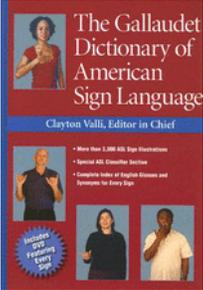
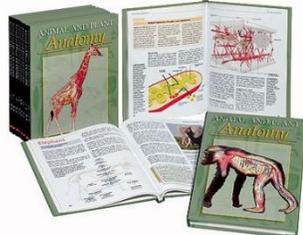
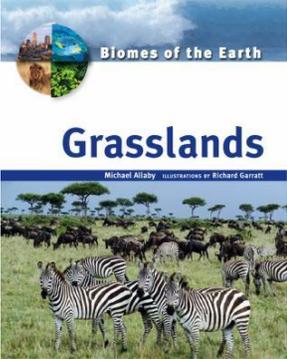
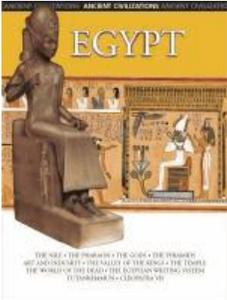


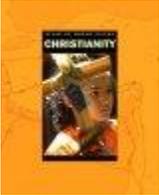
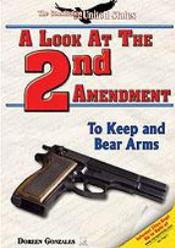
Reference Collection

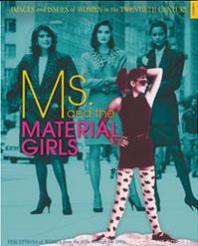
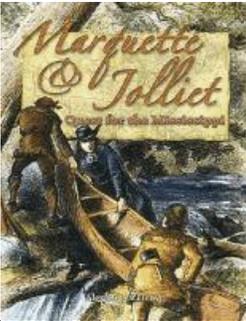
If I was going to build a reference collection I would start by mapping out the layout of the reference section so that I could see the amount of space I would have for materials. I would like to keep this section fairly close to the circulation desk so that reference questions get all the attention they need. I am going to build a reference section for middle school—grades 6th-8th grades. I am going to plan for 5-6 section's of book shelves (3 shelves on each section). I want to have a well rounded collection of resources that address: General Reference, Science, History, Math and Cultural Diversity and High Interest. I will divide my collection up into those areas for the purposes of this assignment. The following table has 30+ resources both print and online resources with publishing information and a brief summary or description of the resource. Following the table will be my rationale for selection of these resources.

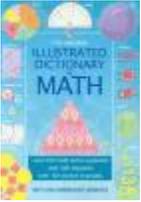
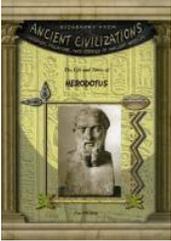
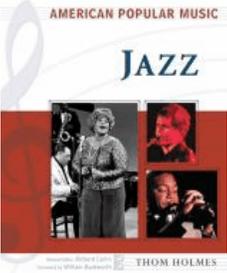
Title of Resource	Publishing Information	Brief Summary/Description
General References		
<i>The World Almanac and Book of Facts</i>	World Almanac Books 2008 Grades 4 and up Cost: 22.95	World Almanac has been publishing almanacs for 140 years.
<i>Merriam-Webster's Visual Dictionary</i> By Jean-Claude Corbeil and Ariane Archambault	Merriam Webster 2006 960 pages Grades 1-4 Cost 36.96	Have over 6,000 color illustrations and 20,000 entries. This would be a perfect dictionary for special education students who might need visual photo cues.
<i>Merriam-Webster's Compact Visual Dictionary</i>	Merriam-Webster 2008 1,088 pages Grades 4-7 Cost 21.99	This dictionary has 2,500 illustrations and over 9,500 entries.
<i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i>	Merriam-Webster 2008	Have over 70,000 entries. This dictionary has expanded coverage

