WHAT IS BOOK COLLECTING?: THE CASE OF STUDENT BOOK-COLLECTING CONTESTS: THEIR ORIGINS

Donald Farren

Abstract

Book-collecting contests intended to encourage students to collect books have long been a fixture of college and university library programs in the United States, although they apparently are unknown elsewhere. At the initiative of the college or university library, students are invited to submit a list of books they have collected, along with an explanation of the theme and significance of their collection. After a preliminary winnowing, selected collections are judged by a panel composed of some combination of library staff, faculty, and outsiders (which may include library supporters, a local mature collector or literary figure, or a bookseller).

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Great news for all you book lovers out there. If you have a book collection of any kind, it could earn you money! In this week’s Library Minute Anali tells us all about the ASU Libraries Student Book Collection Contest, which awards cash prizes to undergraduate and graduate student collectors. The deadline for the 2010 contest is February 18: Enter today! More information: ASU Libraries Student Book Collecting Contest.

Every winning collection is the result of a breathtaking commitment to research and an adoration of books. Out of the many dozens applications received, the ten best finalists are interviewed by the judges. Their personal libraries are judged by "intrinsic significance, innovation, and interest of book collections." The volumes’ age, rarity, and physical virtues are all considered, too. In order to enter the competition, the student has had to have placed first at a book collecting contest at their college. Three dozen of such contests are held across the country, and do well to