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Review Sources

1. *School Library Journal*, November 2010
 - A. I did not see a section preceding the reviews or elsewhere that explained how the journal's review policy works. However, I noted that there is a red star to indicate books that are considered excellent in the subject area or compared to books in the exact same genre. For the most part *School Library Journal* has favorable reviews. They are honest reviews, which some may consider negative. One reviewer stated "skip this one" (66). Another reviewer remarked that "the pictures are pleasant but not interesting enough to carry the slight story" (65).
 - B. The review section is organized by grade level. The first section is Preschool to 4th grade, followed by Spanish written books. Next is 5th grade and up reviews, followed by graphic novel reviews. Last is professional reading reviews. Within each section, the reviews are listed alphabetically by authors' last name and fiction reviews come before the nonfiction ones. Incidentally, multimedia, graphic novels and digital resources are reviewed as well.
 - C. Each book review details are as follows in the same exact order as it appears: author's last name, first name, title, illustrator, number of pages, publisher, year published, coding (paperback, hardcover, reinforced trade binding, board book, publisher library binding or catalogue publication), price, ISBN number, LC number.
 - D. I believe reviewers are paid independent reviewers since at the beginning it says reviewers are real librarians in public and school libraries. However, no names or professional information is given on each reviewer. A summary of the storyline is provided .
 - E. The journal is published monthly and the magazine cover lists the subscription price at \$15. Further investigation online quotes \$6.87 an issue or total on \$157.99. It is published by mediasourceinc.com. There is a free newsletter subscription. In terms of reviews, it appears as if the same reviews are available online and for free, which can be pulled up by clicking book information listed.

2. Horn Book Magazine, September – October 2011

- A. There was a preceding statement that mentioned most of the reviewed books are recommended. I did not see any negative book reviews nor was any information present that explained the book review policy.
- B. The review section was organized by grade level: primary, intermediate and high school.
- C. The details for each book reviewed are a listing of author, title, grade category, publisher, date, price, ISBN and total pages.
- D. No information is present about reviewers that indicates if they are staff members or volunteers.
- E. The journal is published six times a year by Horn Book, Inc. which is owned by Media Source. The subscription costs \$72 annually with an additional \$17 added on to ship to Canada and Mexico and an additional \$21 to ship internationally. Yes, the print version gives online access or one can choose to just subscribe online without receiving a hard copy in the mail.

School Library Journal and Horn Book Magazine are both journals that provide literary book reviews for educators to assist in the book selection process. However, the journals are different and very distinct. I prefer School Library Journal since it is reader friendly and resembles a regular magazine. It is easier to read and if I could only have one journal review in my library, I would select it. I believe it is better for selection of books since the review provides a thorough overview of the book. School Library Journal also reviews various genres and professional books as well, which is an asset for administration or teachers using it. An advantage School Library Journal has is that it is more detailed, descriptive and has in depth reviews. This journal rates reviews honestly, as not all reviewed books are recommended. In addition, the reviews are done by librarians. The one disadvantage School Library Journal has is that there are so many reviews, it is difficult to read them all, which I feel compelled to do. On the other hand, Horn Book Magazine resembles a pamphlet and is a bit brief. An advantage Horn book reviews have is that they are very graphic with colorful illustrations. A disadvantage is the reviews seem very simplistic and the use of quoting storylines is very distracting.