

Nunavut Curriculum Materials Relocated and Reorganized

Curriculum materials have recently become more accessible for educators in Nunavut. The Iqaluit Teaching and Learning Centre (TLC) of the Government of Nunavut is responsible for producing, distributing and storing curriculum materials, chiefly in Inuktitut, to support the Nunavut primary and secondary school systems. Carol Rigby, a freelance cataloguer, was contracted by the TLC to assist with the move and organization of its resources.

After years of working out of government offices and a Cold War-vintage warehouse space, the TLC had the opportunity to move into their own proper production and storage space in the newly renovated Aqsarniit Middle School in Iqaluit. Last year Carol began the project with a storage needs assessment and the preparation of shelving specifications. The shelving was installed in February, and then came the task of taking the haphazard piles of boxes from the old warehouse and organizing them in a fashion that would promote easy access to material and give teachers the ability to browse the storage area for resources and ideas. A brainstorming session with staff determined that a standard library classification system would not be the most useful way to organize these particular resources. As such, Carol developed a simple faceted classification system, identifying grade level (Primary, Middle, Junior, High School), curriculum area (Science, Mathematics, Language Arts, etc.) and curriculum topic (Land Animals, Size and Shape, Syllabic reading, etc.) that would meet their needs nicely. An intense few weeks were spent opening and classifying unidentified boxes of material thereafter.

The results are rewarding: already teaching staff have been wandering in and asking “is this a library?!” as they look through materials and appreciate what the TLC has made available for Nunavut students. There are still many boxes to be unpacked, and undoubtedly the sorting and shelf arranging will go on for some time. But access to all of these materials has been markedly improved. Carol says one of the most gratifying aspects of the project was how much the TLC staff recognized and appreciated the professional quality of organizational skill that could be provided by someone with library training and experience.

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