

Foreign Language Collections at Front Range Public Libraries

By Suzanne Kaller, Reference Librarian, Smoky Hill Branch Library

Introduction by Bonnie McCune, Colorado State Library

Like many libraries in the Denver Metro area, the Smoky Hill Branch Library is serving a population that is becoming more ethnically diverse. With so many different languages spoken, modest resources make it difficult for libraries to serve everyone adequately. Yet, periodically, the librarians get requests for materials in foreign languages other than the one the library collects (Spanish). Occasionally, patrons are interested in browsing a collection. So, the staff librarians agreed that the patrons could be better served if they knew what foreign collections were available and where they were located.

Hence, Suzanne Kaller submitted an e-mail message to Libnet asking for feedback about foreign language collections at public libraries along the Front Range. Specific information was not requested about books/audio-visual percentages or size of collection. The libraries along the Front Range that did not respond were contacted individually.

Materials may be ordered via interlibrary loan, usually at no charge. Or, under terms of the Colorado Library Card program, people with valid home town library cards may be extended borrowing privileges for these materials at other libraries.

Please refer to the table on the following page for foreign language collections details.

**Central Colorado Public Libraries
Foreign Language Collections
as of July 2004**

Compiled by Suzanne Kaller, Reference Librarian, Smoky Hill Branch Library - Arapahoe Library District

Library System	Spanish	Vietnamese	Russian	German	French	Italian	Chinese	Korean	Japanese	Bosnian
Arapahoe Library District ¹	Active	Active ²	Active		Limited					
Aurora Public Library										
Central ³	Active			Small	Small			Small	Small	
North	Active									
Martin Luther King	Active									
Denver Public Library ⁴	Active	Active	Inactive		Inactive			Inactive		
Douglas Library District ⁵	Active									
Jeffco Public Libraries ⁶	Active									
Lafayette Public Library	Active									
Littleton Bemis ⁷	Active	Small	Small	Small	Small	Small	Small			
Longmont Public Library ⁸	Active				Small					
Rangeview Library District ⁹	Active									
Westminster Public Library ¹⁰	Active									

¹Arapahoe Library District

Spanish collections are at Sheridan, Smoky Hill, Koelbel and Glendale.
Vietnamese and Russian collections are at Sheridan and Glendale respectively.

²Beginning in 2005, the Vietnamese collection will be phased out.

³ Aurora Public Library

German, French, Korean, Japanese are small collections, not active, donations

⁴Denver Public Library

The following locations have Spanish collections: Central, Byers, Ross-Barnum, Woodbury, Athmar, Hadley, Westwood, Blair-Caldwell, Ford-Warren, Montbello, Valdez-Perry, Ross-Broadway and Hampden.

The following locations have Vietnamese collections: Central, Ross-Barnum and Hadley.

⁵Douglas Library District

Spanish collections in Parker, Castle Rock and Highlands Ranch with an emphasis on children's materials. Adult collections are being developed.

⁶Jeffco Public Library

*collection floats among all library branches

⁷Littleton Bemis Library

fiction, non-fiction, periodicals, audio-visuals

⁸Longmont Public Library

fiction, non-fiction, periodicals, audio-visuals

⁹Rangeview Library District

small collections at each branch

¹⁰Westminster Public Library

books, periodicals, audio-visuals