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Collection Management  
Final Project

This collection management project was designed to enhance the adult biography section of Cedar Park Public Library. In this project, we identify the strengths and weaknesses of the current collection and provide recommendations for improvement. We examined many facets of the collection including the use and distribution of materials by format, the currency and condition of the physical holdings, and the marketing of the collection. We analyzed the user population and made recommendations for withdrawal and addition of materials. This paper aims to summarize our project and present our findings.

### **Analyzing the user population**

Knowledge of the demographics of users at Cedar Park Public Library is vital to making decisions about the merits of the collection. Since no user surveys have been done at the library, we used statistical information from the United States Census Bureau to make our decisions.

According to the United States Census Bureau (2014), the estimated population of Cedar Park in 2012 was 57,957 with 69.3% listed as white, non hispanic. Cedar Park consists mostly of persons between the ages of eighteen and sixty-five. Only 6.7% of the population is aged sixty-five or older while only 30.7% of the population is aged eighteen or younger (Bureau, 2014). The median household income from 2008 - 2012 totaled \$76,118, with only 6.2% of the population living at or below poverty level (Bureau, 2014). Cedar Park is a highly educated community as 95.9% of persons over age twenty-five are high school graduates, while 42.9% of persons over age twenty-five hold bachelor's degrees (Bureau, 2014).<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Myers, Lyndsey and Laura White. Format Comparison. 2014.

Our analysis of available Census data suggests that Cedar Park Public Library's main user population is educated, affluent, and middle aged white persons. Understanding who the primary library users are in Cedar Park Public Library allowed us to consider what materials might be of interest to the main population. It also challenged us to consider what subpopulations may exist in Cedar Park, and how they could be served by the library.

### **Using review sources**

In addition to analyzing the user population, we sought to augment the current collection by suggesting materials for purchase. We primarily used four review sources to aid us in the discovery of new materials: Library Journal's Best Books, New York Times book reviews, the social media site Goodreads, and the online marketplace Amazon. We selected these sources because they allowed us to get reviews from different viewpoints, reflecting different types of users. Below we've listed our sources and detailed some information regarding the purpose and usability of the source.

1. Library Journal's Best Books

Library Journal provides a list of the best books of the year in both biography and memoirs. These annotated lists include book reviews and purchasing information. The large photos of book covers and short, informative annotations are sure to aid librarians in selecting materials for their collections.

2. New York Times book reviews

Browsable and searchable, the New York Times Sunday Book Review is a well known and trusted book reviewer. While the interface and list options leave something to be desired, users will seek out this source because of its prestigious name, and are sure to find reviews for a wide variety of titles. Libraries should place high emphasis on this review site and the

New York Times Bestseller List as users actively seek materials reviewed and selected by The New York Times.

### 3. Goodreads

A social media site by nature, Goodreads allows users to browse books, read or write reviews, and create online “bookshelves” of material they’ve read or wish to read. Users are likely to use the source because they can interact with other readers, and read reviews of books written by a lay audience. We used this source to select books because we can easily see which books appeal to our audience.

### 4. Amazon

An online marketplace, Amazon focuses on marketing books for purchase. Since Cedar Park Public Library utilizes Overdrive for ebooks, a service that caters to Amazon Kindle users, we can assume that Cedar Park Public Library users are familiar with Amazon services. Amazon also offers a number of ways to sort materials, including by ratings, subjects, and accolades.

These review sources cater to a variety of viewpoints, from consumer, to library professional, to avid book fans. Using these review sources in concert allowed us to examine titles from multiple perspectives. We sought to add titles that exhibited criteria such as popularity, positive reviews, and presence on award or honor lists. It was not necessary that a title meet all criteria across all review sources. We feel that using these review sources allowed us to make beneficial suggestions for addition to the Cedar Park Public Library adult biography monograph collection.

