

## **Language Collection Collection Plan**

### **Collection Description:**

The Language Collection is represented by the Dewey numbers 400-499 and contains materials that support the study of various languages. This collection is unique as it is the only one in the Library where materials in all formats are shelved together; this includes books, audio cassettes, CDs, VHSs, DVDs and CD-ROMs. The collection has materials on more than 50 languages.

### **Scope and Exception:**

The materials in this collection are geared towards the learning and study of languages; it does not contain literature or popular works written in other languages, which are found in the Books In Other Languages Collection. Language study materials for children are shelved in the Children's Nonfiction Collection. Movies in other languages are found in the Movie Collection. A small amount of literacy material can be found in the Language Collection; however, material designed to develop reading skills in new readers is found, for the time being, in the Easy Reading Collection.

Iowa City is a culturally diverse and highly educated community and demands a wide range of language learning material. The study of English makes up the first 1/3 of the Language Collection, in the 400-429 call number range. It can be broken down into the following subsections: history and popular works on the English language, American Sign Language, Signed English, standard English usage (including spelling, grammar, and pronunciation), English as a second language, and study materials for the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL).

The study of languages other than English makes up the rest of the collection, in the 433-499 range. The Library offers intermediate or advanced material in nine popular non-English languages: German, French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Chinese, Japanese, Russian and Italian. Demand in these areas is high, even at the advanced level, thanks to Iowa City's well-traveled community and educational opportunities at local schools, colleges and the University. The rest of the Language collection contains material on more than 40 other languages, represented at the beginning level with a dictionary and at least one other self-instruction title. New languages are added from patron requests or when world conditions change (such as the break-up of the Soviet Union).

The collection as a whole is aimed at self-instruction rather than class participation, and the materials in the collection are geared towards use by individuals. Independent learners make up a good portion of the audience for this collection, although students are undoubtedly much of the audience for the major languages.

Those learning English as a second language use many areas of this collection, especially the TOEFL materials, which have the highest use and amount of holds of any area of the entire Language Collection.

**Size and Duplication:**

At the end of FY05 the collection contained 1229 items: 721 print, 285 cassette, 82 VHS, 21 DVD, 17 CD-ROM and 103 CD. Almost all of the items are individual titles. Duplication of specific titles occurs only in areas of extremely high usage, such as with the TOEFL materials. Due to their local popularity, the German, French, Italian, Spanish, Chinese and Japanese languages have larger individual collections, with a wide range of material in all formats (with the exception, in some cases, of CD-ROMs). Other non-English languages vary in the number of items representing them; this range is generally between one dictionary and/or phrase book along with one or two titles in an audio format (e.g. Finnish, Tagalog, Turkish, Gujarati) to several print items and multiple items in both audio formats (e.g. Russian, Portuguese, Arabic, Hebrew).

**Selection Criteria:**

Language materials are rarely reviewed. However, new editions of English-other language translation dictionaries, as well as works on English language history or linguistics may sometimes be found in the standard review sources. Well-known producers of language education material include: Barron's, Berlitz, The Foreign Service Institute, Living Language, Passport Books, and Pimsleur. Catalogs and announcements from each of these publishers are valuable selection tools and are received regularly.

There are few patron requests for specific titles in this area or for materials covering a certain language; requests are purchased if available, as long as they are not for workbooks (which get filled in and are "consumable") and are not prohibitive in terms of price. Courses taught at the University of Iowa, Kirkwood and local schools can increase demand for certain languages, and this is evidenced by the number of holds placed for a particular language from year to year.

Because of the variety of formats in this collection, the prices paid for items can vary widely. Print items such as small travel dictionaries can be purchased for as little as \$12, while hardbound dictionaries can cost up to around \$50. Items that combine a print and audio item also vary in price, generally from around \$30-\$70. The prices depend on several factors, such as the number of cassettes or CDs, whether the item is a language review or for beginners or is an extensive, 'all in one' title, whether it is a Library edition, etc. Generally, \$100 is the upper limit for a title; while there are few that exceed this amount, those that do are generally comprehensive items on CD (e.g. *Mastering French*) or, in one instance, a series on DVD (*Destinos*). Some of the TOEFL titles are purchased on standing order.

**Maintenance:**

The majority of material weeded from the collection is removed through the repair process when items become damaged. Weeding is also accomplished with a purge list, which is helpful in identifying items that are old enough to be of little or no use, items missing from the shelf, as well as popular materials that are no longer circulating. A purge list for nonprint items, except for DVDs, is run every six months, and indicates items that have not circulated in that time period. A purge list for print items and DVDs is run once a year. The collection in general generates quite a bit of mending, especially the more popular languages, TOEFL materials, and or multi-part kits that have a lost or broken piece. Some items or pieces can be mended or replaced for little or no cost (as part of a Library edition); others are replaced with a new item if circulation warrants it. Items on cassette that come through repair are often replaced with comparable items on CD as that format becomes more popular.