

May 2003
Volume 36
Number 9
ISSN: 1192-2273

N Library Media Services ewsletter

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Going up: 2003 Book Prices

According to the March issue of *School Library Journal*, book prices for hardcover children's and young adult titles will increase overall in 2003.

The average price increase in 2003 for all hardcover children's and young adult (YA) titles is \$.40 US--exactly double that of 2002--for a total of \$19.18 US.

Materials for pre-school to Grade 4, which comprise the picture book and primary non-fiction collections, have increased \$1.41 US over 2002 to \$17.45 US per title.

Fiction for Grade 5+ should decrease by \$.06 US per title; however, it must be remembered that the price increase for these materials in 2002 amounted to \$.73 US per title over 2001.

Nonfiction materials for Grade 5+ comprise the "authentic text" necessary to curriculum implementation. Expect an increase of \$1.53 per title over 2002 for an average sticker price of \$22.99 US in 2003. Reference works are not included in this pricing.

Neither the fiction nor nonfiction materials for Grade 5+ noted above includes hardcover adult titles which form part of senior school collections.

Library Media Services Newsletter is published the first Tuesday of each month from September to June. Opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent the policy or opinions of The Winnipeg School Division.
Editor: Gloria Hersak

Online Union Catalogue: Keeping Current

As of September 2002, *The Winnipeg School Division Union Catalogue* went online at <http://wsdcatalogue.org>. One of the immediate benefits was the opportunity for WSD school library staff to utilize the e-mail function embedded in the software to transact inter-library loans between Division schools quickly and easily.

Another has been the opportunity to update the database throughout the year as opposed to the annual update necessitated by CD-ROM format.

During 2002/03 the *Union Catalogue* was updated over the Winter and the Spring breaks.

The Winter update resulted in WSD staff and students having access to a total of 13,154 items, of which 8,934 were catalogued and processed by Library Media Services and 4,220 items via RECON and United Library Services.

The Spring update provided access to another 14,340 items, 11,178 of which were catalogued and processed by LMS plus 3,162 items from RECON and ULS.

With the assistance of Red River

College Library and Information Technology students on practicum, a total of 5,498 records have been deleted from the *Union Catalogue* based upon deletions reports from school library staff.

The Summer update will include records for all items catalogued between 1 April and 27 June 2003, deletions from school libraries received up to and including 30 April 2003, plus ongoing additions and alterations.

"... if you want to do something good for children, the most important thing you can do is to cultivate a love of reading and to get them to be competent by browsing through books and checking out books."

Bill Gates, *Library Journal*, July 1997, p. 45.

Periodic updating of the online *Union Catalogue* provides current information to all schools and facilitates resource-sharing. For those schools which rely on the *Union Catalogue* as the school library catalogue,

updates are doubly important in allowing staff and students access to the most current resources in their own schools.

During 2003/04, Library Media Services anticipates more frequent updates; however, the cooperation of school library staff in forwarding, on a monthly basis, cataloguing record deletions and additions to LMS Technical Services is essential in order for LMS staff to manage the workload.