## **Materials to add to the collection**

A research study by The Harris Poll says that 11% of adults aged 34-45 have read a graphic novel in the past year. Given that the majority of the population of Cedar Park Public Library falls in this age range, the demographics suggest that Cedar Park Public Library users would read biographical graphic materials. The library should actively seek to purchase more adult graphic biographies, as readers of this format are not currently being supported.<sup>2</sup> We have compiled a list of ten adult graphic books to add to the collection, based on quality and subject. We believe that these should be added to the biography section instead of the graphic novel section as to encourage reading across formats. In the same vein, graphic biographies that are currently shelved in the non-fiction section should be moved to the biography section for consistency.

In addition to actively seeking to expand and integrate the graphic biographies, the Cedar Park Public Library should continue to add new and noteworthy biography titles to their collection. By using the four review sites discussed in detail above we selected a variety of titles the library should consider for addition to the collection. Our selections include recently released materials that will help maintain the collection's currency as well as noteworthy titles that will help fill in collection gaps.

While the Cedar Park Public Library's biography collection is well maintained, the collection could benefit from the addition of more recently released materials. We suggest adding a number of titles published in 2013 and 2014. Benefits of adding such new material include capitalizing on interest generated by current issues or hot topics and maintaining relevancy. It is especially important that the library collect the newest biographies of notable figures that died in recent years, as these biographies will contain the most up-to-date information.

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<sup>2</sup> Myers, Lyndsey and Laura White. Format Comparison. 2014.

We have also suggested purchasing many titles published prior to 2013. These titles have been selected in order to fill gaps in the libraries holdings. While the biography collection is strong in some areas, such as politics, other subjects like biographies of contemporary sports figures or historical women in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics fields are lacking in depth. Titles that address these gaps, and others, would help broaden the collection and potentially draw interest in the collection from a broader audience.

Some gaps we have addressed are related to Cedar Park subpopulations. For instance, we feel that the Cedar Park Public Library's biography collection is lacking in materials related to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questions, and allied individuals. While we do not have census data that enumerates the size of this subpopulation in Cedar Park, we can assume that Cedar Park reflects the national trends, which show that LGBT individuals "compris[e] 3.5% of the adult population" (Gates). As this subpopulation likely exists in Cedar Park, materials should be added to the collection that address their interests and concerns.

While our project focused on suggesting titles for addition to the library's adult biography monograph collection, our suggestions can be applied to biography collections in other formats. The library should seek to maintain currency and breadth across all formats, and should add materials accordingly. It is expected that the library will purchase some titles in multiple formats, particularly those that have received acclaim or will appeal to multiple audiences.

### **Materials to Withdraw from the collection**

According to the catalog, The Cedar Park Public Library owns a total of 1,886 physical audiobooks for use by adults. These audiobooks are available on CD (1,683) and cassette

(203). There are 138 adult biographical audiobooks, accounting for 7.3% of the physical audiobook collection.

From this data we can see that audiobooks on cassette make up an astounding 10.8% of the total physical audiobook collection at the Library. Given that Cedar Park is a young and relatively affluent community (Bureau, 2014), we can assume that Cedar Park Public Library users can afford to own a CD player and probably have experience using one. The demographics do not support such an extensive cassette collection.<sup>3</sup> The cassette audiobooks will be weeded totally, and four audiobooks on cassette will be removed.

The collection is in close to immaculate condition. There were few books with moderate to severe damage including water damage, loose binding, and torn or bent covers. There were several books with mild damage including spine wear or yellowing pages. We chose thirteen books to withdraw based on condition.

The biography section is quite large, but does not take up all the allocated shelf space. There are many duplicate titles on the shelves, which makes the collection larger by volume than it is by title. Since we plan to add sixty items to the collection, we have selected many of the duplicates for weeding. Because we do not have access to circulation data, we visually assessed the collection and selected titles where at least two copies were currently on the shelves. In most cases, books only have one duplicate copy. In some select cases, there are over three copies of the material. In total, we are weeding twenty-three duplicate copies thus reducing the redundancy in content.

