Silencing the Internal Censor in YA Collection Development

The Booklist
All YA award and honor books from previous 10 years:
- Américas Book Award
- Carter G. Woodson Book Award
- Coretta Scott King Book Award
- Pura Belpré Award
- Tomás Rivera Mexican American Children's Book Award
83 total titles
- 51 African American and 32 Latino
- 47 Fiction and 36 Nonfiction & Biography
74 total authors & illustrators
- 63 authors
- 1 author/illustrator
- 10 illustrators

South Carolina
42 total public library systems
- 2 multi-county regional systems
- 39 single county systems
- 1 municipal system
SC youth population in 2010
- 1,080,474 total under 18
- 32.5% African American
- 7.5% Latino
- 44.7% total youth of color
The search
- 83 titles in 42 OPACs
- Holdings ranged from 21 to 78 titles.
- The average number of titles was 44.
- 19 of the titles were shelved in the adult section in at least one library.
- 1 of the titles was shelved in adult reference in one system.
- Only 1 title was held by all 42 libraries.
- 17 titles were held by less than 10 systems, including 2 titles held by none.

How does fear of challenges affect my book selection?
When does the word “community” stop meaning teens and start meaning potential censors?
How do I handle patrons who are openly hostile about books for Latinos?

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Fieldwork
Select 3 positive outliers by:
- Rank by number of booklist titles held
- Rank by size of under 18 population
- Rank by size of print collection
- Rank by size of print collection budget
Three total systems
- ~40 hours of fieldwork at each library
Collect & Analyze Using CRT
- Notes from direct observation of staff interaction with teen patrons, use of multicultural materials in displays & programming, etc.
- Printed materials, including collection development policy, brochures, bibliographies, news releases, etc.
- In-depth interviews with all staff who select for teens

Future Research

Mixed Methods
Using a similar research design to study:
- The collection of GLBTQ books for teens
- Expanding research to a national level
- How teen books end up in the adult section
- How LIS education influences a librarian’s thoughts on censorship and selection
- How race & ethnicity enter the discussion in the young adult materials classroom