



# Building a Diverse Asian American Library: A Toolkit

By Miriam Tuliao

Are you thinking of ways to build a diverse library through equity, diversity and inclusion? Not sure where to begin? In this toolkit, we will share some resources for you to consider to support your community of readers!

- **Guidelines for Building an Inclusive Library**

When thinking of building an inclusive library, consider reviewing these resources from the American Library Association on Diverse Collections, EDI and Intellectual Freedom:

## Resources

- [AASL Standards Framework for Learners, American Association of School Librarians](#)
- [APALA Rubric to Evaluate Asian American and Pacific Islander Youth Literature](#)
- [Anti-Racism Resources for All Ages, A Project by the Augusta Baker Chair](#)
- [Assessing Community Needs and Resources, Community Tool Box, Center for Community Health and Development, University of Kansas](#)
- [Asian-American Writers, Wikipedia](#)
- ["Diverse Collections: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights", American Library Association](#)
- [The Diversity Baseline Survey, Lee & Low Books](#)
- [Diversity Considerations in YA: Doing a Diversity Audit](#)
- [Doing a YA Collection Diversity Audit: Understanding Your Local Community, Teen Librarian Toolbox](#)
- [Dr. Rudine Sims Bishop's "Windows, Mirrors, and Sliding Glass Doors" \(1990\).](#)
- ["Equity, Diversity, Inclusion: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights", American Library Association](#)
- ["Intellectual Freedom Core Documents", American Library Association](#)
- [Picture This: Reflecting Diversity in Children's Book Publishing by Sarah Dahlen Park](#)

- [Project READY: Reimagining Equity & Access for Diverse Youth, Institute of Museum and Library Services](#)
- [“Selecting Culturally Appropriate Books Guide”, The Office of Head Start National Center on Cultural and Linguistic Responsiveness](#)
- [Teen Services Competencies for Library Staff, Young Adult Library Services Association](#)

### **Selected Readings and Publications**

- Bennett, Milton. J. (2004). Becoming Interculturally Competent. In Jaime S. Wurzel (Ed.) *Toward Multiculturalism: A Reader in Multicultural Education*. Intercultural Resource Corporation.
- Davis, Jewel. (2021). Chapter 8: From Cultural Traditions to Diverse Superheroes: Strategies for Building Inclusive Youth Collections. *Advances in Librarianship*, 48, 67–77.
- Elrod, Rachel, & Brittany Kester. (2020). Diverse BookFinder: BIPOC Collection Development for Children’s and Young Adult Collections. *College & Research Libraries News*, 81(10), 481–485.
- Hughes-Hassell, Sandra. (2020). Collection Management for Youth: Equity, Inclusion, and Learning.
- Kuehl, Rachele. (2021). Can Children of Different Races “See” Themselves in Audiobooks? A Comparison of U.S. Library Systems’ Offerings. *Collection Management*, 46(1), 14–34.
- Mortensen, Annabelle. (2019). Measuring Diversity in the Collection. *Library Journal*, 144(4), 28–30.
- Manglik, Gauri, & Sadaf Siddique. (2018). *Muslims in Story: Expanding Multicultural Understanding through Children's and Young Adult Literature*. ALA Editions.
- [Research on Diversity in Youth Literature \(RDYL\), St. Catherine University Master of Library and Information Science Program and University Library](#)
- Soulen, Rita, & Meredith Hill. (2021). Diverse Literature for All: A Research-Practice Partnership to Strengthen Collection Development. *Teacher Librarian*, 48(4), 14–20.

### **APALA Rubric to Evaluate Asian American and Pacific Youth Literature**

From the [Asian Pacific American Librarians Association \(APALA\)](#), “this rubric is intended to function as a guide, not a checklist, while reviewing and evaluating Asian American and Pacific Islander American (APIA) youth literature for readers who are 0-18 years old. Throughout the rubric, some terms requiring context will be in boldface type and defined in the glossary attached. We use the term “APIA” throughout this rubric, though much of the criteria can be applied to the Asian diaspora, which is very diverse in terms of geography, culture, language, religion, and so on.” Read more [here](#).

- **Collection Development Policy: A How To Approach**

When thinking of collection development policy in your library and/or class rooms, you may want to follow these steps outlined by [KQED's Kara Newhouse](#).

### **Booklists**

- [Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Reading List, New York Public Library](#)
- [Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association Literature Awards](#)
- [Asian American Pacific Islander Booklist, Children's Book Committee, Bank Street College of Education](#)
- [BookDragon: Books for the Diverse Reader, Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center](#)
- [Cooperative Children's Book Center \(CCBC\) Booklists](#)
- [Gold House Book Club's Children List](#)
- [KiBooka: Kids Books by Korean Americans](#)
- [Social Justice Books: Asian Americans](#)
- [Worlds of Words Booklists, University of Arizona](#)

### **Organizations & Groups**

- [Asian Author Alliance](#)
- [Asian American Writers' Workshop](#)
- [Cooperative Children's Book Center](#)
- [Desi Books](#)
- [South Asian Writers](#)
- [We Need Diverse Books](#)

### **Publishers/Imprints**

- [Kokila Books](#)
- [Lee & Low Books](#)
- [Tuttle Publishing](#)
- [UCLA Asian American Studies Center Press Collection](#)
- [University of Hawai'i Press](#)
- [University of Illinois Press](#)
- [University of Washington Press](#)