Oakland Public Library, Brookfield Branch

Juvenile Arts & Crafts Collection

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Introduction

This document outlines materials selections for a retrospective arts and crafts collection for the Brookfield branch of the Oakland Public Library, geared toward readers in grades four through six. The branch recognizes the immense value of artistic participation to youth in these middle grades. Arts participation can be especially beneficial to at-risk youth, particularly when designed to be culturally relevant. To this end, the forty-five resources discussed in this document have been carefully selected to increase the branch’s holdings of relevant, high quality resources, in order to promote high levels of involvement in artistic activities among youth patrons.

a. Institutional Description

The Brookfield branch is located in the ethnically diverse and economically challenged East Oakland neighborhood of Brookfield Village. The community’s residents are largely Hispanic/Latino American and African American, although small numbers of Asians, Pacific Islanders, Whites, Filipinos, and American Indians also reside here. This particular area has a high percentage of English learners with many speaking a language other than English at home. Nearly 70% of students at nearby Brookfield Elementary school are eligible for reduced/free lunch¹; this figure is even higher- up to nearly 95%- for other schools in the area². These data indicate that high numbers of residents of Brookfield Village and surrounding neighborhoods live near or at the federal poverty level.

The branch owns approximately 22,000 items in a variety of formats, including books, compact discs, CD-ROMs, videos, DVDs, audiobooks, audiocassettes, DVDs, and newspapers.

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The branch has Black Fiction and Black History collections as well as a 2,800-item Spanish Language collection, reflecting the demographics of the surrounding community. It also has children’s and teen collections which are highly popular with branch patrons. Materials cover a wide range of non-fiction subjects and many fiction genres\(^3\).

Currently, the branch houses a decent-sized collection of materials on arts and crafts topics for the target age group. However, many of these items were published 15 or more years ago and some collection items are 50 or more years old\(^4\). In building this collection, the branch aims to select recently published resources that more accurately “reflect the interests and needs of the local community\(^5\)”\(^\), increasing the relevance and availability of collection materials to youth patrons.

b. Parameters of Collection

In an effort to increase the recency of collection materials, the majority of items selected were published or released in the past 15 years (after and including the year 1997). However, several items published prior to this have been included as they were deemed to be both high quality and highly appropriate for the collection.

In selecting for this collection, the full range of subjects classified in the Dewey 700’s (“The Arts”) was not considered. Resources related to Art Appreciation & Art History, Architecture, Photography, Music, Sports and other hobbies will have been excluded, as have published collections of art created by others (e.g. comics, manga, and graphic novels, with the exception of instructional resources on these topics). The majority of selected print materials fall between Dewey call numbers 730 and 775.

One of the main goals of this collection is to provide materials on a wide variety of arts and crafts styles and techniques. To this end, each subtopic has been carefully chosen and only resources contributing to the diversity of the collection have been selected, in hopes of creating a topically wide-ranging collection with something to spark the interest of each of Brookfield’s young patrons. Materials appropriate for the intermediate grades (four through six), as indicated by publishers and/or in editorial reviews, have been selected in most cases; exceptions are noted. Because age appropriateness and contribution to variety in the collection were major selection criteria for all items, these generally will not be discussed and should be assumed unless otherwise noted.

Funds\textsuperscript{6} were used to purchase 45 items, allocated as follows\textsuperscript{7}: approximately 10% Spanish Language materials; 15% culturally-focused materials; 25% general resources/collections; and 50% topic-specific resources. Materials in the following formats have been included: print (books and serials), electronic/digital (e-books/e-resources, electronic database subscriptions, and CD-ROMs), and audio-visual (DVDs).

Materials have been grouped into eight categories: Culturally-Focused (six items); Spanish-Language (four items); Drawing, Painting, & Sculpting (seven items); Needlecraft & Textiles (five items); Paper Crafts & Origami (three items); Beading & Jewelry-Making (three items); Holiday Crafts (four items); and General Resources & Collections (thirteen items).

c. Information on Selected Items

Culturally-Focused Materials

\textsuperscript{6} Funding for the entirety of this collection has been generously provided by a grant from the KASHU Foundation.

\textsuperscript{7} Figures given refer to percentage of collection items, not percentage of overall funds.
1
b. US $22.60 HC
c. None.
d. Selection based on cultural relevance to branch’s patrons and overall quality of item, based on a brief in-person evaluation. This title includes ten projects, each inspired by a notable figure in Black history. Each includes a supplies list, step-by-step instructions, and color photographs of the project at various stages of creation. Author Carol Gnojewski has written many other favorably reviewed children’s books, including *Kwanzaa Crafts*, which was also selected for this collection (see below). While some projects may be slightly young for older crafters, the majority look to be appropriate for grades four through six; similar titles were definitely too juvenile for the collection’s target age group.

