New Books in CCC Library’s Collection

Clackamas Community College (CCC) is actively working to develop a comprehensive Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Plan. CCC recognizes the educational opportunity gap that leaves many groups underrepresented in college. As CCC’s mission is to serve all students, the College is making an intentional effort to improve access and completion for systemically non-dominant communities.

CCC Library strives to provide the CCC community with services, collections, programming, and spaces that reflect our commitment to DEI principles in support of teaching and learning. One way we reflect our commitment to these principles is through the collections we provide.

Historically, library collections have not reflected the diversity of our nation. Libraries in the U.S. were built in the early 1900s by immigrants who imported a Eurocentric worldview that influenced which books were purchased. Public libraries at that time were agents of the “Americanization” project\(^1\), which prepared European immigrants\(^2\) to prepare for U.S. citizenship. Libraries selected materials that supported ideas about how best to assist European immigrants become U.S. citizens rather than choosing materials to support a variety of populations and interests. The legacy of these practices has resulted in collections that often reinforce dominant narratives and marginalize certain groups through misinformation, biased categories, or omission. The result is that many library collections do not provide literature that reflects the experiences of all who visit them.

Modern libraries have attempted to be neutral and collect materials representing “all points of view on current and historical issues\(^3\)” so that all library users can feel themselves represented in the collection. Yet neutral in an unfair society is not neutral. Neutrality preserves the status quo and benefits those in positions of power, even those that include prejudice, bias, and omission. CCC Library is retroactively balancing its collection by filling the gap of materials written by, for, and about marginalized people to improve its collection and provide more equitable service than we have in the past.

CCC Library and its collections are not immune to this history. We have work to do; some of it you will see reflected in the titles shared in our New Books display.

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\(^1\) Honma, T. (2005). Trippin’ over the color line: The invisibility of race in library and information studies. *Interactions: The UCLA Journal of Education and Information Studies, 1*(2). Retrieved from [https://escholarship.org/uc/item/4nj0w1mp](https://escholarship.org/uc/item/4nj0w1mp)


Creating an inclusive, equitable library is more than building a diverse collection. CCC Library has done away with late fines. “Libraries are for Everyone” signs grace our walls – so far in 28 languages! CCC Library has adopted gender-inclusive language in system-automated communications. Diverse books are promoted all year round, not just in designated months. Library staff are pursuing learning opportunities related to cultural competence, identity, and privilege. Library internal guidelines and procedures are continuously reexamined as staff awareness grows. CCC Library plans to enhance the flexibility of our study areas, improve our wayfinding signage, provide equity-based services, and more. As we work to build a more inclusive library, CCC Library is collaborating with CCC’s Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee. We welcome your feedback and suggestions!