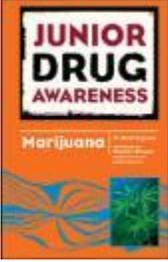
	Grades 5-8 Cost 15.99	of phases and idioms as well as usage examples.
<p><i>The Gallaudet Dictionary of American Sign Language</i></p> 	<p>Gallaudet University Press 2005 Grades 7 and up</p> <p>558 pages</p>	<p>This dictionary comes with a DVE that demonstrates featuring each sign. Has cross-reference of words. Over 3,000 entries.</p>
<p><i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Thesaurus</i></p>	<p>Merriam-Webster 2005</p> <p>872 pages Cost 15.99</p>	<p>Coordinates with the Intermediate Dictionary.</p>
<p><i>World Book Encyclopedia 2010</i></p> 	<p>World Book Inc. Cost: \$1,053.00 25 Volumes</p>	<p>This is the set of encyclopedias that 7th and 8th graders most prefer to use when researching.</p>
<p>Student World Book Online</p>	<p>INFOhio Free www.infohio.org</p>	<p>This online encyclopedia is easy to search, can be searched at various grade levels. Also has a dictionary and thesaurus.</p>
<p>Science</p>		
<p><i>Inventors and Inventions</i></p>	<p>Marshall Cavendish Corp 2008 5 Volume Set Grades 7 and Up Cost: \$399.00</p>	<p>It has an A-Z format, over 172 articles, index of inventions, index or inventors, photos, maps, timelines.</p>
<p><i>Animal and Plant Anatomy</i></p> 	<p>Marshall Cavendish Corp 2007</p> <p>Volumes- 11</p>	<p>This is an illustrated content encyclopedia with over 83 articles on comparing different animal and plant anatomical structures.</p>
<p><i>Science Online</i></p>	<p>Facts on File INFOhio Free www.infohio.org</p>	<p>This is an outstanding database perfect for middle school students. Easy to navigate and full text articles.</p>

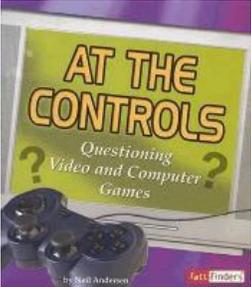
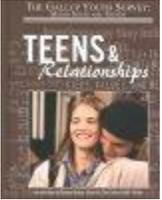
<p><i>Weather and Climate</i> By Melissa Hill</p> 	<p>Gale 2007</p> <p>Volumes 1-5</p> <p>Grade 8 and up</p>	<p>This is a comprehensive set of books on weather, climate and natural disasters. It goes beyond the basic information, explores technological advances and the effect of human activities on the weather.</p>
<p><i>Biomes of the Earth</i> By Michael Allaby Illustrated by Richard Garratt</p> 	<p>Chelsea House 2008</p>	<p>This a multi-volume set of books that cover biomes i.e.: coniferous forests, continental margins, deciduous forest, desert etc. Great illustrations. Talks about the animals that live in the biome and human impact on the biome.</p>
<p>History</p>		
<p><i>Ancient Civilizations Series</i></p>  <p>By Eva Barallo</p>	<p>Chelsea House 2006</p> <p>31 pages/book</p>	<p>Books in this series include: Rome, Mesopotamia, Egypt and Greece. This has really great pictures. Information is chunked.</p>
<p><i>Cultural Atlas for Young People Set</i> (Each book by different author)</p> 	<p>Chelsea House 2007 8 Book Set</p> <p>Grades 5-8 96 pages/book Cost \$251.00</p>	<p>Books in this set are: Africa, Ancient China, Ancient Egypt, Ancient Greece, Ancient Rome, Ancient Mesopotamia, Ancient Maya and Aztec Civilization and The Middle Ages. Great photos and many maps.</p>
<p><i>World Almanac Library Ancient Civilizations Set</i> (Each book written by a different author)</p>	<p>Gareth Stevens Publishing 2006 Grades 5-8 48 pages/book</p>	<p>Includes Ancient: Greece, Rome, Mesopotamia, and Egypt.</p> <p>Looks at a variety of artifacts and the story they tell from ancient</p>