We do not have access to the circulation records, so we are unable to provide suggestions for weeding based on use data. However, the print reference biography section seems to be largely unused and the material is mostly duplicated online through their

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<sup>3</sup> Myers, Lyndsey and Laura White. Format Comparison. 2014.

TexShare databases. The reference collection has been downsized in the last few years, but reference materials were not necessarily weeded. Many biographical reference works have been moved into the circulation nonfiction section. Though our project does not focus on these materials, we recommend that Cedar Park uses circulation statistics to determine use. From our observations, these materials seem to be outdated, redundant, and unused.

### **Next Steps**

- Weed outdated audiovisual formats including cassette biographical materials.
- Weed redundant monographs along with monographs in poor condition and those that are outdated.
- Add recently published popular titles.
- Add titles to address collection gaps including:
  - Current sports figures
  - Historical women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics
  - Actors and actresses
  - Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, questioning, and allied individuals
- Continue maintaining the collection as per policy

### **Conclusion**

This collection management project sought to evaluate the collection of the adult biography section at the Cedar Park Public Library. The project allowed us to examine the user population, which provided valuable insight into the library's users. It also gave us experience working with popular review sources and taught us to critically examine review sources for their value and impact. By selecting materials to add and withdraw, we demonstrated our ability to critically evaluate the collection in terms of currency, relevancy

and breadth. We hope that this project was as valuable for Cedar Park Public Library as it was for us.

## Appendix A

### Materials to Add

#### **Graphic Biographies**

1. Delisle, G. (2007). *Pyongyang: A journey in North Korea* (H. Dascher, Trans.). Montréal, Quebec: Drawn & Quarterly.
2. Engelberg, M. (2006). *Cancer made me a shallower person: A memoir in comics*. New York, NY: Harper.
3. Forney, E. (2012). *Marbles: Mania, depression, Michelangelo, and me : a graphic memoir*. New York: Gotham Books.
4. Georges, N. J. (2013). *Calling Dr. Laura: A graphic memoir*. Boston, MA: Mariner Books.
5. Jacobson, S., & Colon, E. (2010). *Anne Frank: The Anne Frank House authorized graphic biography*. New York, NY: Hill and Wang.
6. Redniss, L. (2010). *Radioactive: Marie & Pierre Curie, a tale of love & fallout*. New York, NY: It Books.
7. Talbot, M. M. (2012). *Dotter of her father's eyes* (B. Talbot, Illustrator). Milwaukie, OR: Dark Horse Books.
8. Tran, G. B. (2010). *Vietnamerica: A family's journey*. New York, NY: Villard Books.
9. Van Sciver, N. (2012). *The hypo: The melancholic young Lincoln*. Seattle, WA: Fantagraphics Books.

10. Lewis, J., Aydin, A., Powell, N., Ross, C., & Top Shelf Productions (Marietta, Ga.),. (2013). *March: Book One*.

### **Sports Biographies**

11. Macur, J. (2014). *Cycle of lies: The fall of Lance Armstrong*. New York, NY: Harper.
12. Tyson, M., & Sloman, L. (2013). *Undisputed truth*. New York, NY: Blue Rider Press.
13. Welch, J. (2012). *The biography of Tottenham Hotspur*. Kingston upon Thames: Vision Sports.
14. Posnanski, J. (2012). *Paterno*. New York: Simon & Schuster.
15. Sandusky, G. (2014). *Forgotten Sundays: A son's story of life, loss, and love from the sidelines of the NFL*. Philadelphia, PA: Running Press.

### **Women in STEM**

16. Maddox, B. (2003). *Rosalind Franklin: The dark lady of DNA*. London: HarperCollins.
17. Thimmesh, C., & Sweet, M. (2000). *Girls think of everything: Stories of ingenious inventions by women*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin.
18. Snyder, L. J. (2011). *The philosophical breakfast club: Four remarkable friends who transformed science and changed the world*. New York: Broadway Books
19. Emling, S. (2012). *Marie Curie and her daughters: The private lives of science's first family*. New York: Macmillan.
20. Sime, R. L. (1996). *Lise Meitner: A life in physics*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.
21. Souder, W. (2012). *On a farther shore: The life and legacy of Rachel Carson*. New York: Crown.

