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A Gardening Collection for Clayton County Headquarters Library

The Library and the Collection

The Clayton County Library System is located in Clayton County, Georgia, just south of Atlanta. According to *The Georgia County Guide*, Clayton County is the third most densely populated county in the state (Boatright 2009, p. 132). The Clayton County Library System primarily serves the residents in Clayton County; however, the library does receive a large number of visitors from the surrounding counties: DeKalb, Fayette, Fulton, Henry, and Spalding. The library system has a headquarters as well as 5 branches, serves a population of 287,677 and circulates more than 680,000 items per year (Boatright 2009, p. 59). The general purchasing policy is to select one copy of each desired book for the headquarters library and then determine whether the branches also need copies. A high-use title might be placed in all 6 locations, whereas a lower-use title might be placed in 2 locations or only in the headquarters. Because the headquarters receives the greatest number of unique titles, the collection in this paper will be developed for the Clayton County Headquarters Library.

The library serves patrons from a wide range of ethnic, educational, and economic backgrounds. Most of the county's residents fit into a minority group: approximately 62% African-American, 11% Hispanic, and 4% Asian (Boatright 2009, p. 134-138). Approximately 20% of adults age 25 or older have not graduated from high school, and yet another 22% have completed an associate's, bachelor's, or graduate degree (Boatright 2009, p. 60). Six percent of households have a yearly income under \$10,000, while 7% have a yearly income exceeding

\$100,000 (Boatright 2009, p. 30). Because the patron base is so diverse, and because the library tries to cater to a wide range of interests, the collection level is usually far from comprehensive. Fortunately, the Clayton County Library System participates in the Georgia Library PINES as well as an interlibrary lending (ILL) program, receiving books and articles from libraries across the state and country. It would be neither practical nor possible for the system to collect in depth on all subjects, so topics are collected on a general level or according to local interest; highly specific or supplemental topics may be procured through PINES or ILL.

The collection being developed for the Headquarters Library is on the subject of gardening. In selecting materials, I followed the general policy discussed above: a wide range of topics will be collected at the general information level, with more in-depth emphasis given to topics of high local or current interest. For example, many Clayton County residents live in apartments or have small yards, so I collected books on gardening in small spaces or containers. In addition, due to current interest in sustainable living, I also focused on food gardening and organic or “green” methods.

The subject of gardening covers a broad range of unique and specialized topics. The *Sears List of Subject Headings* gave 30 different subject headings or subdivisions for gardening, including “rock gardens,” “weeds,” “fragrant gardens,” “pruning,” and “gardening in the shade” (Miller 2004). Clearly, many topics must be considered and weighed in order to produce a locally useful and balanced collection. This particular collection will attempt to provide a basic overview of a variety of gardening topics. At the same time, subjects of particular interest to the local population will be emphasized. Topics to be collected in greater depth include: gardening in Georgia (or the South), organic gardening, food gardening, container or small space gardening, garden design, and flower gardening. Although many gardening books are issued

exclusively in paperback format, hardcover editions will be selected when available. Emphasis will be placed upon collecting recent titles. Older titles will be examined to ensure that they meet current standards for issues such as pesticides and fertilizers.

Monograph Selection List

The following list is of the selected monographs. All prices are from Amazon.com unless otherwise specified. Prices from Alibris.com are indicated by an asterisk after the price.

Alexander, R. (2009). *The essential garden design workbook*. Timber Press. \$23.07

Alexander, W. (2007). *The \$64 tomato: How one man nearly lost his sanity, spent a fortune, and endured an existential crisis in the quest for the perfect garden*. Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill. \$10.04

American Horticultural Society. (2009). *The new encyclopedia of gardening techniques*. Octopus Publishing. \$29.70

Armitage, A. (2001). *Armitage's manual of annuals, biennials, and half-hardy perennials*. Timber Press. \$26.37

Austin, C., & Waddick, J. (2005) *Iris: A gardener's encyclopedia*. Timber Press. \$15.44

Baker, H. (2001). *Growing fruit*. Octopus Publishing. \$12.24

Barrett, J. (2009). *What can I do with my herbs?: How to grow, use, and enjoy these versatile plants*. Texas A&M University Press. \$14.96

Bartholomew, M. (2006). *All new square foot gardening: Grow more in less space*. Cool Springs Press. \$13.59

