Selection Process:

1. Titles are chosen through a systematic surveillance of review literature with the express purpose of assisting with the collection development decisions made in small and mid-size libraries. Content specialists and highly trained collection development staff nominate preliminary title selections. Initial recommendations are obtained from a variety of review sources, including publisher catalogs, starred review and best lists included in respected industry periodicals, award winning title lists, as well as other review source recommendations. Examples of journals used for review purposes include: Booklist, VOYA: Voice of Youth Advocates, School Library Journal, Horn Book, and Library Journal.

2. A panel of librarian nominators—with expertise in the materials referenced in the Collections and knowledge of current trends facing libraries – evaluate the initial choices made by the specialists. Nominators are encouraged to emphasize materials that build a well-rounded collection, which includes all viewpoints and opinions, as well as fulfills the core mission of the library. All nominators are given access to a number of well-respected review sources to ensure the quality of their assessments is thorough and unbiased. These nominators also have the opportunity to add titles to the Collections as appropriate.

3. Titles are evaluated according to standard library collection development review criteria, which include the following: authoritative nature of the work, quality of content, usefulness and intended purpose, relevance to audience or community, contribution to depth and breadth of collection, enduring value/demand and cost relative to overall value.

Advisory Committee Review:

On a periodic basis, an advisory committee is convened to discuss current issues facing libraries and resulting changes in collection development trends and material usage. The Committee is charged with providing overall assessment of the collection, advising editors in the new directions and focus needed to enhance the collection and providing guidance on re-evaluating material in the previous print edition, which may include removing titles from recommendation.

Recommendation Levels (see page 2 for a flow chart of this process):

Most Highly Recommended – Designated as a priority purchase for all libraries; listed in print and online editions.

Core Collection – Recommended purchase for a well-rounded collection; listed in print and online editions.

Supplementary – Acceptable title for in-depth subject collections or larger libraries; listed only in online database.
Book title is captured in systematic surveillance system

Is title on a best list?

No

Is title an award winner?

Yes

Is award on Tier 1 list?

Yes

Title goes on product at Level 1

No

Title goes on product at Level 2

Does it have 3 top tier starred reviews?

No

Does it have 4 starred reviews from any source?

Yes

Title goes on product at Level 2

No

Title goes on product at Level 1

Has the title been nominated by others?

Yes

Title goes on product at Level 1 or Level 2 (final decision by team)

No

Is it designated as a supplemental title?

Yes

Title goes on product at Level 3 awaiting further info.

No

Book is nominated by a librarian nominator and sent to team

Level Key
Level 1 = Highly Recommend
Level 2 = Core Collection
Level 3 = Supplementary