## Actors and Actresses

22. Cameron-Bure, C., & Wilkerson, D. (2014). *Balancing it all: My story of juggling priorities and purpose*. Nashville, TN: B & H Publishing Group.
23. Takei, G. (2013). *Lions and Tigers and Bears: The Internet Strikes Back*. New York, NY: Oh Myyy Limited Liability Company.
24. Kaling, M. (2012). *Is everyone hanging out without me? (and other concerns)*. New York, NY: Three Rivers Press.
25. O'Shea, M. (2012). *Amy Winehouse: A losing game*. London: Plexus.
26. Cross, C. R. (2017). *Here we are now: The lasting impact of Kurt Cobain*. New York, NY: It Books.

## LGBTQA

27. DeGeneres, B. (1999). *Love, Ellen: A mother/daughter journey*. New York: Harper.
28. Wachsberger, C. (2012). *Into the garden with Charles: A memoir*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux.
29. Kessler, H. (2011). *Journey to the abyss: The diaries of Count Harry Kessler, 1880-1918* (L. M. Easton, Ed.). New York: Alfred A. Knopf.
30. Sallans, R. K. (2013). *Second son: Transitioning toward my destiny, love and life* (2nd ed.). Omaha: Scout.
31. Graham-Dixon, A., & Caravaggio, M. M. D. (2011). *Caravaggio: A life sacred and profane*. New York: W.W. Norton.
32. MacLauchlin, C. (2012). *Butterfly in the typewriter: The tragic life of John Kennedy Toole and the remarkable story of A confederacy of dunces*. New

York: Da Capo Press.

### **Debut Authors**

33. Gibney, M. (2014). *Sous chef: 24 hours on the line.*
34. Montgomery, B. (2014). *Grandma Gatewood's walk: The inspiring story of the woman who saved the Appalachian Trail.*
35. Laks, E., & Isak, N. (2014). *My Gentle Barn: Creating a sanctuary where animals heal and children learn to hope.*
36. Esposito, J. (2014). *Jennifer's way: My journey with celiac disease -- what doctors don't tell you and how you can learn to live again.*
37. Lui, E. (2014). *Listen to the Squawking Chicken: When mother knows best, what's a daughter to do?.*
38. Bremer, K. (2014). *My accidental jihad: A love story.*
39. Gefter, A. (2014). *Trespassing on Einstein's lawn: A father, a daughter, the meaning of nothing, and the beginning of everything.*
40. House, G. (2014). *Country music broke my brain.*
41. Duff, T. (2013). *The buy side: A Wall Street trader's tale of spectacular excess.*
42. Begley, A. (2014). *Updike.* New York, NY: Harper.

### **True Accounts (current events)**

43. Helman, S., & Russell, J. (2014). *Long mile home: Boston under attack, the city's courageous recovery, and the epic hunt for justice.*
44. Harding, L. (2014). *The Snowden files: The inside story of the world's most wanted man.*

45. Prince, E., & Coburn, D. (2013). *Civilian warriors: The inside story of Blackwater and the unsung heroes of the War on Terror.*

### **Subpopulations (African American, urban non-fiction, native populations, etc)**

46. Iceberg, S. (2011). *Pimp: The story of my life.* United States: Cash Money Content.

47. Copeland, M., & Jones, C. (2014). *Life in motion: An unlikely ballerina.*

48. Jakes, S. (2014). *Lost & found: Finding hope in the detours of life.*

49. Tyson, M., & Sloman, L. (2013). *Undisputed truth.*

50. Mock, J. (2014). *Redefining realness: My path to womanhood, identity, love & so much more.*

51. Drury, B. (2013). *The heart of everything that is: The untold story of Red Cloud, an American legend.*

52. Lomax, E. (1995). *The railway man: A POW's searing account of war, brutality and forgiveness.* New York: W.W. Norton.