Bender, S. (2004). *The Southern Living garden book*. Oxmoor House. \$26.37

- Beutler, L. M. (2007). *Garden to vase: Growing and using your own cut flowers*. Timber Press. \$19.77
- Bradley, F. (2007). *Rodale's vegetable garden problem solver: The best and latest advice for beating pests, diseases, and weeds and staying a step ahead of trouble in the garden*. Holtzbrinck. \$13.59
- Bradley, F., & Courtier, J. (2006). *Vegetable gardening: From planting to picking - the complete guide to creating a bountiful garden*. Reader's Digest Association. \$21.75
- Bredenberg, J. (2009). *How to cheat at gardening and yard work: Shameless tricks for growing radically simple flowers, veggies, lawns, landscaping, and more*. Rodale Press. \$12.89
- Brickell, C. (1996). *The American Horticultural Society pruning and training: A fully illustrated plant-by-plant manual*. Dorling Kindersley Publishing. \$23.10
- Brickell, C. (2003). *American Horticultural Society encyclopedia of gardening*. Dorling Kindersley Publishing. \$59.70*
- Brickell, C. (2004). *American Horticultural Society A to Z encyclopedia of garden plants*. Dorling Kindersley Publishing. \$50.40
- Bryson, C., & DeFelice, M. (2009). *Weeds of the South*. University of Georgia Press. \$26.37
- Cairns, T. (2007). *Ortho all about roses*. John Wiley & Sons. \$11.01
- Calhoun, S. (2008). *Designer plant combinations: 105 stunning gardens using six plants or fewer*. Storey Publishing. \$12.89
- Chalker-Scott, L. (2008). *The informed gardener*. University of Washington Press. \$12.89
- Chaplin, L. T. (1994). *The Southern gardener's book of lists: The best plants for all your needs, wants, and whims*. Taylor Trade Publishing. \$12.21

- Cohen, S., & Ondra, N. (2005). *The perennial gardener's design primer: The essential guide to creating simply sensational gardens*. Storey Publishing. \$23.07
- Coleman, E. (2009). *The winter harvest handbook: Year-round vegetable production using deep-organic techniques and unheated greenhouses*. Chelsea Green Publishing. \$19.77
- Cox, K. (2005). *Rhododendrons and azaleas: A colour guide*. The Crowood Press. \$43.87
- Cramer, J., & Johnson, D. (2004). *Window boxes: Indoors and out*. Storey Publishing. \$11.53
- Crawford, P. (2007). *Instant container gardens*. Color Garden, Incorporated. \$13.57
- Crawford, P. (2008). *Easy container gardens, vol. 2*. Color Garden, Incorporated. \$13.57
- Crawford, P., Cotton, H., & Pleasant, B. (2009). *Easy gardens for the South*. Color Garden. \$19.77
- Cullina, W. (2004). *Understanding orchids: An uncomplicated guide to growing the world's most exotic plants*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. \$26.40
- Cullina, W. (2008). *Native ferns, moss, and grasses: From emerald carpet to amber wave, serene and sensuous plants for the garden*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. \$26.40
- Cullina, W. (2009). *Understanding perennials: A new look at an old favorite*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. \$26.40
- Cuthbertson, Y. (2001). *Beginner's guide to herb gardening*. Sterling Publishing. \$13.56
- Damrosch, B. (2008). *The garden primer*. Workman Publishing. \$19.11
- Darke, R. (2002). *The American woodland garden: Capturing the spirit of the deciduous forest*. Timber Press. \$32.97
- DeWitt, D. & Bosland, P. W. (2009). *The complete chile pepper book: A guide to identifying, growing, preserving, and cooking*. Timber Press. \$19.77

- Dillard, T. & Williamson, D. (2006). *Best garden plants for Georgia*. Lone Pine Publishing. \$16.95
- Dillard, T. & Williamson, D. (2007). *Perennials for Georgia*. Lone Pine Publishing. \$15.56
- Dirr, M. (2002). *Dirr's trees and shrubs for warm climates: An illustrated encyclopedia*. Timber Press. \$45.17
- Dirr, M. (2007). *Hydrangeas for American gardens*. Timber Press. \$19.77
- DiSabato-Aust, T. (2003). *The well-designed mixed garden*. Timber Press. \$26.37
- DiSabato-Aust, T. (2006). *The well-tended perennial garden*. Timber Press. \$23.07
- DiSabato-Aust, T. (2009). *Fifty high-impact, low-care garden plants: Tough-but-beautiful plants that anyone can grow*. Timber Press. \$11.53
- Dobbs, S. (2008). *The Georgia lawn guide: Attaining and maintaining the lawn you want*. Cool Springs Press. \$11.01
- Dorling Kindersley Publishing Staff (2009). *Tomato*. Dorling Kindersley Publishing. \$14.04
- Druse, K. (2008). *Planthropology: The myths, mysteries, and miracles of my garden favorites*. Crown Publishing. \$31.50
- Dunn, T. (2006). *Water gardening for the South*. Cool Springs Press. \$14.81
- Ellis, B. (2007). *Covering ground: Unexpected ideas for landscaping with colorful, low-maintenance ground covers*. Storey Publishing. \$13.57
- Ellis, B. (2008). *The veggie gardener's answer book*. Storey Publishing. \$10.17
- Fell, D. (2007). *Encyclopedia of hardy plants: Annuals, bulbs, herbs, perennials, shrubs, trees, vegetables, fruits and nuts*. Firefly Books. \$19.77
- Fisher, K. (2005). *Water gardens, ponds, and fountains*. Creative Homeowner. \$19.95
- Fowler, A. (2009). *Garden anywhere*. Chronicle Books. \$16.47

