

# The Blue Mountains Public Library Collection Evaluation

## Size

Titles held per capita is 14.97 including eBooks. Average for a library our size is 12.25.

Number of Physical Items is 33,928. If we consider part-time residents, we are considered a large branch according to the *Guidelines for Rural/Urban Public Library System*; 33.928 physical items exceeds the standard of 24,000-50,000.

**Turnover** for the physical collection is 2.89 in 2017. Average for a library our size is 3.27.

Highest turnover: movies, technology, audiobooks, junior fiction, adult fiction

Lowest turnover: junior French, adult nonfiction, YA and junior nonfiction

**Annual Circ per Capita** is 6.84, which exceeds the average even when we use a population of 14,000 doubled the official number to take into account part-time residents.

## Age of the Collection

Acquired in the last 5 years:

Adult Fiction	51%
Adult Nonfiction	30%
Movies	65%
Junior	41%

**Large number of volumes + high annual circulation + low turnover + old collection = WEED**

## Coverage of the collection

There are few up to date lists, although the library has almost all of the Globe and Mail best books of 2016 and 2017.

Some gaps found:

Adult nonfiction: alternative medicine, brand new travel guides, physician home guides, arthritis, coins and stamps old, dance

## Physical inspection

New Adult Fiction and Non-Fiction: There are four major displays in the circulation area of LE Shore: New Fiction, New Non-Fiction, Bulletin board display with shelving below, and Staff Picks. Staff Picks is dusty.

Reference: The reference collection is a small collection of municipal materials, local history books, legislation, dictionaries, subject encyclopedias, buying guides and phone books. The subject encyclopedias, buying guides and phone books are out of date. If use does not warrant an update to new editions, they should be removed from the collection. There are empty shelves.

Board books: A collection of board books is shelved in two nearby units. The first is an attractive unit designed by books for small children. The other is a cheap IKEA shelf. There are lots of good-looking board books, but many damaged ones too. The IKEA unit should be removed and damaged board books regularly weeded.

Picture books: There is a lot of selection of picture books and great space atop the shelf for display. At places the shelving is crowded. Although many classic titles (Dr. Suess, Eric Carle, Berenstain Bears) are there, they are not in good shape.

Junior Fiction: Another row of great low shelving with display space on top, although from the right angle, you can see the dust on top. The shelves are full – crowded in some areas, and many titles look old. Junior fiction and junior series are shelved in different areas, although there are series in both sections. Ideally, this should be integrated but the collection is probably too large.

Early Readers: This section has lots of new books, although there are still many old books in poor shape. It is organized by author and not reading level. Because these books are inexpensive, they should be replaced more often, with more books weeded due to condition, even if they are still circulating.

Read & Sing: There is a collection of Picture books and JNF that include an audio CD in the “Read & Sing” Collection. They are nearby the junior audiobooks, which seems like a good idea.

Junior Audiobooks and Music: there is a small collection of junior audiobooks and music, and although there are new titles, some are in bad shape and were processed in their paper packaging. Some jewel cases are falling apart.

Junior NonFiction: This collection is not small. Although the shelves are not crowded, there is no subject labeling of any kind. 971, Canadian history, in particular, is difficult to navigate. Again, there is a good display area on top, with pamphlets for e-Resources.

Audiobooks: The large, popular audiobook collection, mostly in CD format is crowded. The shelves are very full, with some cases brittle and breaking. The collection includes popular genre fiction as well as literary fiction and some classics and popular non-fiction, including some language learning. There is also a smaller Playaway collection that has no new titles.

Movies:

Parenting: There is a bay of shelving that includes children’s books on topics like death and anxiety and parenting and pregnancy manuals. It’s near the children’s movies and the kid’s section.

Junior Graphic Books: The shelves are mostly crowded with some damaged books still in circulation as well as series that have not been continued in some time. There were two empty shelves!

French: The collection of French books for children was very messy and out of date.

YA NonFiction: A small but interesting collection of books on personal issues for teens. Many new titles on display.

YA Graphic Books: Full shelves and discontinued series. There was a variety of comic books, graphic novels and non-fiction.

YA Fiction: Lots of new books, with the shelves pretty crowded. Popular series were moved to another out, because of lack of space, which is not great. Poor signage.

Magazines: A variety of print magazines with eMagazines promoted within the collection

Adult Paperbacks: No signage, but new titles nicely displayed on the top shelf. A variety of genre fiction.

Large print: A variety of titles, but lots of books by Steel, Todd, Patterson, Connelly, and Baldacci. Also, half a SOLS rotating collection. Does circulation warrant a collection this size?

Adult Fiction: was nice and neat, although some areas were overcrowded. Lots of new titles, mystery series obviously very popular. Weeded well.

100: Computer section labeled and weeded well. Everything else, no display, no labels

200: crowded, old titles

300: very crowded, although personal finance well weeded

400: few new language books, but Mango Languages promoted in the stacks

500: good range, local books good, not out of date

600: crowded, lots of new health books

700: lots of older materials, sports section sad, art extensive

800: lots of older materials, lots of Canadian content

900: travel section lacking in 2017/2018 guides, good display with eResources promotion

921: Biography well-weeded, two display shelves. Should this all be in 921 Biography?

930-999: History well weeded with display and shelf labels