	Cost: \$93.00	times.
<p><i>Atlas of World Faiths Set</i> (Each book written by different author)</p> 	<p>Black Rabbit Books 2008</p> <p>48 pages/book 6 book set Cost \$176.99</p>	<p>Titles include: Buddhism, Judaism, Hinduism, Sikhism, Christianity, and Islam.</p> <p>Has the history of the religion up to present day practices. Includes religious holidays.</p>
<i>American History Online</i>	<p>Facts on File 2010 Priced per student/by district http://www.fofweb.com/Subscription/Default.asp?BID=7</p>	
<i>Ancient and Medieval History Online</i>	<p>Facts on File 2010 Same URL as above Priced per student/by district</p>	<p>This site has biographies, events, primary sources, timelines, images, videos, maps and charts. Easy to use.</p>
<p><i>The Constitution of the United States Set</i> (Books written by different authors)</p> 	<p>Enslow Publishers 2007</p> <p>128 pages/book Grades 6 and up Cost: \$ 174.65</p>	<p>Looks at the major amendments and how they affect our lives.</p>
<i>Battles and Leaders Set</i>	<p>DK Publishing 2008</p> <p>Grades 5 and up 96 pages/book Cost: \$45.99</p>	<p>This set includes Vietnam War, WWII and the Civil War. This is a great concise about causes, major battles, outcomes and biographies on leaders. Illustrated color with charts and maps.</p>
<p><i>Images and Issues of Women in the 20th Century Set</i> By Catherine Gourley</p>	<p>Lerner Publishing Group 2008</p> <p>Grades 7-12 Cost: 173.99 5 Book Set</p>	<p>Women who rebelled or reacted to issues in the 20th century. Titles include: Rosie and Mrs. America, Gidgets and Women Warriors, Ms. And the Material Girls etc. This does a comparative</p>

		<p>study with old and new roles.</p>
<p><i>American Social Reform Movements</i> By Judy Galens and Kathleen Edgar</p> 	<p>Gale/Cengage Learning 2006</p>	<p>Multi-volume set that includes civil rights, gay rights, women's suffrage, war protests and labor rights. This will be a great starting point for students to get background information on specific topics prior to research projects.</p>
<p><i>A History of the United States</i> By Joy Hakim</p> 	<p>Oxford University Press 3rd Edition 2007</p> <p>Grades 4-12</p> <p>Cost: 208.00 HB DVD set: 200.00 Assessment Book 49.95</p>	<p>This set of books starts with the first Americans (prehistory) until and ends with All the People Since 1945. Hakim's books have great pictures (almost on every page), maps, timelines, the final book has a combined index of all the volumes, highlighted vocabulary words and has primary source documents. There is a teacher resource that you can order separately that goes with this set as well as a 4 set of DVD's.</p>
<p><i>In the Footsteps of Explorers</i></p> 	<p>Crabtree Publishers 2005-2008 15 Book Set</p> <p>32 pages/book Grades 6-10</p>	<p>All major explorers are covered in this set. Maps and color illustrations.</p>
<p>Math</p>		
<p><i>Pioneers in Mathematics Series</i> By Michael J. Bradely PH.D.</p>	<p>New York: Chelsea House 2006 Middle School/High School</p>	<p>This is a good solid series of books on the evolution of mathematics from ancient times to the present. It has great biographies on</p>

		<p>mathematicians. It has an extensive glossary and Internet resources.</p>
<p><i>Illustrated Dictionary of Math</i> By Tori Large</p> 	<p>Usborne 2006 Middle/High School</p>	<p>This one is worthy of circulating—it has great math help for middle school through high school.</p>
<p>Cultural/High Interest</p>		
<p><i>Biography From Ancient Civilizations</i> Series By Jim Whiting</p> 	<p>Mitchell Lane Publishers 2007 Most books have about 48 pages Middle School</p>	<p>Includes some of the following biographies: King Arthur, Aristotle, Cicero, Herodotus, Hippocrates, Nostradamus, Plato, and Pythagoras. These are great because they have timeline for chronology, glossary and index. The information is chunked in these books perfect for middle school.</p>
<p><i>CultureGrams 2010</i> Produced by Culture Grams and Brigham Young University</p>	<p>Millennial Star Network 2010 2 Volumes</p>	<p>This a comprehensive guide on each country in the world. Each country is broken down into background, the people and the society.</p>
<p><i>American Popular Music</i> By Thom Holmes</p> 	<p>New York: Facts on File 2006 7 Volume Set Middle-High School</p>	<p>This is a great set of books—each book is on a different type of music. Includes: Blues, Classical, Country, Folk, Jazz, Rock and Roll, Rhythm and Blues, Rap and Hip Hop. Covers history of the music, instruments, leading composers and performers. Biographical and chronological information included. Easy to read and great illustrations.</p>
<p><i>Character Education (Series)</i> (Each book by a different author) Series Consultant:</p>	<p>Chelsea House 2009 Grades 6-12</p>	<p>Titles in this series: Being Fair and Honest, Dealing with Bullying, Handling Peer Pressure, Handling Teamwork and Respect for Others and Overcoming Prejudice.</p>