- Franks, E. & Richardson, J. (2009). *Microgreens: A guide to growing nutrient packed greens*. Gibbs Smith. \$13.59
- Gillman, J. (2008.) *The truth about garden remedies: What works, what doesn't, and why*. Workman Publishing. \$9.32
- Gillman, J. (2008.) *The truth about organic gardening: Making the best choices and avoiding the pitfalls*. Timber Press. \$10.36
- Glasener, E., & Reeves, W. (2004). *Georgia gardener's guide*. Cool Springs Press. \$18.24
- Glasener, E., & Reeves, W. (2007). *Month-by-month gardening in Georgia: What to do each month to have a beautiful garden all year*. Cool Springs Press. \$16.49
- Graham, C. (2007). *Cacti and succulents: An illustrated guide to the plants and their cultivation*. The Crowood Press. \$23.10
- Greenwood, P. (2008). *1001 ideas for better gardening*. Creative Homeowner. \$18.96
- Grey-Wilson, C. (2009). *The rock garden plant primer*. Timber Press. \$21.86
- Halpin, A., Holmes, R., & Lewis, E. (2007). *Gardening for all seasons*. Creative Homeowner. \$17.12
- Hayes, V. (2008). *The gourmet garden*. Barron's Educational Series. \$14.99
- Helphand, K. (2006). *Defiant gardens: Making gardens in wartime*. Trinity University Press. \$22.76
- Hill, L. (1998). *Pruning made easy: A gardener's visual guide to when and how to prune everything, from flowers to trees*. Storey Publishing. \$13.57
- Holmes, R., & Buchanan, R. (2005). *Southeast home landscaping*. Creative Homeowner. \$13.57
- Hutchinson, C. (2008). *Time-saving gardener: Tips and essential tasks, season by season*. Firefly Books. \$15.56

- Kalaidis, G. (2008). *Hardy succulents: Tough plants for every climate*. Storey Publishing. \$21.86
- King, M. (2005). *Gardening With Tulips*. Timber Press. \$29.95
- Kraus, H. (2009). *Rain gardening in the South: Ecologically designed gardens for drought, deluge and everything in between*. Eno Publishers. \$14.96
- Kruger, A. (2005). *Rodale's illustrated encyclopedia of organic gardening*. Dorling Kindersley Publishing. \$16.50
- Lamp'l, J. (2008). *The green gardener's guide: Simple, significant actions to protect and preserve our planet*. Cool Springs Press. \$13.22
- Madigan, C. (2009). *The backyard homestead*. Storey Publishing. \$12.89
- Martin, T. (2009). *The new terrarium: Creating beautiful displays for plants and nature*. Crown Publishing. \$16.50
- McGrath, M. (2009). *You bet your tomatoes: Fun facts, tall tales, and a handful of useful gardening tips*. Plain White Press. \$11.01
- McKinley, M. (2004). *Complete Guide to Roses*. John Wiley & Sons. \$13.57
- Mercer, S. (2008). *3 step vegetable gardening: The quick and easy way to grow fruit and vegetables*. Creative Homeowner. \$13.57
- Nardoizzi, C. (2009). *Vegetable gardening for dummies*. John Wiley & Sons. \$13.59
- Neal, N. (2008). *Organic gardening down South: Deep South gardening the organic way*. B. B. Mackey Books. \$14.35
- Newbury, T. (2006). *Garden design made easy*. Octopus Publishing. \$19.95
- Newbury, T. (2010). *The ultimate garden designer*. Octopus Publishing. \$15.30
- Ogden, S. (2007). *Garden bulbs for the South*. Timber Press. \$23.07
- Ogden, S., & Ogden, L.S. (2008). *Plant driven design*. Timber Press. \$23.07