2*
b. US $22.60 HC
d. Selection based on cultural relevance to branch users and a positive review in *MultiCultural Review*. This title includes ten Kwanzaa-inspired crafts, each with a note about the project’s significance, a supplies list, step by step instructions, and color photographs of the project at
various stages of creation. Although not totally ideal for this collection in terms of age appropriateness (Booklist recommends it for grades three to four), this is the best of the Kwanzaa craft books for youth; other works are aimed at an even younger audience and have received less than favorable reviews. Editorial reviews of similar titles call attention to factual inaccuracies and other errors, including one title that misspells “Kwanzaa” within its text. As increasing the cultural relevancy of branch materials is a major focus of this collection, selectors feel that the inclusion of a slightly young item is better than including no Kwanzaa title at all, or including a title with factual inaccuracies.

3*
b. US $22.38 HC (Amazon)
d. Selection based on cultural relevance to branch’s users as well as favorable reviews in *MultiCultural Review* and *School Library Journal*. Title includes eight paper craft projects, each accompanied by colorful photographs and easy-to-follow directions. Although this title is geared toward a slightly younger audience (Multicultural Review recommends it for grades three to four), user reviews on Amazon.com indicate that at least some of the included crafts will be enjoyed by slightly older crafters. As this selection project is intended to increase the cultural
relevance of the branch’s arts and crafts collection and Day of the Dead is a significant Latin American holiday, inclusion of a title on this topic was deemed to be a necessity. Few juvenile books on the topic have been published and as this one has been favorably reviewed by two independent sources, it has been selected for inclusion in the collection despite concerns that it may be a bit juvenile for some readers.

4*


b. US $22.60 HC


d. Selection based on cultural relevance to branch users and a positive *Booklist* review.

According to the editorial review, the ten crafts in this volume “span diverse cultures and countries, including past and present groups from Mexico, Panama, and Central and South America”. Each project includes a note about its origins, a supplies list, step-by-step instructions, and color photographs of the project at various stages of creation. This work has been more favorably reviewed than similar titles; librarian Ilene Cooper notes that “these are crafts kids can do, and, more important, will want to do.” Although *Booklist* recommends this title for grades three through five, an in-person inspection of the book’s contents reveals many projects that will interest slightly older crafters. Author Fay Robinson has penned dozens of children’s books, including several other favorably-reviewed youth crafting titles.
5*


b. US $23.93 HC


d. Selection based on cultural relevance to branch’s users and a favorable *School Library Journal* review. This title includes eight craft projects, each with a note about the craft’s origins, a supplies list, illustrated instructions, and a color photograph of the finished product. Although slightly more dated than many of the other materials in this collection, reviewer Pam Gosner (Maplewood Memorial Library, NJ) notes that *Traditional Crafts* is “one of the better titles in support of a multicultural [collection],” particularly in terms of visual attractiveness and clarity of instructions. Additionally, this work includes a number of crafts not found in other books, reducing the likelihood of significant content overlap with materials already held by the Brookfield branch.

6*


b. US $7.15 HC + $3.99 shipping (Used LIKE NEW, Abebooks.com)


d. Selection based on cultural relevance to branch users and highly favorable reviews in both School Library Journal and Booklist. According to reviewers, the projects in this visually attractive volume include clearly written, step-by-step directions and high quality, full-color photographs. Each of the eight projects is inspired by a different region in Africa, providing more geographically diverse content than a favorably reviewed West African craft book that was considered for the collection. Florence Temko has authored several other favorably reviewed children’s crafting books, including the aforementioned Traditional Crafts from Mexico and Central America.

Spanish Language Materials

7


b. US $11.95 PA (Amazon)

c. None.

d. Selection based on relevance to the branch’s users as well as reputation of author and series. Lee J. Ames has authored dozens of drawing books, including more than two dozen books in the “Draw 50” series. These books consistently receive favorable editorials reviews in School Library Journal and similar publications as well as favorable user reviews on sites like
Amazon.com. The contents of this volume mirror those in Ames’s *Draw 50 Animals*, but text for this edition is in Spanish.

8*
b. US $9.35 PA (Amazon)
d. Selection based on cultural relevance to the branch’s users and a favorable *School Library Review* of the English-language edition of this book. Librarian Elizabeth Stumpf (Clearfield Middle School, PA) describes this title as a “useful addition to the arts-and-crafts shelf of any collection”. The fifteen included projects feature “bright, colorful photographs” which help to guide crafters through projects from start to finish.

