Building a Classroom Library

1. Build a classroom library over time through a variety of ways:

   a. Send an email and ask college faculty to donate books once a semester or once a year. Set up boxes at various places on campus to collect them.

   b. Attend public library book sales and pick up books very cheaply. Our Tucson Public Library Book Sales are held about 6 times a year. The average book sells for 80 cents.

   c. Stop at yard sales and Goodwill stores to acquire inexpensive books.

   d. Ask students at the end of semesters if they would like to donate completed novels to the classroom library.

   e. Department funds can sometimes be used for books.

   f. Grant money can sometimes be used for books.

   g. Donate books yourself. Any books you buy for your classroom with your own money can be counted on your taxes as a donation. If you buy books from Amazon.com for your classroom, you will have an automatic record of all purchases that you can print at the end of the year and use for tax purpose.

   h. Sometimes used book stores will get need to get rid of surplus books and they will donate them to you. This is particularly true of large used bookstores.

   i. Check with your own college library. Our college library has a paperback section and they dispose of surplus books annually.

Note: What is a “popular” book changes over time. We also can run out of room on our shelves as more books come in. Each year the reading faculty clear out our shelves and remove some books. These are donated to our ABE program (Adult Basic Education).