- Ondra, N. (2002). *Taylor's guide to roses: How to select and grow 380 roses, including the new hardy ever-blooming varieties*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. \$17.25
- Ondra, N. (2007). *Foliage: Astonishing color and texture beyond flowers*. Storey Publishing. \$25.55
- Ondra, N. (2009). *The perennial care manual: A plant-by-plant guide - what to do and when to do it*. Storey Publishing. \$25.55
- Ondra, N., & Cohen, S. (2007). *Fallscaping: Extending your garden season into autumn*. Storey Publishing. \$15.61
- O'Sullivan, P. (2007). *Homeowner's complete tree and shrub handbook: The essential guide to choosing, planting, and maintaining perfect landscape plants*. Storey Publishing. \$30.36
- Pelczar, R., & Barrick, W. (2004). *SmartGarden regional guide: Southeast*. Dorling Kindersley Publishing. \$19.80
- Peterson, D., & Selsam, M. (2008). *Don't throw it, grow it!: 68 windowsill plants from kitchen scraps*. Storey Publishing. \$8.76
- Pitzer, S. (2009). *Homegrown whole grains: Grow, harvest, and cook your own wheat, barley, oats, rice, and more*. Storey Publishing. \$10.17
- Pleasant, B. (2005). *The complete houseplant survival manual: Essential gardening know-how for keeping (not killing) more than 160 indoor plants*. Storey Publishing. \$16.47
- Pleasant, B., & Martin, D. (2008). *Complete compost gardening guide: Banner batches, grow heaps, comforter compost, and other amazing techniques for saving time and money, and producing the most flavorful, nutritious vegetables ever*. Storey Publishing. \$29.95
- Provey, J., Robinson, K., & Cline, V. (2008). *Expert guide to lawns: Pro secrets for a beautiful yard*. Creative Homeowner. \$13.22

- Reeves, W. (2008.) *Georgia gardeners' Q & A: 501 answers to frequently asked questions*. Cool Springs Press. \$14.00
- Reich, L. (2009). *Landscaping with fruit*. Storey Publishing. \$22.80
- Reiley, H. E. (2004). *Success with rhododendrons and azaleas*. Timber Press. \$22.45
- Roberts, G. (2000). *American Horticultural Society gardening manual*. Dorling Kindersley Publishing. \$24.00*
- Roebuck, F. (2007). *Complete roses: Featuring 100 easy-growing favorites*. Creative Homeowner. \$13.22
- Rogers, R. (2008). *Coleus: Rainbow foliage for containers and gardens*. Timber Press. \$19.77
- Ruppenthal, R.J. (2008). *Fresh food from small spaces*. Chelsea Green Publishing. \$16.47
- Rushing, F. (2003). *Tough plants for Southern gardens: Low care, no care, tried and true winners*. Cool Springs Press. \$16.49
- Rushing, F., & Reeves, W. (2008). *Guide to Georgia vegetable gardening*. Cool Springs Press. \$10.36
- Scanniello, S. (2006). *A year of roses*. Cool Springs Press. \$10.00
- Schneider, P. (2009). *Right rose, right place*. Storey Publishing. \$21.56
- Schneller, L. (2009). *The ever-blooming flower garden: A blueprint for continuous color*. Storey Publishing. \$13.57
- Scott, A. (2007). *Otherwise normal people: Inside the obsessive and thorny world of competitive rose gardening*. Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill. \$11.71
- Seymour, J. (2008). *The new self-sufficient gardener*. Dorling Kindersley Publishing. \$13.57
- Seymour, J. (2009). *The self-sufficient life and how to live it*. Dorling Kindersley Publishing. \$23.10

- Smith, E. (2006). *Incredible vegetables from self-watering containers: Using Ed's amazing POTS System*. Storey Publishing. \$12.97
- Smith, E. (2010). *The vegetable gardener's bible: Discover Ed's high-yield W-O-R-D System for all North American gardening regions*. Storey Publishing. \$23.07
- Smith, J. S. (2009). *The garden of invention: Luther Burbank and the business of breeding plants*. Penguin Group. \$17.13
- Smith, M. (2007). *The plant propagator's bible*. Rodale Press. \$14.93
- Thompson, K. (2009). *The book of weeds: How to deal with plants that behave badly*. Dorling Kindersley Publishing. \$14.04
- Toensmeier, E. (2007). *Perennial vegetables: From artichoke to zuiki taro, a gardener's guide to over 100 delicious, easy-to-grow edibles*. Chelsea Green Publishing. \$23.10
- Togood, A. (1999). *Plant propagation: The fully illustrated plant-by-plant manual of practical techniques*. Dorling Kindersley Publishing. \$23.10
- Tomasz, A. (2008). *When perennials bloom: An almanac for planning and planting*. Timber Press. \$37.77
- Tukey, P. (2007). *The organic lawn care manual: An all-natural, low-maintenance system for a safe and beautiful yard*. Storey Publishing. \$25.60
- Weishan, M. (2006). *The victory garden companion*. HarperCollins Publishers. \$25.76
- White, J. (2009). *Bloom-again orchids: Tips and tricks for glorious displays year after year*. Timber Press. \$10.17
- White, L. A. (2008). *Water garden idea book*. Taunton Press. \$13.57
- Wilson, J., & Chandoha, W. (2009). *Homegrown vegetables: A bountiful garden for lean times*. Creative Homeowner. \$11.53