9
b. US $23.95 HC
c. None.
d. Selection based on cultural relevance to branch’s users and frequency of purchase by other libraries serving sizable Spanish-speaking populations. This native Spanish-language title instructs readers on Mexican cut paper projects, including traditional papel picado, which is not
covered in depth in any of the other resources selected for this collection. Many other public library systems in heavily Hispanic, Spanish-speaking areas- including Los Angeles, San Jose, and other Oakland branches- hold this title, indicating that it will likely be a worthy addition to Brookfield’s collection. The eye-catching cover features brightly colored, high-quality graphics and is likely to attract intermediate-grade readers.

10


b. US $11.84 HC + $3.99 shipping (Used NEW, Amazon Marketplace)

c. None.

d. Selection based on relevance to the branch’s users and overall quality of item. Although the title indicates that contents include both drawing and painting instruction, this work strictly covers the latter. That being said, these are the same fantastic painting fundamentals and projects included in Usborne’s English-language *Complete Book of Art Ideas*\(^8\), compiled in a separate volume and translated into Spanish. Despite the inaccurate representation of the volume’s contents implied by the title, the included photos and illustrations are gorgeous and it covers a wide variety of painting styles and techniques, making it an excellent Spanish-language painting resource.

**Drawing, Painting, & Sculpting**

11

\(^8\) A write-up covering the *Complete Book of Art Ideas* is included on page 34 of this document.
b. US $9.99 PA
c. None.
d. Selection based on reputation of author and series. Lee J. Ames has authored dozens of drawing books, including more than two dozen titles in the “Draw 50” series. These volumes consistently receive favorable reviews in *School Library Journal* and similar review sources. This particular title was selected over others in the series because it provides drawing instruction on a wide variety of subjects, rather than for a single, narrow topic.

12

b. US $22.00 HC
c. None

d. Selection based on breadth of painting technique coverage, credentials of author, and age appropriateness of work for the target audience. This title will nicely complement the painting section in Usborne’s *Complete Book of Art Ideas* and will suit users who prefer to borrow a smaller volume from the library. Additionally, this is one of the few painting titles published in the past fifteen years that is appropriate for intermediate grade-level readers. Author Jane Bower, an artist and children’s art teacher, has penned over a dozen other books for youth, primarily on

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9 A write-up covering Usborne’s *Complete Book of Art Ideas* is included on page 34 of this document.
arts and crafts topics. This title is part of Children’s Press “Arts and Crafts Skills” series; Children’s Press is a division of Scholastic, the “largest publisher and distributor of children’s books”.

13*

b. US $10.30 PA (Amazon)
d. Selection based on overall quality of item, uniqueness of content, and a highly favorable School Library Review. Reviewer Genevieve Gallagher, librarian at Orange County Public Library (Virginia), describes this work as “an appealing how-to”. Indeed, the sea serpents, goblins, fairies, and dragons in this volume will likely appeal to Brookfield’s fourth-through-sixth grade crowd more so than the standard fare of fish and ladybugs found in other modeling clay books. This title will challenge crafters in the target age group, unlike the majority of other modeling titles, most of which are overly simple. Contents cover polymer clay basics and include instructions for thirty unique and whimsical creations, each accompanied by multiple color photographs.

14


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b. US $10.99 HC + $0 shipping (Used NEW, Abebooks.com)

c. None.

d. Selection based on uniqueness of subject content and reputation of publisher and author. This work complements other drawing titles selected for the collection, providing detailed instruction on how to create faces using a variety of techniques and tools, including computers, pastels, pencil, pen, watercolor and more. Each covered technique includes clearly illustrated, step-by-step instructions. Author Rosie Dickens has written dozens of titles in a variety of subject areas, including children’s fiction, adult art instruction, and youth art instruction; Usborne is a reputable publisher of many popular arts and crafts works for youth. As an added bonus, Brookfield users will be able to identify with the ethnically diverse subjects depicted in the book’s photographs and illustrations.

15*


b. US $12.21 HC (Amazon)


d. Selection based on highly favorable reviews in *School Library Journal* and *Booklist*, popularity of topic, author reputation, and overall quality of title. This work provides excellent instructional content for young artists. Title details the drawing process using step-by-step
instructional line drawings for eleven different types of dragons and full-color illustrations of each finished creature. Dragons are a high-interest topic among youth, particularly the fourth through sixth grade crowd, and dragon drawing books are one of the most frequently requested types of drawing books in juvenile collections. Although many books on this topic exist, similar highly-rated titles are generally too complex for the target age group.

