

**Greene Central High School
Greene County
Snow Hill, NC
Community and Patron Analysis**

(Greene Central homepage: <http://gchs.gcsedu.org/home.aspx>)

Introduction: Before beginning to format a school library collection development policy a Media Coordinator (MC) must have a thorough understanding of the community in which the school resides and of the patrons who will use the facility. To gain this knowledge the MC must collect a myriad of data from various sources. Collecting this data and assembling it in a logical manner will assure the MC will “meet the expectations and needs of the users” (Evans & Saponaro). Most of the data will come from the state DPI Web site and the US Census Bureau Web site. Other information will be gathered from local sources. The Greene Central High School media center encompasses a multitude of different patrons who reside in a small rural North Carolina county.

Library Mission: The staff of Greene Central High School and Media Center commits to educate all students and to maximize their capabilities in academic and social skills.

Geography: “The County, covering 269 square miles, is centrally located in the Atlantic Coastal Plains area of Eastern North Carolina. The county is bounded by Wayne

County on the west, Lenoir County on the south, Pitt County on the east, and Wilson County on the northwest. The county seats and urban centers of these counties are Goldsboro, Kinston, Greenville, and Wilson respectively. The topography of the county is characterized as being predominantly flat in profile with its drainage basins being shallow and low-sloping.” (<http://www.greenecountync.com/history.aspx>)

History: Greene County has a history that goes back to the land grants from King Charles II of England around 1663. People of European decent eventually settled the area after the defeat of the Tuscarora Indians. Originally the county was named after the Secretary of State, Glasgow but when it was found that he was engaging in criminal activity it was decided to name the county in honor of the famous Revolutionary War hero, Nathaniel Greene. The county seat, Snow Hill, where Greene Central High School is located is centrally located in the county. Its name comes from the mounds of pure white sand that line the sides of the Contentnea Creek (About Greene County).

Political: All four of the media centers in Greene County are, in theory, under the leadership of each school principal but in reality they are under the jurisdiction of the Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services. The Assistant Superintendent has the authority to disperse the budget, approve purchases of materials other than books, and approves conference attendance. The school principal’s role is minimal in the daily routine of the media center; she approves purchases of office supplies, laminating film, toner for printers, etc.

Public Libraries: Greene County enjoys a branch of the Neuse Regional Library System that is based in Kinston, NC. (<http://www.neuselibrary.org/>). The Greene Central Media Center and the Greene County branch library collaborate with each other occasionally for summer reading lists and borrowing educational videos.

Community demographics and economics: Greene County

Social Characteristics:

The average household in Greene County has 2.84 people, 71% have a high school education or higher, 7.7% have a Bachelor's degree or higher. There were 1498 people who were foreign born listed in the 2005-2007 American Community Survey (US Census Bureau). Another page from this site indicates: Persons of Hispanic or Latino origin: in 2006 Greene County had 11.5% and the state of North Carolina had 6.7%. This indicates that the media center should work towards choosing materials that this population would both enjoy and encourage them in their reading skills.

Economic Characteristics:

The estimated labor force in Greene County is 9,288, these people travel an estimated 23.1 minutes to work (note: Greene County is centrally located almost equi-distant to Greenville, Wilson, Goldsboro, and Kinston.). The median household income is \$34,899 and the per capita income is a mere \$16,268 per year. As a result Greene County has a high poverty level when compared to the U.S. percentage: Families below poverty level Greene County-15.5% – US 9.85% and individuals below poverty level – Greene County 21.8% and the US 13.3%. The median value of homes in Greene County is \$80,800 and there are 7,544 total housing units 4387 are owner occupied, 2052 are rentals, and 1105 are unoccupied. The population is comprised of 10,436 males and 9,755 females, 9,981

are white, 7,808 are black, 283 are American Indian, 21 Asian and 1,976 are listed as “other.” (U.S. Census Bureau) The county seat, Snow Hill is the main commercial destination for the county; shopping opportunities include a furniture store, an interior design shop, two florists, two “dollar” type stores, two drug stores, two auto supplies, a video store, a grocery store, and a meat market. Restaurants are abundant in Snow Hill and include a steak house, a diner, a pizza parlor, two family style eateries, and three fast food restaurants.