Winter, N. (2006). *Tough-as-nails flowers for the South*. University of Mississippi Press. \$50.00

Wulf, A. (2009). *The brother gardeners: Botany, empire, and the birth of an obsession*. Knopf Doubleday. \$23.10

Zachos, E. (2007). *Down and dirty!: 43 fun and funky first-time projects and activities to get you gardening*. Storey Publishing. \$30.00

Selection Tools

Amazon.com, Inc. Retrieved November 25, 2009, from <http://www.amazon.com>

American Horticultural Society. (2009). *AHS garden book award winners*. Retrieved October 10, 2009, from http://www.ahs.org/awards/book_awards/book_award_winners.htm

American Horticultural Society. (2009). *Past book reviews and recommendations*. Retrieved October 10, 2009, from http://www.ahs.org/books/past_book_recommendations.htm

Bowker's BooksinPrint.com (2009). Accessed October 29, 2009, from <http://www.booksinprint.com>

Ferguson, D. (2008). *Book review index*. (2008 cumulation). United States: Gale Cengage.

ForeWord Magazine. (2009). *Book of the year awards*. Retrieved October 20, 2009, from <http://www.forewordmagazine.net/awards>

Greenfieldt, J., & Bartell, P. (2008). *Public library core collection: A selection guide to reference books and adult nonfiction*. (13th ed.) New York: H.W. Wilson, Co.

Independent Book Publisher's Association. (2009). *Benjamin Franklin Awards™ winners and finalists*. Retrieved October 20, 2009 from <http://www.ibpa-online.org/pubresources/benfrank.aspx>

Joyce, A. (2009, November 1). [Review of the book *The rock garden plant primer: Easy, small plants for containers, patios, and the open garden* by C. Grey-Wilson]. *Booklist*, 106(5), 10.

Katz, W.A. (2005). *Magazines for libraries*. (14th ed). New York: Bowker.

Leslie, K. (2009, April 2). In the name of “easy”: The best plants for your garden: Experts test for color, low water, little work. *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, p. D1.

Librarians' Internet Index. (2009). *Gardening*. Retrieved October 9, 2009 from <http://lii.org/pub/topic/garden>

Midwest Book Review. (2009). Retrieved October 21, 2009, from <http://www.midwestbookreview.com/index.html>

Oliver, P. (2006, December 15). Collection development "Southeast gardening": Deep in the heart of gardening. *Library Journal*, 131(20), 79.

Publishers Weekly Staff. (2009). Digging up roots. *Publishers Weekly*, 256(11), 50.

Ulrich's Periodicals Directory. (2009). Accessed November 7, 2009, from <http://www.ulrichsweb.com>

The selection tools I found most useful were the book lists and awards from the American Horticultural Society, reviews and articles from *Library Journal*, and the database at BooksinPrint.com. The lists of books and award winners from the American Horticultural Society (and its periodical publication *American Gardener*) were very useful as a source of expert reviews, and as a means of judging the quality and validity of the information contained in specific books. They were also a good starting place for identifying important authors and publishers. I found many reviews from *Library Journal* informative, and particularly enjoyed

Phillip Oliver's collection development article on Southeast gardening. Here, the information combined subject matter and library interest, as the reviewer is a librarian as well as an avid long-time gardener. I found this aspect helpful, because a book might enthrall a gardening expert but have limited use in a public library collection. The BooksinPrint.com database was particularly useful in selecting books because so much information was gathered together in one place. It was easily searchable by author, subject, or publisher, and reviews from several major sources were conveniently attached. I found it particularly useful to view lists of books by publisher and limit the lists to those titles with professional reviews. The publishers' web sites for Timber Press or Storey Books (both reputable gardening publishers) obviously highlighted all of the best features or snippets from positive book reviews, but the Books in Print site allowed me to see full reviews, both positive and negative.