16*


b. US $9.95 PA (Amazon)


d. Rationale: Selection based on overall quality of item and a highly favorable *School Library Journal* review of the 2005 edition. The cited editorial review states that this title is of higher quality, in terms of instructional value, writing quality, and appearance/layout, than similar titles. Author Art Roche, a professional cartoonist with more than two decades of cartooning and illustration experience, provides authoritative instruction on the topic while maintaining an informal, encouraging, kid-friendly tone, making this an excellent choice for budding young artists.


c. None.

d. Selection based on reputation of creator/distributor, overall quality of series and clarity of instructions. Each of the three discs in this set contains four lessons and each lesson builds upon previous lessons. While selectors were unable to locate editorial reviews of this particular series, other Gluck Method titles, like *The Art of Watercolor for Kids*, have been favorably reviewed and recommended for purchase in *Video Librarian*. Video quality for these discs is high, unlike many of the other available art DVDs which have been transferred from video to DVD format.

Although there are a few favorably reviewed VHS titles that the branch could have selected in lieu of this set, most of Brookfield’s patrons no longer have VCRs/VHS players so such selections would be of little value to the majority of users.

Needlecraft & Textiles

18*


b. US $11.16 PA (Amazon)


d. Selection based on overall quality of item and highly favorable editorial reviews, including a starred review in *School Library Journal*. Title begins with helpful tips and general knitting instructions and follows with twelve simple projects that kids can make. Each project includes clearly illustrated, step-by-step instructions and a color photograph of the finished product. Subjects depicted in the photographs are ethnically diverse and include a mix of males and females, and projects are mostly gender neutral, so this title should appeal to the a wide range of Brookfield youth.

19*


b. US $16.27 HC (Amazon)


Phelan, Carolyn. "Sewing with Felt (Book)." *Booklist* 100, no. 3 (October 2003): 314

d. Selection based on overall quality of item and highly favorable reviews in *Booklist* and *School Library Journal*. As indicated by its title, this colorful work includes instructions for more than 60 practical sewn felt projects, plus an introductory section covering sewing basics. Appropriate for a variety of skill levels, projects are accompanied by a degree-of-difficulty rating, a supplies list, illustrated step-by-step instructions, and a color photograph of the finished product. Contents
include many holiday projects, complementing those in the included Holiday Crafts category\textsuperscript{12} with virtually no overlap. Projects are mostly gender neutral and photos feature ethnically diverse male and female subjects.

20*


b. US $11.53 PA (Amazon)


d. Selection based on overall quality of item and favorable reviews in *School Library Journal* and *Booklist*. The clean layout and use of fun fonts, bright colors, and high-quality photographs make this title visually appealing. The first part of this book contains a dozen youth-directed lessons designed to teach the fundamentals of sewing. The latter half provides detailed instructions for nearly two dozen sewing projects, each of which includes step-by-step instructions and large color photographs of both the work-in-progress and the finished product. The majority of projects in this book utilize hand rather than machine-sewing, which was a major criterion for selection as many of the branch’s users do not have sewing machines. Photographs feature ethnically diverse subjects of both genders and included projects are gender-neutral.

While this title’s physical format is not ideal for library use (it is only available in cloth-covered spiral bound format and includes loose cutout patterns in its front pocket), its content is far

\textsuperscript{12} Holiday Crafts selections can be found on page 24 of this document.
superior to that of other titles on the same topic so it has been selected for inclusion in the collection.

21*


b. US $8.81 PA (Amazon)


d. Selection based on quantity and variety of included needlecrafting topics as well as a favorable review in *School Library Journal.* This title, from the reputable Kids Can Press, includes instruction in knitting, crocheting, embroidery, quilting, and sewing. The section on sewing is taken directly from Judy Ann Sadler’s favorably-reviewed *Sewing* while the sections on quilting, crocheting, and embroidery provide information on topics not covered by other selections. Each project includes illustrated, step-by-step instructions and a color photograph of the finished product. As with most of the Kids Can Press *Jumbo* books, there is excellent multicultural representation in the photographs.

22*


b. US $8.00 HC + $3.50 shipping (Used NEW, Abebooks.com)

d. Selection based on overall quality of item and a starred review in *School Library Journal*. Like *Kids Knitting*, the first half of this volume covers weaving basics and is followed by an assortment of weaving projects. Reviewer Cynde Suite of the Bartow County Library System (Adairsville, GA) notes that the included “helpful step-by-step drawings clearly depict the processes and techniques”, making the projects accessible to crafters of all skill levels. As an added bonus, this title includes information on making friendship bracelets, a highly popular crafting topic that is noticeably absent in the jewelry-making materials selected for this collection.

**Paper Crafts & Origami**

23*


b. US $21.12 HC (Amazon)


d. Selection based on overall quality of item and favorable reviews in *Booklist* and *School Library Journal*. Colorful pictures and a clean layout make this intermediate-level origami resource quite visually appealing. This title follows Mary Meinking’s book for beginners (see below) in the Snap Books origami series and provides instruction for experienced origamists. More advanced folding techniques are covered in this volume and more difficult projects, like
the blooming tulip and fancy goldfish, are included. Although there are many high-quality origami books for fourth to sixth graders, the layout of this title and included illustrations/pictures make it superior to others that were considered for the collection.