Greene Central High School demographics and economics: As you can see from the chart for reduced and free lunch, Greene County schools have a high percentage of needy students.

Site name	ADM	Reduced Applications	Free Applications	Needy%	
Greene Central High	813	101	418	63.84%	09 12
Greene County Middle	746	82	450	71.31%	06 08
Greene Early College	82	0	0	0.00%	09 09
Snow Hill Primary	827	75	630	85.25%	PK 02
West Greene Elementary	812	69	629	85.96%	03 05
Sponsor Totals:	3,280	327	2,127	74.82%	

The most recent school “report card” was just made available; the high schools was labeled a Priority School, it did not make adequate yearly progress, it met only 10 out of 17 AYP targets (NC School Report Cards). Looking specifically at the English scores 57.1% of the student’s scores are At or Above Grade Level and the numbers in the charts below one can deduce that improvements in the library’s collection may help to improve those scores.

Access to Books and Technology

Number of Books per Student

The number of library/media center books per student in your school and district and in the state.

MORE INFORMATION

	Books
Our School	13.58
District	14.24
State	17.42

Average Age of Media Center/Library Collection

The average age of the books in the school media center/library collection.

MORE INFORMATION

	Year
Our School	1985
District	1990
State	1992

Teachers at Greene Central are 97% fully licensed with 19% having a Master's degree or higher. The majority of the teachers (47%) have been teaching 10 or more years and just 31% have been teaching fewer than 3 years according to the greatschools Web site.

Legal Issues: The school's servers are equipped with WebSense filtering system that oversees all Internet usage including that of teachers. It sometimes does too good of a job and seems to "change its mind" sometimes allowing sites and then when teachers try to access them it blocks them. English teachers review copyright laws and Netiquette rules each semester. Also, the county pays a yearly licensing fee for use of videos in the classrooms. Teachers are instructed as to what they may and may not photocopy.

Communication systems- Greene Central has excellent wireless Internet service that is available school-wide. Several years ago the school system instituted the Apple One-to-one program and all the "extras" that went along with it. See: <http://edcommunity.apple.com/ali/story.php?itemID=15295> (note: I have a cameo appearance!) Each student from grades 6 through 12 is eligible for a laptop MacBook if they pay the required insurance premium. The NC School Report Cards site states that the school enjoys 0.79/computer, in other words, every student has access to an Internet

connected computer. Compare that with the state number of 2.97 students for each Internet connected computer and it is easy to see that Green County Schools are very much on top of 21st century technology. The Destiny online catalog is available to all students at school and at home via the school's homepage. The Media Center has four new iMacs available for those students who do not have a laptop or have lost their Internet privileges. The circulation desk has a new iMac as well.

Greene Central's classrooms are equipped with televisions that are connected to the ChannelOne network. This company broadcasts 12 minutes of news with a teen focus, daily to schools across the nation. It is a wonderful resource that also has monthly offerings of educational videos that media coordinators may record free of charge.

Transportation: Students are transported to Greene Central either by bus or private vehicle.

Community organizations: Greene County has several interesting and useful organizations that sometimes work with the schools for different functions. One is the Greene County Historical Association Museum. It is a small space dedicated to small art shows, meetings, and a small collection of historic Greene County paraphernalia. It also houses the Greene County Genealogy collection (<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ncgcgrr/>). This area has a number of historic books and files available for research; it is also fully equipped with computers wired to the Internet for genealogical searching. The county also has a Chamber of Commerce (<http://www.greenechamber.com/>) who sponsors a computer class for seniors that is taught by Greene Central students. It is a great part time income for the students and the seniors enjoy learning from the young people.

Reflection: As our text points out “ Effective collection development is possible only when it is based on sound knowledge of the service community” (Evans & Saponaro). Through this research I have found that the community that I will be working with has a large percentage of students in poverty, it has many Hispanics, and it has lots of new teachers, and it is rural in nature. This information and the other statistics that I have compiled will be invaluable to my collection development policy. I will better be able to purchase the necessary materials that will help to improve end of grade test scores as well as help me to collaborate more effectively with the faculty.

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