Q2. World Language Collections in New Jersey Libraries, Adult

Q3. World Language Collections, Children
Q5. Budget

Percent Of Budget Allocated For World Language Materials

- 0%
- 0-1%
- 6-10%
- 11-15%
- >15%
- 2-5%

Survey respondents = 47
Q6. Cataloging

Other: Copy cataloging; MARC vendors (BookWhere, ITS.MARC, B&T, SkyRiver, OCLC); WorldCat

Q7. Determining Languages

Methods Used to Determine Which Languages to Collect
Q8. Tips/advice for novice librarian staff looking to add world language materials to their collections.

- Make sure you are making a large enough initial investment to ensure that you have enough materials to have patrons return repeatedly for books.
- Check census for speakers of other languages in households, stats gathered from town schools, speak with local ethnic organizations or religious groups. (Multiple respondents)
- Demographics only may not reflect the need. Checking circulation can help. Romance languages have less circulation. Native born adults (esp. visiting senior family members) check out more books.
- Poll patrons to see where their interests lie. (Multiple respondents)
- Reach out to community members for donations, to find resources and promote your collections and programs. (Multiple respondents)
- Network with other librarians specializing in foreign language collection. (Multiple respondents)
- Develop a relationship with a foreign language materials vendor. (Multiple respondents)
- For Spanish collections: Join Reforma to receive information about book fairs and other professional development events they sponsor.
- Purchasing Spanish books is easy because they are reviewed in a number of the journals used to order books. The listing is in English and includes suggested age range, ISBN number, and a brief summary.
- Gently approach patrons you hear speaking other languages, express interest and inquire what language they speak (Arabic? Persian? Russian? Polish?)
- Language specialists should be hired cooperatively among libraries.
- If part of a consortium, browse the catalog to see which member libraries have books in the various languages you intend to buy. Start by ordering titles already owned by others in consortium.
- Seek out local vendors/stores and ask salespeople for help.
- Collections should include a balance of translated English language works, as well as titles from popular authors from countries where the language is spoken. (Multiple respondents)
- Begin with a core collection and just keep growing. Reach out to colleagues for advice. Don't be too intimidated if you do not speak the language. Market your materials through social media and public outreach.
- Enlist/hire staff who speak the language and are familiar with the culture to select collections. (Multiple respondents) If you can't hire a native speaker try to find someone who speaks the language that might be willing to help volunteer. Even just a few hours a week would be a huge boon.
- Difficulty is in finding and cataloging and marketing; and also folks not understanding how copyright law, international law, and rights play into what is available, where, and how.
- Check Jerseycat for cataloging also speak to cataloging librarians who deal with specialized collections for advice.
- Review World Language Best Seller Lists
- Especially with non-Latin alphabets, the ability to read and sound out the original alphabet is helpful, but be careful of using just translators.
- It's important to weed all collections, even world language ones, to keep them current and fresh.
- Keep in mind that some fiction books written in the past will have racist or other overtones that would not be acceptable today, but were at the time the book was published (akin to purchasing Huck Finn despite its perception now). That is not to say, you should not purchase them, but know your patrons. Books that classics, might be accepted, even if controversial, or may be considered outright criminal. Thus order wisely and use reviews as a guide.