24*


b. US $22.77 HC (Amazon)


d. Selection based on visual appeal and clarity of item as well as favorable reviews in *School Library Journal* and *Booklist*. Although this title is a bit shorter than others with instructions for just eleven planes, its clean layout, clear step-by-step instructions, and highly colorful three-dimensional photographs make it easier to follow than other paper airplane books examined.

25


b. US $21.12 HC (Amazon)

c. None.
d. Selection based on overall quality of item and highly favorable reviews of other titles in this series. This volume precedes Christopher L. Harbo’s aforementioned *Sort-of-Difficult Origami* in the Snap Books origami series and is similarly well-written and well-designed. Title provides novice-level instruction for ten popular origami shapes, including the pinwheel and the crane. Each shape includes clear step-by-step instructions with color photographs/diagrams as well as a photo of the finished product. Although this is actually the second book in the Snap Books origami series, the title before this one is so simple that readers would likely tire of it quickly; because the collection is limited to forty-five items, selectors opted to purchase this slightly more difficult (although still beginner) title instead. The two origami books included in the collection are directed at different skill levels, so most Brookfield patrons in the target audience should be well-served by these selections.

**Beading & Jewelry-Making**

26*


b. US $25.26 HC


d. Selection based on a favorable *School Library Journal* review. Reviewer Lynda Ritterman, librarian at Atco Elementary School (NJ), describes page layouts as “lively and attractive”,
which is essential for attracting young crafters- and more than can be said for many of the other beading titles for this age group. Ritterman also notes that included photographs feature ethnically diverse female subjects.

27*

b. US $20.57 HC (Amazon)
d. Selection based on a favorable *Booklist* review. This title includes easy-to-follow step-by-step instructions for simple yet interesting projects, each accompanied by color photographs of both the work-in-progress and the finished product. Projects include a bulleted supplies list utilizing inexpensive, easy-to-find materials, something that will likely make this a popular title at the Brookfield branch.

28*

b. US $6.95 PA

d. Selection based on favorable reviews in *School Library Journal* and *Booklist*. Both reviews commend the clear, step-by-step instructions and multiple color photographs included with each of the sixteen projects. Augusta Malvagno of the Queens Borough Public Library (NY) notes that the “vibrant, artistically designed cover… [will] draw children into creative and challenging projects”. A resource on this topic was chosen for the Brookfield collection because it provides coverage of a fairly gender-neutral crafting technique (hemp jewelry) in an area that is usually geared toward female audiences (jewelry-making). While the cover and most of the interior photographs show female subjects, there are a few males included to encourage participation (and borrowing of the volume) by both genders. Additionally, subjects are ethnically diverse, meeting the desired criterion of multicultural representation in photographs.

**Holiday Crafts**

29*


b. US $23.93 HC


d. Selection based on favorable reviews in *Booklist* and *School Library Journal* as well as the popularity of crafting for this particular holiday. As stated by *Booklist* Children’s Books Editor
Ilene Cooper, “if there was ever a holiday that was perfect for a crafts book, it’s Valentine’s Day”. Indeed, handmade Valentines are quite popular with youth so a resource on this topic was a logical choice for the collection. Included in this volume are eight paper crafts projects, including several different options for homemade Valentine cards, all utilizing easy-to-find, inexpensive materials. Each project includes a supplies list, step-by-step instructions, and multiple color photographs. Although suggested for readers slightly younger than the collection’s target audience (Booklist recommends the title for grades two through five), this is the case with nearly all of the recently published juvenile Valentine’s crafts books. This title most closely matches the target audience grade level and meets the branch’s criterion for quality of item so was selected for inclusion in the collection.

30*


b. US $15.95 HC


d. Selection based on highly favorable editorial reviews in Booklist, and School Library Journal and popularity of crafting for this particular holiday. Additionally, this selection contributes to the cultural and geographic diversity of the collection. Title includes seventeen projects from around the world, including a piñata how-to that is not included in any of the culturally-focused
selections. Each project includes illustrated step-by-step instructions and most utilize easy-to-find, everyday items, making these crafts highly accessible to the branch’s users.

31*

b. US $16.99 PA + $4.00 shipping (Used NEW, Abebooks.com)
d. Selection based on popularity of crafting for this particular holiday, number of included crafts, and favorable reviews in *School Library Journal* and *Booklist*. Although published less recently than the majority of items in this collection, and targeted at a slightly younger crowd than the target audience (reviewers recommend it for grades three through five), this selection provides exceptional variety and tremendous value; it includes 175 craft projects versus the usual eight to twelve offered by other Halloween crafting titles. Additionally, projects utilize a variety of techniques at varying skill levels, providing something suitable for every crafter.

