Thought Exercises for Inclusive Collection Development
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"The Set-Up"

I wanted to create assignments for a 4-week music collection development class that required participants to integrate inclusive and representative thinking as a natural element of their collecting practices.

AKA - Inclusivity should not be an after thought nor should it necessarily be 'special' or 'extra'.
Assignment 1

Draft a plan that describes what you will do during your first 100 days on the job so that by the 101st day you will have a solid understanding of what you need to collect.

Must reflect understanding of the week's lecture.
"So the focus of traditional collection development practices, as well as most of the tools we have available to us, are focused on the needs, habits, and world views of the most active library users even though we know there is a large part of the population who is not utilizing the collections. Possibly people simply have no need or interest in using the library and that’s fine, but equally possible is that the library holds nothing for them, that the library has nothing that meets their unique information needs and world view, and that the library has nothing that not only discusses their community but is created by members of their community."
Assignment 2

Please revisit the list of Review Resources on the Tools & Resources page. Select one resource listed there and write a review of it. Your review does not have to be long but should seek to answer the following questions:
Assignment 2, cont’d

Guiding Questions Nos. 1 & 2

Do the reviews largely avoid personal convictions in their assessments?
Does the resource have substantive gender and racial balance in terms of content being reviewed as well as reviewer authorship?
Assignment 3

Please reflect upon how an approval plan might support or undermine your efforts to build a diverse, equitable, and inclusive collection as well as steps that could be taken to ensure the plan supports your DEI aims.
Assignment 4

Your final assignment is to select a music e-resource and pitch it as a resource to purchase. In this case, your audience will be a selection committee of one, just me.
Assignment 4, cont’d

Your pitch should:

• briefly describe the resource;
• who will use it;
• describe the fitness of the resource for your institution;
• how well does it meet accessibility needs;
• is the content representative (i.e., does it meet the basics of DEI concepts) and, if not, why is this resource still worth pursuing;
• what tech or user support, if any, does the company selling this resource provide;
• Optional: what gap in existing needs does this resource fill (this last point is not required but if you are associated with a music library that you feel you have sufficient knowledge to answer this then i’ll encourage you to take this one as a challenge worth trying).
Thank you!