

Working Group on the Status of Vermont Libraries Testimony on Collections in School Libraries

Library Name:

School Name: Doty and Rumney school libraries

Town or towns served: Worcester, Middlesex Vermont

Person submitting this testimony and your job title: Alyson Mahony library media specialist

Would you be willing to offer in-person testimony and answer questions during the public hearing on January 14, 2022? If you answer yes, we'll be in touch with more details. If you'd rather not testify in person, we will submit your testimony in written form for the Working Group members to read, and your written testimony will also be included as a part of the public record. YES _____ NO _____ I don't think so _____

Collection size (number of volumes): Doty = 6,408 materials / RMS = 12, 832 materials

Number of students at your school: Doty = 185 patrons / RMS = 342 patrons

Please share any other statistics about your collection that might be helpful to the working group. Some examples could include the percentage of fiction versus nonfiction in your collection, the numbers of items you circulate per month or per school year, or anything else that helps us get insight into your collection and its use in your school.

Average age of collection: Doty = 19 years old / RMS = 21 years old

Part time librarians don't have as much time to weed and discard out of date materials or to complete an inventory.

What are the strengths of your current collection?

Doty has been awarded several grants so that it has a great collection of award winning mathematical books and books that promote justice, equity, diversity and inclusion. As a small, rural school this collection is extremely important to readers who do not have access to books at

home, and are far from public libraries and bookstores. Several home school students access the collection, as well as custodial staff and para-professionals.

Rumney students are by and large voracious readers and before the pandemic parents often browsed the library and checked out books for home reading.

What are the weaknesses of your current collection?

The Doty collection is small and missing many items. Although the population is small, these patrons deserve a larger collection and access to the collection year round.

Both Rumney and Doty collections are dated and the collection of DIY and makerspace books, as well as books that reflect rural interests are lacking.

Do you participate in resource sharing and interlibrary loan, either through Clover, between libraries in your school district, with your local public libraries, or through other resource sharing programs? Tell us about how resource sharing works for you and your students.

Inter - district library loans work great because of the close network of librarians that work together. Clover is time consuming for me but I will use it a couple of times a year to get sets of books for book clubs and book walk materials.

Do you offer any special collections at your library? These could be a specific collection designed to support targeted learning programs at your school, a Vermont or local history collection, or other groupings designed to serve specific needs. Please tell us about these collections and the populations they serve.

I have curated a collection of read aloud books that target social, emotional learning for guidance counselors and teachers to use in their classrooms.

Do you offer ebooks and audiobooks in your collection? If so, how do you provide access to them? Through the Shared Schools Collection (Overdrive), Vermont Online

Library, through another vendor, through direct access from your catalog, through physical devices such as Kindles or Playaways, or some other method? Are you happy with the balance of ebooks, audiobooks and print books in your collection?

Some students use SORA and I teach them to use Libby to access some books from the public library. I wish we had a separate budget for audio books and that the system was more straight forward and streamlined.

Do you catalog and circulate things besides books in your library? Some examples could include games and puzzles, maps and globes, learning tools or other physical items.

Games, some maker supply kits. I would like to do much more.

What else would you like the working group to know about your school library collection? How has your collection changed over time? What changes do you hope to make in the future? What are the biggest challenges you anticipate, and how do you plan to solve them?

Time is the biggest challenge. With more time, more grants could be written for STREAM supplies, diverse titles, and UDL tools to access materials.