32

b. US $16.47 HC (Amazon)

c. None.

d. Selection based primarily on the breadth of holidays covered in the contents of this book. Because the collection is limited to forty-five items, it is impossible to select a single title for each of the popular holidays. This volume includes themed craft projects for Easter, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Valentine’s Day, and more. Additionally, most supplies needed for the included projects are items found easily around the house, something that Brookfield’s economically-disadvantaged patrons will surely appreciate. Boyds Mills Press is a well-known and reputable publisher of children’s materials and is owned by the popular children’s magazine *Highlights*, inspiring some level of confidence in the quality of the work. In fact, similar craft titles released by this publisher, such as Kathy Ross’s *Look What You Can Make with Dozens of Household Items!* (2003), have received favorable reviews from *School Library Journal* and other reviewing publications. Author Sharon Dunn Umnik has authored a dozen or so children’s craft titles, the majority of which are holiday-themed. Several of these works have received positive editorial reviews.

**General Resources & Collections**

33*


b. US $965.49¹³ (annual subscription)

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¹³ See Budget-Narrative, p. 35, for calculation of cost.

d. Selection based on ease of use for target age group, breadth of coverage on crafting topics, a highly favorable *Booklist* review, and overall quality of resource. Although other youth-directed databases, like EBSCO’s *Searchasaurus*, exist, the public library implementation of *Britannica for Kids* is by far the most kid-friendly. Its simplified interface makes searching a breeze. Perhaps more importantly, the items returned for a given search are at the interest and reading level of young searchers, unlike many other databases which use a kid-friendly interface but return adult-level search results. This resource includes information on an expansive range of arts and crafts topics, including basics/general overview, supplies, history of, project ideas, tutorials, and more. Many items include illustrations, color photographs, and/or demonstrative video clips. Although very pricey, this resource provides coverage of the full range of arts and crafts subtopics, including those not covered by other collection materials. Additionally, patrons can access this resource from home and there is no limit on the number of simultaneous users.

34*

b. US $19.99 (annual digital subscription: 6 issues per year + archives)
d. Selection based on a mostly favorable review of the youth-directed *Pack-O-Fun* magazine, which is now included as a section of each *Crafts 'n Things* magazine. Although *Crafts 'n Things* is technically a magazine for adult crafters, each issue includes a *Pack-O-Fun* section full of seasonally-themed craft projects for youth. A recent online digital edition included fifteen
craft projects for kids, each with a supplies list, step-by-step instructions, and a color photo of the finished product. The digital subscription was selected over print because it includes current and archived issues of Crafts ’n Things as well as archives of the Pack-O-Fun publication from before the two magazines merged.

35*


b. Roland, Craig. US $10.99 CD-ROM (Amazon)

c. "Crayola Art Studio." School Arts 109, no. 6 (February 2010): 50

d. Selection based on positive reviews in multiple sources, including the above cited. Product has also received multiple awards, including the Spring 2009 Parents' Choice Foundation Silver Honor for Software and the 2010 Children's Technology Review Award of Excellent. This program allows users to paint and draw using a variety of digital tools and techniques, including “tempera paint, acrylic paint, watercolor, chalk, crayon, oil pastel, colored pencil, marker and more”¹⁴ and can be adapted to suit the artistic and technology skill-level of any user. It also includes editable images that budding artists can use to learn photo editing.

36


b. US $12.00 (annually/10 issues)

¹⁴ http://www.amazon.com/Core-Learning-CRAS-1200-Crayola-Studio/dp/B001GAR6PU/ref=sr_1_cc_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1322720722&sr=1-1-catcorr
c. None.

d. Selection based on positive editorial reviews of the magazine’s associated website and positive user reviews from Amazon.com. While *FamilyFun* is virtually the only youth-directed crafting serial still being printed (thus the number of choices was quite limited), it is a useful publication full of craft projects and other activities for kids - thus is appropriate to be included in this collection. While probably more appealing to parents with children than to children themselves, each issue includes several themed craft projects with instructions and colorful photographs. Magazine covers usually feature younger children but the publisher recommends this title for families with children up to age 12 and included projects suited to a wide variety of interest and skill levels.

37


http://familyfun.coverleaf.com/ (accessed December 1, 2011). ISSN 1056-6333. (D)

b. US $0 (digital subscription free with purchase of print subscription)

c. None.

d. Selection based on the same criteria as for the print version with the added bonus of enhanced searching afforded by the digital version of the magazine. While the digital subscription only allows for access to current and archived issues that have been paid for as part of the print subscription, digital access includes a full-text search feature that allows for searching of all current and previous issues. Additionally, readers can browse the covers and table of contents of all issues. Although this digital resource is restricted to library use only, it will enable easier
searching of magazine contents and will allow patrons to access issues that have been checked out of the library.

