

The Wish List

Suggestions from
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Reaching the Reader
in a Changing Marketplace



- We are seeking nonfiction titles for **all reading levels**, not just in alignment with the grade/age that the subject falls within for common core or other curriculum schedules. (KC)
- **Preschool level introductions** to nonfiction subjects are in high demand, especially those that cover nonfiction topics utilizing a narrative format. (KC)
- We are looking for Pre-school/Kindergarten level books about the **Olympics and Olympic sports** (KC)
- **Mental health issues** – Our collection development librarian spoke to someone from the American Psychological Association that was at ALA last year. Their books are only geared towards an adult audience but cover so many topics that teens and kids also deal with. When you find kids' books on these tough topics they tend to oversimplify the topic and it's more how to/not to instead of dealing with the topic from a treatment view. Kids look to books on self-mutilation, STDs, and sex and not find adequate information how to deal with these tough issues. The books we find are basic and over generalized. (KC)
- **Controversial pro/con topics** - Teachers assign pro/con papers and the readily available books on popular topics like teen pregnancy are easy to find. But kids are looking for titles that are relevant and interesting to them. (Example: should athletes getting paid to play in college) (KC)
- **Updated country books** – we struggle to find new books on countries that are transitioning quickly – which also are the ones in the news that students are looking for. (KC)

I also second the **country** books. We especially need books on **Middle Eastern and African** countries and not at the World of Enchantment level (way too long) but more at the True Books level (but more current). Also need updated National Parks books. (RR)

- **Social Emotional topics**– Our schools are always looking for books that address social emotional topics, but aren't preachy and don't speak down to the children. Messages we look for include resilience, grit, friendship, and self-esteem. (KC)
- We need books on **malnutrition** that don't feature starving children in Africa, but what happens if you don't eat enough of the right vitamins/minerals/macronutrients. (RR)
- We need **updated health books**: cerebral palsy, heart disease etc., for kids. We liked the recent trend on books on autism and ADHD for kids and want to see it expand to other health issues that have had new research but not new books. (RR)
- Please only publish **craft books with modern looking photographs** instead of illustrations for the step-by-step images. If they don't have color photos, our patrons just go to Pinterest and we stop buying those books. (RR)

- We need **longer biographies 6th-8th grade level** that are about 100-150 pages. Emma Watson, Kate Middleton, Lionel Messi, Ellen DeGeneres are missing updated books that are longer than 32 pages for youth. (RR)
- We need updated **political systems books**... books on socialism, etc..., and then offices in US (cabinet members and what each does... like the Standing in the Shoes of... series, etc...). (RR)
- **More graphic nonfiction** - biographies, memoirs, science, history (AW)
- **More informational nonfiction** - at NYPL teens check out informational nonfiction 3x more vs narrative nonfiction (AW)
- **More educational guides** for titles, series, or grouping of books (i.e. create Read Alikes **for all your books on a particular topic** such Gr. 6 Historical Fiction or Civil War) (AW)

Things we wish publishers and wholesalers would keep in mind:

- **Including images of computers, cell phones, and other technologies quickly date a book.** We see this a lot in books about careers. We are more likely to purchase and recommend series that can remain visually and factually relevant. (KC)
- **Publishing books with titles like “America’s Prison System, 1800 – Today”** can also be an issue, as soon as the title is published it is outdated since the “today” being referenced has obviously passed. Clearly communicate to the youth audience where the information’s timeline stops. (KC)
- **We are witnessing a trend in new books that are being marketed for a youth audience, but have more appeal to adults** –book length, format, and illustrations do not appeal to the target audience, even if visually interesting to adults. (KC)
- **Schools and Libraries are looking for books that can hold up to heavy use by children.** The materials used in some of the new porous covers (possibly a matte laminate?) make them feel dirty before they have even left the shelf. (KC)
I second Katie on the matte surfaces of books. I like a paper jacket that can be laminated and then cleaned or a plastic pre-laminate cover. (RR)
- **Please no posters on the inside surface of book jackets** - the kids tear off our covers to see what is inside. (AW)
- **Better metadata that is more descriptive vs prescriptive** – i.e. when Common Core first came out there was such a rush to attach standards to titles; we haven’t found this to be helpful to teachers. Instead we found it most helpful (and we have added this to our own description fields) when suggested information about possible instructional purposes is added (i.e. great title for teaching multiple perspectives / point of view / compare and contrast) (AW)