The tool I found most useful for selecting web sites was the list of gardening and horticulture links provided by the American Horticultural Society at http://www.ahs.org/horticulture_internet_community/index.htm. This site had links to a wide selection of resources. Even more important was the fact that they were chosen by gardening and horticulture experts as the sites that the organization would officially recommend; clearly, each link was to a valuable resource. For internet documents, I searched the University of Georgia's publication web site at <http://www.caes.uga.edu/publications>. The site included both alphabetical and numerical lists of publications, but also had a keyword search which returned results with the best or most appropriate document at the top of the list. This site was a handy source of resources chosen and written by experts, so I did not have to thoroughly examine each document to determine if the facts were all valid; if it was included for publication, it had been written and reviewed by

subject matter experts. Equally important was the fact that all documents included on the site were created for the use of Georgia gardeners and homeowners.

After creating a list of possible book selections based on reviews and recommendations from sources such as *Public Library Core Collection*, the American Horticultural Society, and *Library Journal*, I tried to find copies of as many of the books as possible. In addition, I looked at nearly every gardening book in my local bookstore, visited 8 public libraries (in 5 different library systems) and placed dozens of books on hold. If I examined a possible title that was not on my initial list, I then looked to see if it had received any professional reviews. I tried to look at so many books for two main reasons. First, I wanted to see what sorts of books various experts recommended so that I would be able to determine which reviewers or review sources were the most reliable and useful. Second, I needed to make sure that the books were suitable for my particular group of patrons. For example, one book recommended for all Southern gardens actually focused exclusively on the Gulf Coast region, and would be of little use in the Clayton County Library System. I examined all of the books for items such as the use of photos or illustrations and the level of expertise expected of the reader. A manual of organic gardening tips might be highly successful without any illustrations, but a book on pruning or propagation without step-by-step photos or illustrations would clearly miss the mark for all but the most seasoned professionals. The collection must also be balanced so that the beginning gardener has options on a basic level while the more experienced gardener has selections that will teach him more or help him improve his skills. The collection selected for this library seeks to fit the broad range of reading and interest levels of the patron base. For example, Thompson's *The Book of Weeds* is a highly illustrated guide with a simple, conversational tone, while Bryson & DeFelice's *Weeds of the South* would not be out of place in an academic or professional library. I

selected a large number of titles by Southern authors or that focused on Southern gardening. All books not intended exclusively for the South contain zone specific information. This was an important factor in selection. Some beautiful gardening books have been published in the United Kingdom, but climate zones and planting times are different than in the United States; in addition, specific cultivars discussed may not be readily available in this country or even suitable for Southern climates. Books on gardening in containers or small spaces were selected for both food and decorative gardening, but gardeners with larger spaces will find books on garden design as well as care and selection of trees, shrubs, and lawns. After noting that the county extension service had hosted a fall class on creating a water feature, I also made sure to include several water gardening books. I selected plant-specific books based on plants seen in local yards and nurseries; thus books on azaleas, roses, and hydrangeas were collected as well as books on orchids and other houseplants. Many titles were collected with the novice in mind, but avid gardeners and enthusiasts were not excluded. Several histories of gardening were included as well as titles such as *Understanding Perennials* and *Plantropology*, which focus on the science of the plants rather than on the “how-to” of growing them.

Periodicals

Giddings, S. (Ed.). *Georgia Gardening Magazine* 8(1-9). \$24.95

Shinn, M. (Ed.). *Horticulture: The Art and Science of Smart Gardening* 107(1-6). \$19.95

The periodicals I selected for the library’s collection are *Horticulture: The Art and Science of Smart Gardening* and *Georgia Gardening Magazine*. There are many fine gardening publications available for the U.S. market. I chose *Horticulture* based upon the positive review

from *Magazines for American Libraries* and from my own experience viewing recent issues. Of several magazines I examined, *Horticulture* seemed to have the widest variety of topics. Plant care, selection, and propagation guides were included in each issue, along with garden design tips and ideas and regional gardening sections. The pictures were attractive and relevant, and each issue included a step-by-step photo guide to a different gardening technique. The magazine seemed geared toward a wide audience rather than focusing on beginners or professionals. Although *Horticulture* had a regional gardening section, it was rather brief. This is why the second periodical I selected was one focused entirely on Georgia. *Georgia Gardening Magazine* is written by local gardeners on topics of local interest, and plants shown in this magazine are intended for use in Georgia gardening zones. Although there are some significant differences between coastal and central Georgia regions, articles on Southern gardens will be more useful overall than articles from a magazine based in the northern United States. Nursery advertisements and botanical garden events featured in the magazine will also be more useful to patrons than those in a national magazine.

Non-Print Items

I selected four DVDs for inclusion in the library's collection. Listed prices are from Amazon.com.

Baker, J. (Producer). (2006). *Jerry Baker: Year 'round vegetable gardening*. United States:

DPTV Media. \$12.49

Smith, J. W. (Producer). (2006). *How to prune roses: Real men prune roses bare handed*.

