

BOOKS IN OTHER LANGUAGES COLLECTION PLAN

Revised 9.14.2005

Description: ICPL has collections of books in seven separate foreign languages including Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Korean, Spanish and Vietnamese, shelved on the first floor of the Library. Italian, Russian and Swedish were dropped in 2002 based on low census count and circulation. Books are cataloged with description information and translated titles, when available. Spine labels include language and author or title, and are arranged within each language by spine label. When neither author nor title can be determined, only the language is listed on the spine label. In 2005, ICPL selectors recommended adding Arabic language materials.

Scope and exceptions: Both Fiction and Non-fiction are purchased for the language collection. Dual language editions are classified in the 800's, and materials for learning a foreign language go into the 400's. The children's room collects some foreign language children's books, which go into the j400's.

Determining the contents of foreign language books has always been a problem. Often ESL groups touring the library or other volunteers are recruited to assist with sorting through gifts. More materials are recently available from publishers. Because of this, we are sometimes able to identify the content of the book by entering the ISBN number into OCLC, iPage or Title Source II.

Audience: Iowa City has always had a large population of international students, many with families, who have developing English skills. This collection attempts to provide reading in a familiar language for these patrons. Census figures from 2000 (most current numbers available) tell us how many people 18 and older speak a given language at home, as follows:

Language	# who speak lang. at home	% of Iowa City population	FY05 # items in collection	% of collection	FY05 Turnover
Chinese	1,064	2.0%	228	23	3.1
French	372	0.7%	58	5	2.5
German	413	0.8%	24	2	2.2
Japanese	199	0.4%	180	18	1.3
Korean	311	0.6%	162	16	1.7
Spanish	1,960	3.8%	305	31	3.1
Vietnamese	263	0.5%	55	5	2.1

A secondary audience has been students of foreign languages, and people wishing to maintain their skills.

Size and duplication: Items are not knowingly duplicated within a language; however, some titles are duplicated in multiple languages.

Circulation within categories has fluctuated over the years for no apparent reason.

Selection: More materials are recently available; however, finding materials in French, German, Japanese, Korean and Vietnamese remains difficult. BookLinx in Chicago is a new, reliable vendor for Chinese materials. Criticas, formerly a magazine but now only available online, reviews Spanish Language materials. Baker & Taylor and Ingram provide lists of materials available in Spanish. Other publications, such as VOYA (Voice of Youth Advocates) and Library Journal, periodically run a list of recommended Spanish titles. The FY07 ICPL Strategic Plan identifies initiatives for Spanish-speaking patrons and Spanish will be emphasized in purchases.

Maintenance: Replacing a particular title is generally impossible and worn items are discarded. Item purge is completed annually with items pulled that have not circulated two years. Books are withdrawn based on low circulation and condition.