53. Sanchez, R. (2000). *My bloody life: The making of a Latin King.* Chicago: Chicago Review Press.

54. Bolden, A. (2008). *The echo from Dealey Plaza: The true story of the first African American on the White House Secret Service detail and his quest for justice after the assassination of JFK.* New York: Harmony Books.

### **Religious experiences**

55. Spencer, I. (2008). *Shattered dreams: My life as a polygamist's wife.* New York, NY: Center Street.

56. Rice, A. (2010). *Called out of darkness: A spiritual confession*. New York: Anchor Books.
57. Winner, L. F. (2003). *Girl meets God: A memoir*. New York: Random House.
58. Patel, E. (2007). *Acts of faith: The story of an American Muslim, the struggle for the soul of a generation*. Boston: Beacon Press.
59. Ostman, C., & Tive, S. (2013). *Beyond belief: The secret lives of women in extreme religions*. Berkeley, CA: Seal Press.
60. Bonpane, B. (2011). *Imagine no religion: An autobiography : from Central America to the Middle East, the life story of a leader in the movement for social justice and peace*. Pasadena: Red Hen Press.

## Appendix B

### Materials to Withdraw

#### **Poor Condition**

- Branden, B. (1987). *The passion of Ayn Rand*. New York: Anchor Books.
- Brooks, V. W. (1956). *Helen Keller; sketch for a portrait*. New York: Dutton.
- Bryson, B. (2006). *The life and times of the thunderbolt kid: A memoir*. New York: Broadway Books.
- Fischer, L. (1950). *The life of Mahatma Gandhi*. New York: Harper.
- Forbes, E. (1942). *Paul Revere & the world he lived in*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co.
- Fraser, A. (1969). *Mary, Queen of Scots*. New York: Delacorte Press.
- Gallagher, M. B. (1969). *My life with Jacqueline Kennedy*. New York: D. McKay Co.

- Hall, R., Moore, D., & Vincent, L. (2006). *Same kind of different as me*. Nashville, Tenn: W Pub.
- Harris, F., Douglas, A. B., & Shaw, B. (1930). *Oscar Wilde: His life and confessions*. Garden City, N.Y: Garden City Pub. Co.
- Herriot, J. (1974). *All things bright and beautiful*. New York: St. Martin's Press.
- Houston, J. W., & Houston, J. D. (1974). *Farewell to Manzanar: A true story of Japanese American experience during and after the World War II internment*. New York: Bantam Books.
- Kazin, A. (1962). *F. Scott Fitzgerald: The man and his work*. New York: Collier Books.
- Moldea, D. E. (1993). *The Hoffa wars: The rise and fall of Jimmy Hoffa*. New York: Shapolsky Publishers.
- Moody, A. (1976). *Coming of age in Mississippi*. New York: Dell Pub.
- Reynolds, D. S. (1996). *Walt Whitman's America: A cultural biography*. New York: Vintage Books.
- Schulke, F., & McPhee, P. O. (1986). *King remembered*. New York: Pocket Books.
- Wharton, E. (1964). *A backward glance: An autobiography*. New York, NY: Scribner.

### **Outdated Content**

- Gates, H. L., Higginbotham, E. B., & W.E.B. Du Bois Institute for Afro-American Research. (2004). *African American lives*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Graff, H. F. (2002). *The presidents: A reference history*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.
- Klein, E. (2005). *The truth about Hillary: What she knew, when she knew it, and how far she'll go to become president*. New York: Sentinel.

Kunitz, S., & Haycraft, H. (1973). *Twentieth century authors: A biographical dictionary of modern literature*. New York: H.W. Wilson Co.

Miles, J. (1996). *God: A biography*. Novato, CA: Soundelux Audio Pub.

