

## Adult Literacy Collection Development

### Standards and Statements from Professional Organizations

- [ALA's Literacy webpage](#)
- [IFLA's Guidelines for Easy-to-Read Materials](#)

### Determining Community Needs

- Use the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy's [Literacy Gap Map](#) to see literacy levels for adults in your county.
- Feedback from community groups: Talk with local organizations that serve adult learners within your community.
- Look at [poverty levels for your county](#). Poverty and low literacy are linked, so this can be a good indicator of literacy levels in your community.
- Patron requests.

### Categories of Materials

- Books that are high interest, low reading level (or hi-lo)
- Novellas and short stories
- Magazines and newspapers
- Audiobooks
- Young adult materials
- Graphic novels

### Promotion and Display

To increase the promotion and circulation of materials:

- Talk to local organizations that serve adult learners. Invite them to the library for a tour or ask if library staff can attend one of their events.
- Display materials in an attractive, convenient location.
- Use clearly visible signage to identify where the materials are shelved.

### Publishers and Distributors

The Vermont Department of Libraries does not endorse or recommend specific vendors. Because materials for adults with low literacy levels may be difficult to find, this list is intended to provide libraries with a broad range of options to consider.

Libraries are not limited to this list and may select their preferred vendors and follow their local procurement procedures.

- [Lee and Low](#)
- [Orca Book Publishers](#)
- [Oxford University Press: Oxford Bookworms Library](#)
- [Bookshots](#)
- [Grass Roots Press](#)
- [New Readers Press](#)
- [Townsend Press](#)

### **Training and Other Resources**

- [ALA's Literacy for All: Adult Literacy through Libraries](#)
- ProLiteracy Training: [Tools for Adult Literacy through Your Library Webinar](#)
- Library Journal: [Stigma-Free Reading for Adults](#)
- VTLIB's training: [Rural Literacy and Public Libraries](#)