[Motion Picture]. United States: CustomFlix. \$15.95

Stanley, D. (Producer) & Getlin, M. (Director). (2007). *Orchid secrets made simple*. [Motion Picture]. United States: The Orchid Wrangler. \$15.95

Thomas, S. (Producer). (2009). *Renovation nation: Gardening – Watch your green grow*. United States: Gaiam, Inc. \$13.99

These four DVDs were selected for various reasons. *How to Prune Roses* and *Orchid Secrets Made Simple* were chosen not only because these flowers are popular, but also because the format adds an additional method of learning. One gardener may easily follow steps in a book, while another benefits from seeing the technique demonstrated. *Year 'Round Vegetable Gardening* was chosen because of Jerry Baker's continued popularity and his unique tips and plant tonics, but also because of the demand for vegetable gardening information. The *Renovation Nation* episode was selected for its topic as well; organic gardening and green methods are currently of great interest, and this DVD also focused on vegetable gardening. Of the four DVDs, I was unable to locate any to view. I did, however, watch a different Jerry Baker DVD, and understand the episodes to be very similar in terms of content and quality. For the other three DVDs, I searched topics of interest, such as pruning and organic gardening, and relied on consumer reviews from Amazon.com.

Web Sites and Web Documents

Web Sites

American Horticultural Society Internet Community and Resources Page. http://ahs.org/horticulture_internet_community/index.htm

Clayton County Master Gardeners Association. <http://www.claytoncountymastergardeners.org>

Garden Guides. <http://www.gardenguides.com>

National Gardening Association. <http://www.garden.org>

The U.S. National Arboretum Gardening Page. <http://www.usna.usda.gov/Gardens/gardeningr.html>

Walter Reeves the Georgia Gardener. <http://www.walterreeves.com>

Web sites were chosen that were easy to use and navigate and that did not require membership (including free membership) to view files. Sites that focused primarily on selling their own items were excluded, although sites that included shopping links were not excluded if the site was for a nonprofit organization or if the sales were not the main focus. Sites with distracting or pervasive ads or pop-ups were also excluded. All chosen sites were navigated and searched (if applicable) to determine the ease of locating desired information. All web sites were chosen based on the quality, quantity, and currency of information, as well as the variety of onsite materials or relevant links. Overall, the six web sites I selected were designed to appeal to the interest levels and learning styles of the broadest range of patrons. I selected The National Gardening Association's (NGA) web site not only for its direct tie to a large group of experts, but also for its broad appeal and variety of information formats. The site includes photos, videos, articles, project ideas, message boards, regional reports, a zone finder, and a searchable plant database. Garden Guides' site content is similar to the NGA site, but has more menus to choose from. It features articles, photos, videos, and databases, as well as a large online community. Membership is not required to view materials, but free membership is available for those who would like to join a forum or connect with other gardeners. The U.S. National Arboretum's Gardening Page includes some very interesting and informative articles as well as question and answer sections on garden favorites such as hydrangeas and azaleas. It is not searchable, but is

easily browsable; the quantity of information is not vast, but the quality of articles and accompanying pictures is high. Walter Reeves' site was included because he is a Georgia gardening expert, with a weekly newspaper column and radio and television gardening shows. His site includes commonly asked questions about plants, pests, fertilizers, planting times, and other gardening topics helpful to the Southern gardener. The web site also includes a variety of local and regional links. The Clayton County Master Gardener's Association web site was included for its immediate applicability. The site directs visitors to the appropriate email or phone number to speak to a local Master Gardener or schedule a free garden consult. The other main features of the site are a schedule of upcoming classes and events as well as links to Georgia gardening sites. The information is basic, but the service provided by the Master Gardeners is important. Finally, I selected the American Horticultural Society's Internet Community and Resources Page because of the vast quantity of links on everything from general gardening to specific plant societies to particular techniques. A few links were not found, but the majority appeared to be functional. I chose to include this page to give patrons a reputable starting point, so they would not have to sift through search engine results of varying quality.

