published individually.


895.6 **JAPANESE LITERATURE** - Haiku is very popular with teachers and children.

897 **LITERATURE OF NORTH AMERICAN NATIVE LANGUAGES** - Good collections include *Dancing Teepees* selected by Virginia Driving Hawk Snee (Holiday House, 1989. ISBN 978-0-0823-4072-8).

**900 - HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY**

910.4 **ACCOUNTS OF TRAVEL** - Books about pirates, sunken treasure and sea disasters are popular.

912 **ATLASES, MAPS** - Choose one from the several excellent ones available. *Goode's World Atlas* from Rand McNally is a perennial favorite. Update every five years.
COLLECTIVE BIOGRAPHY - Biographical collections tend to be used for reference or in answering school assignments. Unfortunately, because of their physical placement in the 900's, these titles may be overlooked when biography is needed. Subject areas to cover are: presidents, inventors, explorers, authors, influential women and notable African-Americans. Kathleen Krull’s collections are particularly entertaining, as well as informative.

INDIVIDUAL BIOGRAPHY - See the CBEC bibliography, "Bare Bones Juvenile Biography List" for specific suggestions.


ARCHAEOLOGY - Buy an overview, and supplement with accounts of “bog bodies” and “Ice Men.”

EGYPT TO 640 A.D. - This section is heavily used for assignments and general interest, too, so buy several titles.

CHINA TO 420 AD - Have an overview and a book about the terracotta soldiers.

ROMAN EMPIRE

GREECE TO 323 A.D. - Like ancient Egypt, ancient Rome and Greece are popular topics for assignments. Buy as needed to supplement the local school library's collection.

EUROPE - EARLY HISTORY TO 1453 - Another section often heavily used for school assignments and to satisfy kids' fascination with knights and castles. Choose an overview and at least one highly pictorial book.

WORLD WAR I, 1914-18 - Both World Wars hold a fascination for young people. Look for books that present a balanced, realistic view.

WORLD WAR II, 1939-1945 - Select an overview or two, titles that explain battles, a book on life in the U. S. during the war, and ones which show the horrors of war, specifically books on the Holocaust. Recommended titles include:


**COUNTRIES** - It is very difficult to keep this section adequately covered and up-to-date. Few libraries can afford a book on every country but there are excellent online sources. For individual books, identify the countries that are asked for regularly, and purchase information just on those. Titles should be updated at least every ten years because of frequent changes in political and social systems. Be sure to get rid of those old books on East Germany, the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia especially, and purchase new titles on places in the news like Iraq, Iran and Afghanistan.

**SCandinavia** - Included in this number are books on the Vikings.

**VIETNAM** - Choose books both on the Vietnam War and one on the country itself.

**NORTH AMERICAN NATIVE PEOPLES** - This section is heavily used in most libraries. Be sure your titles are up-to-date and unbiased. Include a book that covers many native people, and one specifically on the Abenakis. A copy of *Finding One’s Way* and a related teacher's manual may be obtained for free from the Abenaki Self-Help Association in Swanton, Vermont.

**CANADA** - Be sure to cover adequately the history and geography of our northern neighbor.

**MIDDLE AMERICA. MEXICO** - If demand warrants, select a book on the Maya, and one on the Aztecs, as well as one on Mexico today.

**UNITED STATES** - Advice on buying books on individual states is similar to that of countries. Most libraries cannot afford to have a book on each state, so buy only ones in great demand. Have at least one title on each of the New England states, and as much as you can on Vermont (see the CBEC bibliography, "The Green Mountain Sampler," for a comprehensive listing of books on Vermont). Children's Press has two series: "America the Beautiful" which covers each state individually for grades 5 up, and "From Sea to Shining Sea" for younger children. Marshall Cavendish Benchmark also has the “It’s My State!” series.

For historical treatments of this country, buy an overview, and then select at least one book on each major historical period.

**973.2** - Colonial Period

**973.3** - Revolution

**973.7** - Civil War
**NORTHEASTERN UNITED STATES** - Here are included histories of New England. Choose at least one book on the Pilgrims.

**WESTERN UNITED STATES** - The western movement is regularly studied in the schools, and cowboys are popular again, so buy several titles in this area.

**ARCTIC ISLANDS AND ANTARCTICA** - Books about polar exploration are quite popular, so be sure to have some on at least Shackleton and Byrd as well as more current trips.