<p>Madonna M. Murphy Ph. D. and Sharon L. Banas</p> 	<p>Cost \$140.00</p>	<p>This set of books is designed to empower students with tools they need to handle everyday teen issues.</p>
<p><i>Junior Drug Awareness Set</i> (Each book has a different author)</p> <p>Series introduction author is Ronald J. Brogan.</p> 	<p>Chelsea House 2008-2009</p> <p>14 Volume Set</p>	<p>This set stresses the drugs that are most widely abused by pre-teen and teens. It has great pictures, news stories (to help with connections), glossary, bibliography, index, further reading and suggested web sites.</p> <p>Sample titles: <i>Alcohol, Cocaine and Crack, Nicotine, Diet Pills, Steroids, Vicodin, Oxycotin and other Pain Relievers</i> to name a few.</p>
<p><i>Issues that Concern You Set</i> (Each book written by different authors)</p> 	<p>Greenhaven Press 2007-2009</p> <p>144 pages/book 18 book set Cost: \$454.99</p>	<p>Teen issues that are of high interest to students.</p> <p>Some of the titles: <i>Body Image, Date Rape, Dress Code in Schools, Dieting and Downloading Music.</i> Varying viewpoints.</p>
<p><i>Introducing Issues with Opposing Viewpoints Set</i></p> 	<p>Greenhaven Press 2007-2009</p> <p>Grades 7-10 15 Book set 151 pages/book</p>	<p>Some titles included in this set: <i>Garbage and Recycling, Crime, Rap Music, Eating Disorders, Adoption</i> and many more. Set up in an easy to read Pro/Con format. Uses charts, graphs and tables.</p>

<p>Media Literacy Set (All by different authors)</p> 	<p>Capstone Press 2007</p> <p>6 Book set Grades 4-7 32 pages/book Cost \$107.00</p>	<p>This set of books gives pre-teens some pro-con view points when looking at the media messages that they are bombard with on a daily basis. Titles include: <i>At the Controls: Questioning Video and Computer Games, Coming Distractions: Questioning Movies, TV Takeover, Virtually True, Pretty in Print and Music Madness.</i> Trendy topic.</p>
<p>Gallop Youth Survey Sets</p> 	<p>Mason Crest Publishers 2005</p> <p>2 Sets of Books Cost: 137.70 and 183.60</p> <p>Grades 7-12</p>	<p>A sample of the titles: <i>Teens & Alcohol, Teens & Sex, Teens & Family Issues, Teens & the Media</i> etc. These are very current topics that should have high interest for teens.</p>

Rationale

Assembling this reference collection took a lot longer than I thought because of the variety of sources/publishers that I needed to search in order to get resources that met content standards/curriculum. The other challenge is to get resources that are less than 5 years old—some reference books do not update their sets/volumes often enough to meet that criteria. I could use the above collection to start a new library or to update one. I am planning to use 5 or 6 of these for my school's media center. This assignment forced me to look places that I never knew existed, and I have been ordering books for ten years now.

I started out with some general resources, dictionaries, thesaurus and encyclopedias. I like Merriam-Webster products for the ease of use with students. I selected several levels of dictionaries because I have low level readers and special education students who use my media center. I have Britannica, Americana and World Book encyclopedias and 7th and 8th graders use the World Book Encyclopedia almost exclusively. So that is why World Book 2010 was selected. The information is A-Z, chunked and at a reading level appropriate for the 6th to 8th grade students. There are plenty of colored pictures, maps and charts which are lacking in other encyclopedias. I also selected a sign language dictionary that comes with a DVD that demonstrates each word. I have many students that are interested in sign language so this is a

great addition to a reference collection. World Book Student was selected as the online encyclopedia to use with students. Students find this database easy to navigate and to use. I like this resource because it is very comprehensive; it has a dictionary and thesaurus. Important reason for choosing this resource is that it is free through INFOhio. Students with varying reading levels can use resources for K-5 or 9-12. Lastly I think it is important to have a current World Almanac and so one should be ordered yearly. (Every couple of years I like to order sports almanacs, which give current and historical statistics).