38*


b. $0 (unrestricted access)


d. Selection based on the quantity, variety and quality of included crafts, ease of searching, and positive mentions in School Library Journal on two separate occasions. This recourse includes crafts sorted by age, material, and type. The site’s “Craft Finder” tool allows visitors to locate projects on virtually any craft topic imaginable through a simple keyword search. While there is some overlap with subscriptions to the print and digital editions of the Disney FamilyFun magazine, there is also a considerable amount of unique content.

39*


http://www.handsoncrafts.org/002.htm (accessed December 1, 2011). (D)

b. $0 (unrestricted access)

d. Selection based on a positive review in *School Library Journal*, uniqueness of content, and overall entertainment and educational value of site. This interactive site allows crafters to learn about and virtually participate in a variety of arts techniques, such as weaving and basketry, without the purchase of specialized tools or materials.

40*

b. US $19.95 DVD (Amazon)
Reagan, R. “Rainy Day Art.” *Video Librarian* 19, no. 1 (January/February 2004):
d. Selection based on many highly favorable reviews, including the above cited from *Video Librarian* and *Booklist*. This title includes more than thirty craft projects utilizing easy-to-find supplies and instructions can be printed from any computer with a DVD-ROM drive. This is perhaps the most favorably reviewed youth arts and crafts DVDs available so is an obvious section for this collection.

41*

b. US $17.99 PA + $3.00 shipping (Used NEW, Abebooks.com)
d. Selection based on several highly favorable reviews, including the above cited, as well as breadth of art subtopic coverage. Contents are divided into four sections covering drawing, use of color in art, sculpting, and mixed-media. A School Library Journal review states that this title is “packed to the brim with appealing projects” (more than 90 in total), each featuring an introduction to the concepts/techniques used, “easy-to-follow instructions…, clear layouts, well-written definitions of terms, [and] full-color illustrations”. This title provides coverage of topics not covered elsewhere in the collection. As with other Kids Can Press titles, photographs feature gender and ethnic diversity.

42*


b. US $25.95 HC


d. Selection based on uniqueness of topic and favorable editorial reviews, including the above cited. Librarian Augusta R. Malvagno (Queens Borough Public Library, NY) describes this volume as “an attractive, colorful compilation of art projects”. Each of the included 57 nature-inspired projects includes color photos and illustrations and step-by-step instructions. Most projects utilize inexpensive, easy-to-find supplies

43*

b. US $15.56 PA (Amazon)


d. Selection based on breadth of arts and crafts subtopic coverage as well as favorable reviews in *School Library Journal* and *Booklist*. As indicated by the title, this volume includes more than 50 crafting projects divided across six crafting areas, including papier mache, mosaics, printing, lettering, handmade cards, and origami. Each craft includes a supplies list and step-by-step instructions accompanied by color photos. Photos show both male and female children from a wide range of ethnic backgrounds. The majority of projects are gender neutral and many draw inspiration from other cultures. This title includes some very neat, unique projects not seen in other books. Additionally, all contributing writers have authored other craft titles for youth, many of which have been favorably reviewed.

44


b. US $26.39 HC (Amazon)

c. None.
d. Selection based on breadth of arts and crafts subtopic coverage as well as overall quality of item. This lengthy volume covers many topics, including painting and drawing, collage-making, embossing, pastels and print-making. The contents are divided into three sections - Art Ideas, Art Skills, and Art Projects - and provide instruction on basic techniques as well as specific craft projects. In-person inspection of this title reveals that it is of exceptional quality; pages are large and full of beautiful color illustrations while written instructions are clear and concise. This title provides ample coverage of topics and techniques not covered elsewhere in the collection, including still life and landscape painting/drawing, print-making, and embossing. Projects are gender neutral and there is excellent multicultural representation in sections like “drawing faces” and “mixing skintones”,

45

b. US $14.95 (EPUB) + $8.95 (AMZ) ebook price
d. Selection based on current popularity of “green” crafting as well as multiple positive editorial reviews. This work contains forty craft projects for kids to “upcycle” discarded and/or common household items. This title received generally favorable reviews from *Publishers Weekly* and *School Library Journal*, although the latter expressed concerns with the slightly unclear
instructions for some projects while the former questioned the usefulness of some of the projects. Regardless, this title is likely to be much appreciated by patrons who have little disposable income to spend on crafting supplies. Both reviews agree that the title will inspire creativity in young crafters.

d/e. Budget- Spreadsheet & Narrative

The proposed budget for this collection was $2,350.92, allocated as follows: $751.17 for print books, $39.90 for print serials, $1,500 for e-resources (including e-books, CD-ROMs, electronic databases, and digital serials subscriptions), and $59.85 for audiovisual materials. The actual cost of collection materials was $1,707.33, putting the project under budget by $643.59.