Web Documents

Daylily Culture. <http://pubs.caes.uga.edu/caespubs/pubs/PDF/C545.pdf>

Flowering Annuals for Georgia Gardens. <http://pubs.caes.uga.edu/caespubs/pubs/PDF/B954.pdf>

Flowering Bulbs for Georgia Gardens. <http://pubs.caes.uga.edu/caespubs/pubs/PDF/B918.pdf>

Home Gardening. <http://pubs.caes.uga.edu/caespubs/pubs/PDF/B577.pdf>

Selecting and Growing Azaleas. <http://pubs.caes.uga.edu/caespubs/pubs/PDF/B670.pdf>

When to Harvest Vegetables. <http://pubs.caes.uga.edu/caespubs/pubs/PDF/C935.pdf>

All of the web documents I selected for my library's website are peer-reviewed publications from the University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. I felt that the web site interface for selecting documents was unclear and would confuse many patrons, so rather than including it as a linked web site, I chose to locate and link to specific documents. Many of these documents are available at the local County Extension Office, and all are intended for Georgia gardeners. I simply selected six that I thought my particular group of patrons might find most useful. *Daylily Culture* and *Flowering Annuals for Georgia Gardens* were selected to cover popular topics that books in the collection may not have specifically addressed. *Flowering Bulbs for Georgia Gardens* may cover similar ground to Ogden's *Bulbs for the South*, but it is a shorter and more basic introduction; bulb enthusiasts will want to find additional materials for their particular plant, but the document provides useful information for preparing the soil, naturalizing, dividing, and forcing bulbs. *Home Gardening* was selected as a good introduction for the beginning vegetable gardener, and *When to Harvest Vegetables* is a handy reference chart for a variety of vegetables. All include photographs or illustrations, but some are only for visual effect. Of the six, *Daylily Culture*, *Home Gardening*, and *Selecting and Growing Azaleas* have the most useful illustrations or photos. The article on azaleas includes color photos of various cultivars and the other two include illustrations demonstrating important techniques. The azalea and daylily articles contain more technical information than the others, but all documents are useful for beginning or intermediate gardeners.

Expenditures and Summary

Table 1

Total expenditures:

Material Type:	Cost:
Books (123 items)	\$2392.30
DVDs (4 items)	\$58.38
Periodicals (2 items)	\$44.90
Entire Collection (129 items)	\$2495.60

The selection processes of print and web resources have similarities and differences. Delivery format makes no difference when determining the author's level of knowledge and expertise. Both books and web resources require accurate and complete information. Appropriate web sites and documents usually cite the author's education, experience, or professional affiliations, much like the back flap of a book's dust jacket. A book's reliability may be assumed because of its publishing company, but the web requires no such publisher information. Thus, locating author credentials may sometimes be even more important for a web resource than a print material. Review sources also exist for both print and web resources. Occasionally, the two overlap, such as the *Library Journal* collection development article I viewed, which included web resources along with print materials. Usually, however, the review sources differ depending on the medium. Various organizations exist to review or give awards for books, magazines, videos, blogs, databases, informational websites, and more. The effective collection development officer will be aware of these various sources and know which are the most reputable for their particular medium. Not all books published every year receive a professional review. The same

is true for web resources, although the problem is of even greater magnitude, because of the vast number of web sites and documents created each day. Because of this, many web sites go undetected. Books, on the other hand, are more likely to be accounted for through one database or another. Because of the nature of the web, current sites and documents predominate. The most current version of a web site is the only version the majority of people are concerned about. Books, on the other hand, may have several editions or versions all available for purchase at the same time. A collection development officer must always be careful to select the appropriate edition or format when collecting print materials, web resources will only need to be carefully examined if they are expected to change significantly.

Of the 123 books selected for my collection, I personally read or examined 109 of them. Although I realize this would not be a feasible task for every library subject or for an entire collection, I feel that it was a very instructive exercise for me. As I examined these books, I began to recognize what types of books were published by the major gardening publishers and thus what to expect from them. Distinct characteristics in which these expectations would be met include subject matter, tone, expected level of interest or expertise, layout and design, prevalence and quality of photos, and even physical characteristics of the book or paper. I also became more familiar with authors, and whether each could be expected to write an introductory guide or a more scholarly text on their given topics. This was useful when an author I was familiar with published with a different company. This particular title had a visually overdone design and looked like a low quality “how-to” book rather than the work of an expert, but the information was still sound and useful for both novice and experienced gardeners. Had I not been familiar with this author’s work, I likely would have dismissed the book after a perfunctory glance. I became familiar with the reviews and awards for small press publications, and found these useful

for titles not published by the major presses whose work I recognized. After viewing several hundred books, I feel that I will be more comfortable recommending titles sight unseen based upon trusted reviews/reviews or from specific publishing companies. I anticipate that knowing other publishers would be helpful in future collection development work, and I intend to start exploring publications from the major players in other subjects. Overall, I learned that although mistakes may still be made, collections will be improved if the collector has a thorough knowledge of publishers, authors, and review sources to be aware of.

References

Boatright, S. R. (Ed.). (2009). *Georgia county guide*. Athens, GA: University of Georgia Press.

Miller, J. (Ed.). 2004. *Sears list of subject headings*. (18th ed.). New York: H. W. Wilson Co.