Science resources should be updated theoretically, every 5 years, but in reality budgets often do not allow for that to happen so that alternating some good science reference books and having a science database is very important. I found some excellent resources in the areas of inventions, animals, plants, weather and biomes. I could not find resources that were current enough or comprehensive enough in the areas of earth science, space and motion. All the resources selected in the science area might be considered content encyclopedias which are great quick resources for students. Most are A-Z organized or there is one book on each area. These resources were selected to assist in meeting the science content standards. These resources all chunk the materials, have plenty of color photos/illustrations and are at grade level reading. The weather book is at a slightly higher reading level but it has a few unique qualities that lower level books do not have---the human impact on weather. Science Online will round out my science resources. It is a very valuable resource that INFOhio offers free to Ohio schools. It is easy to use, has great visuals and very comprehensive.

Social studies/history resources are in the areas of ancient civilizations, explorers and American history. The 7th graders cover ancient civilizations for three quarters of the school year and so it is important to have plenty of resources covering the various civilizations. I have had a hard time finding a current in-depth look into each civilization. Many of the resources I have selected have 30-50 pages per book. They have great information but are somewhat limiting. I also selected a set of books on world religions that is also studied with ancient civilizations. The ones I have selected have great illustrations and chunked information. Facts on File, Ancient and Medieval History Online is an excellent resource to help round out this area—it has biographies, timelines, maps, charts, primary sources, photos and videos. The only downside is the cost. Facts on File charges per student in the school—with some negotiation I was able to get them to charge me just for 7th grade students—that is the only grade level to study it—8th graders would have no reason to use that database. For American History I choose a set of books on the amendments to better assist students in visualizing and connecting the amendments to their lives. The Battles and Leader, Women of the 20th century

and Explorers were chosen not only for their history value but for their biographies. Many male students enjoy reading the war books and the Battle and Leader books are great because they are chunked, very colorful and they discuss war strategies. Joy Hakim's US History books are good resources that span America from birth to modern history. Good information and great pictures make this an easy resource for 8th graders to use. My final selection was a set of books on reform movements in America. This set of books can be used with, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, as student's research the time period prior to reading the book.

Math is always a challenge but I found a real gem in the *Pioneers of Mathematics Series* of books. It does a great job of documenting chronological evolution of math and has great math biographies. The *Usborne's Illustrated Math Dictionary* is a great resource for students when doing math homework—this one should definitely circulate. Good visuals and great explanations of math concepts.

The final category was cultural and high interest books. *Culture Grams* is a great way to keep current with world information. I usually tell students to use these books along with my country books (which are a little dated) because the latest information on population, economics and government will be in the *Culture Grams*. A drawback to this 2 volume set is the price—but it is well worth it. I like the *Music and Ancient Biographies* books for the biographies and timelines. The *Ancient Biographies* are short enough for students to use them as a resource when studying ancient civilizations. I am lacking in non-fiction books in the music area so this multi-volume set of books on *Popular American Music* will be the perfect addition. Drug books were selected because all 7th grade students have to write a drug report and the information is geared to a middle school student reading level and interest level. My final selections for this collection were high interest books. They are *Character Education*, *Issues that Concern You*, *Introducing Issues with Opposing Viewpoints*, *Media Literacy* and *Gallup Survey* books. These were all selected with the middle school student in mind—what questions or concerns do they have that they might want a book on. I choose a couple different levels of books—like the *Media Literacy* are books with 32 pages in each book and the other sets having between 120 to 150 pages. These resources have great information as well as give general agency information if a student would need help.

I think I have a well rounded, current selection of resources that would appeal to middle school students and that have enough depth that staff will want to recommend students to use these resources.