<table>
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<th>Category</th>
<th>Proposed Budget</th>
<th>Actual</th>
<th>Difference</th>
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<tr>
<td>Books (Print)</td>
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<td>$605.06</td>
<td>$146.11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Serials (Print)</td>
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<td>E-resources/Digital</td>
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<td>Audiovisual</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$2,350.92</td>
<td>$1,707.33</td>
<td>$643.59</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The proposed budget was based on a collection of twenty-five hardcover books, fourteen paperback books, two print serial subscriptions, three DVDs, and one electronic database subscription. These figured shifted slightly as were located and evaluated for inclusion in the collection. The final collection consists of twenty-three hardcover books; twelve paperback
books; one e-book (in AMZ and EPUB formats); one print serial subscription; two digital serial subscriptions; two DVDs (including a three-disc set); one electronic database subscription; and two other e-resources/websites. Although proposed and actual purchases by format differed, the original estimates were fairly close.

The majority of selected materials actually cost less than anticipated, contributing significantly to the budget underrun. The most significant difference was in the E-resources/Digital Resources category, which was under budget by nearly $500, primarily due to a lower-than-expected cost for the Britannica Online subscription. The price of the Britannica Online Public Library Edition subscription was calculated using the library system’s “population served” figure (n=413,783) for 2010-2011 and the Britannica Online public library pricing formula found on its “School and Library Site” database ordering page. Using this formula, the total cost for the Oakland Public Library system is $17,378.89. As the system’s 18 locations are contributing an equal portion of this amount, Brookfield’s share of the total cost is $965.49.

Nearly all print items also cost less than expected. Items were frequently available through Amazon.com for less than list price, so the majority of titles were purchased from here. For simplicity’s sake, items that were available at list price or lower were purchased through Amazon.com, rather than directly from the publisher. Additionally, Amazon.com items (excluding Marketplace purchases) were eligible for free shipping, which was not always the case when purchasing through a publisher or other vendor. Most out-of-print books were purchased through Abebooks.com, which generally offered items in better condition and at a

17 Overall formula: ((413,783 x .07) x $0.60)/18 = $965.49
lower total cost than Alibris.com, Biblio.com, and Amazon Marketplace. Print and digital serial subscriptions were purchased directly through publisher websites.

f. Summary

The benefit of arts participation to youth- and at-risk youth in particular- cannot be overstated. The addition of these forty-five items to the Brookfield collection will enable the branch to supply a wide range of art resources, including culturally relevant items not readily available elsewhere, to community youth. Materials covering a wide range of topics, including drawing, painting, & sculpting; needlecraft & textiles; paper crafts & origami; beading & jewelry-making; and holiday crafts have been selected, with special consideration given to culturally-focused and Spanish-language resources.

A number of factors were considered in making these selections, including availability of favorable editorial reviews, cultural relevance to users, age appropriateness, skill-level of included techniques/projects, value, recency of material, contribution of subject diversity to the collection, and visual appeal. Ultimately, items were chosen based on overall quality and appropriateness for the Brookfield collection.

While this collection provides an impressive selection of quality resources on a variety of topics, it has a few limitations. Due to the vastness of arts and crafts subtopics, it was not possible to purchase materials covering every topic in which patrons may have interest. Many topics that made the initial list of topics to include, such as mosaic and stamping, were excluded in favor of materials in more “traditional” arts and crafts areas like drawing, painting, and origami. While some of these omitted topics are covered in selected general resources and
collections, others are not. Additionally, beyond the African American/Hispanic American materials deliberately selected, there is little multicultural representation in crafting topics.

For some topics, few materials have been published, so selections are “best available”. As a result, several of the included titles are more appropriate for the younger end of the target audience. Further, not all works in this collection are entirely gender-neutral, which will likely discourage use and borrowing by male patrons. While every attempt was made to select gender-neutral materials depicting both males and female subjects, this was not always possible.

Finally, because the branch was, in most cases, only able to select one title per subtopic, the collection contains few advanced skill-level titles. Selectors wanted to ensure that collection materials would be accessible to the greatest number of patrons possible, which generally meant selecting a beginning or intermediate title over an advanced one. To minimize the impact of this, selectors attempted to choose materials suitable for a range of skill levels.

The branch proposes several areas for future growth of the collection. First, it will be beneficial to add works on topics that are not covered by the aforementioned materials, such as ceramics, scoubidou, and “cultural crafts beyond Latin America/Africa. Second, selectors would like to expand coverage of topics currently represented in the collection by purchasing additional volumes in popular subject areas, particularly drawing. Finally, it will be useful to acquire advanced resources on all topics in the collection so that patrons are able to progress to more challenging materials once they have mastered the basic skills in the included basics-level volumes.