

Guidelines for Criteria, while Selecting Authentic Books and Materials

Recommendation: Please check to see that the resource meets one of the three criteria

1. Written by a First Nation's author.
2. Published by a First Nation's publishing company.
3. Favorably reviewed by a First Nation's person (who is either an oral traditional scholar or an academic scholar.)

Red Flags

Some Signs of Bias, Stereotyping, Misrepresentation, or Appropriate in Literature or Media

Adapted from the First Nations Traveling Resource Center and Oyate

1. Indigenous people are portrayed as caricatures. (Many mascots are examples.)
2. The word "all" is used rather than "some" when talking about indigenous people, or even as tribe. "Many" would even be better than "all". Scholastic book 'IF YOU LIVED WITH THE SIOUX INDIANS' is an example.
3. First Nations people are depicted either as fierce or as "tree huggers". (The movie 'POCHANTAS' would be an example as would 'THE LITTLE HOUSE' series.)
4. White people "save the day". ('AVATAR' would be an example as are most books about Thanksgiving written from a European perspective.)
5. First Nations people are represented as "extinct". (Jane Yolen's 'ENCOUNTER' would be an example.)
6. The customs and culture of one tribe are confused with the customs and culture of another, e.g. Teepees or Totem Poles show up in an Oneida village. (Playskool's Indian Village is an example.)
7. Text is written from a non-native perspective with no evidence of the writer ever having consulted with living members of the tribe represented. (Much of Paul Goble's work falls in this category.)
8. Research is based solely on books, particularly books from a European perspective. ('SKELETON WOMAN' in our collection of "biased books" is an example.)

Some American Indian Presses and Tribal Publishers

Eaglecrest Books

#2098 5462 TransCanada Highway
Duncan, BC
V9L 6W4 Canada
250-748-3744
(All nations; leveled books)
www.eaglecrestbooks.com

Inhabit Media

PO Box 11125
Iquluit, NU
XDA IH0 Canada
(Inuit)
www.inhabitmedia.com

Muh-He-Con-Neew Press

N9126 Big Lake Road
Gresham, WI 54128-8955
715-787-4427
(Stockbridge-Munsee/Mohican)
www.uwm.edu/muh-he-con-neewpress

Oyate

330 East Thomson Avenue
Sonoma, CA 95476
707-996-6700
(All Nations)
www.oyate.org

Pemmican Publications

150 Henry Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3B OJ7 Canada
204-589-6346
(Metis)
www.pemmicanpublications.ca

Theytus Books

Lot 45 Green Mountain Road
RR2, Site 50, Comp 8
Penticton, British Columbia
V2A 6J7 Canada
250-493-7181
(Okanagan; All nations)
www.theytus.com

Indian Country Communications

8558 N County Road K
Hayward WI 54843-5880
www.indiancountrynews.info

National Museum of the American Indian

4th Street and Independence Avenue, SW
Washington DC 20560
www.nmai.si.edu