

Multilingual Collection Development

Standards and Statements from Professional Organizations

- [ALA's Diverse Collections: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights](#)
- [RUSA's Guidelines for the Development and Promotion of Multilingual Collections and Services](#)
- [ALA's Equity, Diversity, Inclusion: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights](#)

Determining Community Needs

Consider the following factors to help determine your community's needs:

- Census Data: <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/data/state-profiles/state/language/VT>
 - It can be difficult to find census data for smaller towns. In this case, turning to local groups and organizations who may be working with immigrant/refugee groups in your community would be helpful.
- Feedback from community groups: Talk with local organizations that serve immigrant groups within your community.
- Patron requests and immigrant groups that regularly interact with the library.
- Reach out to ESL teachers in your local schools – they may know about families in your community who haven't shown up to the library.
- Community diversity: Every community is unique. Tailor your collection to the greatest needs and include some materials for everyone. Your community may include a wide range of education levels, socio-economic status, language ability, and geographical origins.

Categories of Materials

Age groups:

- Early Literacy / Preschool: Many children do not learn English until they begin school, so multilingual materials for preschoolers are particularly important in developing early literacy skills.
- Middle Grade and Young Adult: Library collections should include at least a few materials in this range, although they may not be as popular as the other age groups. Many children only learn to read in English, even when another language is spoken at home.
- Adult: Include a variety of materials for adults, fiction and non-fiction.

Material types:

- Popular fiction in translation
- Original fiction in native languages
- Graphic novels
- Multimedia materials (books on CD, DVDs, etc.)
- Non-fiction

Popular non-fiction subjects:

- Health and nutrition
- Parenting
- Life skills
- Education and career
- Dictionaries and language learning
- Self-help
- Religion
- Cooking and gardening
- Arts and crafts

Promotion and Display

To increase the promotion and circulation of multilingual materials:

- Interact with non-native English speakers and immigrants when they come to the library. Even if you don't speak the language, greet them and offer assistance.
- Talk to local organizations serving immigrant communities. Invite them to the library for a tour or ask if library staff can attend one of their events.
- Display multilingual materials in an attractive, convenient location.
- Use clearly visible, bilingual signage to identify the area where materials are shelved.
- Weed existing materials to remove outdated non-fiction and books in poor condition.
- Consider displaying children's and adult materials near each other.

Book Reviews and Awards

- [America Reads Spanish](#): Book Reviews, bestseller lists, and more.
- [Américas Award](#): Children's and young adult books that portray Latin America, the Caribbean, or Latinos in the United States.
- [IBBY Honor List](#): Outstanding international children's books in a variety of languages
- [Mildred L. Batchelder Award](#) – Children's books originating in a country other than the United States and in a language other than English, and translated into English
- [Pura Belpré Award](#) - Books for children and youth that portray, affirm, and celebrate the Latino cultural experience.

Publishers and Distributors of Multilingual Materials

The Vermont Department of Libraries does not endorse or recommend specific vendors. Because multilingual materials may be difficult to find, this list is intended to provide libraries with a broad range of options to consider.

Libraries are not limited to this list and may select their preferred vendors and follow their local procurement procedures.

- [Star Bright Books](#): Children's books in 29 languages

- [Multicultural Books and Videos](#): Materials in a variety of languages
- [Arte Público Press](#): U.S. Hispanic literature
- [Chau Luna](#): Spanish books for children and young adults
- [Chulainn Publishing Corp](#): Spanish materials for all ages
- [Cinco Books](#): Spanish children’s fiction and non-fiction
- [Hoopoe Books](#): Children's books in Pashto and Dari
- [Independent Publishers Group](#): Spanish books for all ages
- [Jarir Books](#): Arabic books for all ages
- [Language Lizard](#): Bilingual children’s products in over 50 languages
- [Latin American Book Source](#): Distributes books for all ages from Latin America
- [Lectorum](#): Spanish fiction and non-fiction for all ages
- [Lee and Low](#): Publisher of Spanish/Bilingual books for PreK – Grade 8
- [Libros Centroamericanos](#): Books published in Central America
- [Lorito Books](#): Spanish children’s books, audiobooks, graphic novels, and books for parents
- [Santillana USA \(Vista Higher Learning\)](#): Language education materials
- [Sawa Books](#): Books for all ages in multiple languages
- [Spanish Publishers](#): Bestsellers for all ages
- [Syncretic Press](#): Children’s books in Spanish
- [Tsai Fong Books](#): Specializes in distribution of books in Chinese, Japanese, Korean and Vietnamese

Training and Other Resources

- [World Languages Librarians Facebook Page](#) – Discussion and resource sharing
- South Carolina State Library: [Spanish Language Collection Development Webinar](#)
- Massachusetts Association of Teachers of Speakers of Other Languages: [Multilingual Books and Literacy](#)

Adapted from the South Carolina State Library Multilingual Collection Development Guide