Pelzer, D. J., & Keeler, B. (2001). *A child called "It": One child's courage to survive*. Prince Frederick, MD: Recorded Books.

Pelzer, D. J. (1999). *A man named Dave: [a story of triumph and forgiveness]*. New York: Harper Audio.

*The Riverside dictionary of biography*. (2005). Boston: Houghton Mifflin.

Sampson, A. (1999). *Mandela: The authorized biography*. New York: Knopf.

Schonberg, H. C. (1970). *The lives of the great composers*. New York: W.W. Norton.

Walker, M. (1996). *The president we deserve: Bill Clinton, his rise, falls, and comebacks*. New York: Crown Publishers.

### **Redundant Content**

Albom, M. (1997). *Tuesdays with Morrie: An old man, a young man, and life's greatest lesson*. New York: Doubleday.

Berra, Y., & Kaplan, D. (2001). *When you come to a fork in the road, take it!: Inspiration and wisdom from one of baseball's greatest heroes*. New York: Hyperion.

Clinton, B. (2004). *My life*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf.

Clinton, H. R. (2003). *Living history*. New York: Simon & Schuster.

Crowe, C. (2008). *Thurgood Marshall: A twentieth-century life*. New York, N.Y: Viking.

Crutcher, C. (2003). *King of the mild frontier: An ill-advised autobiography*. New York: Greenwillow Books.

Duncan, P. J. (1999). *Ricky Martin: La vida loca*. New York, NY: Warner Books.

- Franks, T. (2004). *American soldier*. New York: Regan Books.
- Gilbert, E. (2006). *Eat, pray, love: One woman's search for everything across Italy, India and Indonesia*. New York: Viking.
- Helget, N. L. (2005). *The summer of ordinary ways*. St. Paul, MN: Borealis Books.
- Hepburn, K. (1991). *Me: Stories of my life*. New York: Knopf.
- Hiaasen, C. (2008). *The downhill lie: A hacker's return to a ruinous sport*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf.
- Hopkins, J., & Sugerman, D. (2006). *No one here gets out alive*. New York, N.Y: Warner Books.
- Li, Z., & Thurston, A. F. (1994). *The private life of Chairman Mao: The memoirs of Mao's personal physician*. New York: Random House.
- Mathews, E. (2008). *The ungarnished truth: A cooking contest memoir*. New York: Berkley Books.
- McCourt, F. (1996). *Angela's ashes: A memoir*. New York: Scribner.
- Montville, L. (2007). *The Big Bam: The life and times of Babe Ruth*. New York: Broadway.
- Nielsen, J., & Vollers, M. (2001). *Ice bound: A doctor's incredible battle for survival at the South Pole*. New York: Talk Miramax Books/Hyperion.
- Spanos, A., Seal, M., & Kasparian, N. (2002). *Sharing the wealth: My story*. Washington, D.C: Regnery Pub.
- Spelling, T., & Liftin, H. (2008). *sTORI telling*. New York: Simon Spotlight Entertainment.
- Styron, W. (1990). *Darkness visible: A memoir of madness*. New York: Random House.
- Walls, J. (2005). *The glass castle: A memoir*. New York: Scribner.
- Walters, B. (2008). *Audition: A memoir*. New York: A.A. Knopf.

## Resources

- Gates, G. J. (2011, April). How Many People are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender? Retrieved April 24, 2014, from The Williams Institute website:  
<http://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/research/census-lgbt-demographics-studies/how-many-people-are-lesbian-gay-bisexual-and-transgender/>
- PRNewsWire. (2010, October 7). Stephen King is America's favorite author: Mystery, crime and thriller novels are the genre most read [Press release]. Retrieved from  
<http://multivu.prnewswire.com/mnr/harrisinteractive/44732/>
- State and county quickfacts: Cedar Park, Texas. (2014, January 7). Retrieved March 19, 2014, from United States Census Bureau website:  
<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/48/4813552.html>