

Opening Doors and Windows: An Introduction to the Diverse BookFinder

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Diverse BookFinder (DBF)

- The DBF “is a comprehensive collection of children's picture books featuring Black and Indigenous people and People of Color (BIPOC)”
- Catalog currently includes over 4,000 picture books published since 2002



Searchable Facets in the DBF Catalog

- DBF Specific Categories
- Ethnicity
- Awards
- Setting
- Content
- Genres
- Tribal Affiliation/Homeland
- Race/Culture
- Immigration
- Gender
- Religion



DBF Categories

- Any Child
 - BIPOC characters and other facets present but not essential to the plot
- Beautiful Life: A Focus on Identity
 - “Explicitly focus on the diverse expressions of human experience”
- Biography
- Cross-Group: Relationships Across Difference
- Folklore
- Incidental: Ensemble or Background Characters
- Informational: Factual Content
- Oppression & Resilience
- Race/Culture Concepts: Examining Difference and Commonalities

Collection Analysis Tool (CAT)

- Process:
 - Upload a list of ISBNs
 - Compares to DBF Catalog
 - Returns an analysis based on race/culture compared to the DBF Categories

Results from Diverse BookFinder (Jan. 23, 2020)

	Asian / Pacific Islander / Asian American	Bi / Multiracial / Mixed Race	Black / African / African American	Brown-Skinned and / or Race Unclear	Latinx / Hispanic / Latin American	First / Native Nations / American Indian / Indigenous	Middle Eastern / North African / Arab	Multi-Racial Cast of Characters	Totals
Any Child	4	6	11	14	6	0	0	6	47
Beautiful Life	7	4	11	1	31	10	1	2	67
Biography	5	3	29	1	14	3	1	1	57
Cross Group	4	2	18	4	3	3	1	0	35
Folklore	2	0	2	1	1	1	3	0	10
Incidental	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	5	8
Informational	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2
Oppression & Resilience	0	2	32	3	2	4	2	1	46
Race / Culture Concepts	1	2	5	1	4	1	1	3	18
Totals	24	19	109	26	62	22	9	19	290

Results from Diverse BookFinder (.June 26 2020)

	Asian / Pacific Islander / Asian American	Bi / Multiracial / Mixed Race	Black / African / African American	Brown- Skinned and / or Race Unclear	Latinx / Hispanic / Latin American	First / Native Nations / American Indian / Indigenous	Middle Eastern / North African / Arab	Multi-Racial Cast of Characters	Totals
Any Child	5	9	18	15	6	3	3	6	65
Beautiful Life	16	7	17	5	42	15	8	6	116
Biography	8	7	46	4	22	4	5	3	99
Cross Group	10	6	25	10	8	3	5	1	68
Folklore	4	1	6	4	4	3	4	0	26
Incidental	3	3	4	5	3	0	1	7	26
Informational	3	3	5	3	3	3	3	4	27
Oppression & Resilience	5	5	49	6	4	4	5	2	80
Race / Culture Concepts	5	4	9	3	5	3	2	6	37
Totals	59	45	179	55	97	38	36	35	544

Pros & Cons

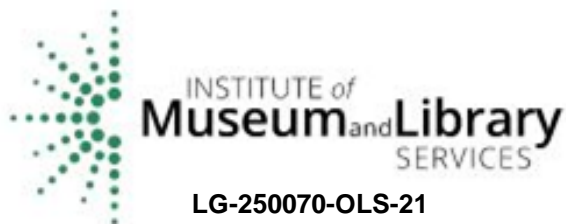
Pros:

- CAT results allow users to quickly see gaps in collections based not only on *who* is represented but *how*
- DBF catalog is searchable by unique categories and additional facets
- DBF catalog and CAT are both free to use, the CAT just requires users to create an account
- DBF provides a snapshot of the publishing industry in terms of BIPOC representation in picture books since 2002

Cons:

- CAT results depend on titles in the DBF catalog
- CAT results do not provide:
 - A list of titles in the analysis
 - Information on the intersection of race/culture and other facets
- DBF only includes about 4,000 titles
- DBF Collection does not include Middle Grade or Young Adult titles

Middle Grade & YA Expansion IMLS Leadership Grant



Resources

- [Diverse BookFinder](#)
- [Diverse BookFinder Categories](#)
- [Collection Analysis Tool](#)
- [Our Data: A First-Ever Look at Multicultural Picture Books](#)
- [IMLS Grant Announcement](#)
- [IMLS Grant Details](#)

Related Articles

- Aronson, K. M., Callahan, B. D. & O'Brien, A. S. (2018). Messages matter: Investigating the thematic content of picture books portraying underrepresented racial and cultural groups. *Sociological Forum*, 33(1), 165–85. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/socf.12404>.
- Bishop, R.S. (1990). Mirrors, windows, and sliding glass doors. *Perspectives*, 6(3), ix–xi.
- Elrod, R. & Kester, B. (Nov. 2020). Diverse BookFinder: BIPOC collection development for children's and young adult collections. *C&RL News*, 81(10), 481-485. <https://doi.org/10.5860/crln.81.10.481>

Thank You!

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