

Shelving Foreign Language Materials

The following information was collected by Anna Winkel, Branch Librarian and Mariko Guziur, Adult Services Librarian, of the Fraser Valley Library.

The original inquiry was posted to libnet on 12/29/2005:

The Fraser Valley Library is trying to adapt our library to our growing Foreign Language collection. We have two primary foreign languages: Spanish and Lithuanian. We also have an ESL section.

We would like to re-shelve these items and were wondering how other libraries delineate (by sticker, call number or physical location) their foreign language collections in the following ways:

1. By language
2. By fiction and non-fiction (in the target languages)
3. Where and how you house your ESL materials that are geared toward a target language (for instance how to learn English for speakers of Spanish)?
4. Where and how you house your materials for learning languages (for native speakers of English)?
5. Where and how you house your foreign language materials for children/teens? With the adult materials?

If you could copy and paste any or all of the above numbers in your reply and send us your responses, we would greatly appreciate it. Thank you very much for your time and effort.

Response	Respondent
Received 12/30/05 Interesting email. I am in charge of the Spanish language materials here in Boulder, and we are undergoing changes also. 1 &2) We now have a section (physical location) devoted to Spanish language materials, and have very recently decided to put ESL materials geared toward Spanish language speakers in that same area also. They do have stickers that say Spanish. We didn't sticker at first, but the shelveers had a hard time. The quality of materials coming in for Spanish language is amazing, and a few of the authors cross over from English to Spanish, and the books look very similar to the English counterpart...we noticed those titles/authors turned up in the wrong spot. We hope to grow the collection quite a bit, so stickers it is. Other Foreign Language materials are also near by (German,	Laura Hankins Reference Librarian Boulder Public Library 303-441-3194

<p>French), but not stickered, because the collections are much smaller.</p> <p>3) The ESL collection is directly facing the Spanish. Spanish on one side of the row, and the ESL on the other. We did this so hopefully any 2nd language learners in our BoulderReads program, would have access to adult new reader materials as well as materials in their home language.</p> <p>Our biggest population is Spanish speakers.</p> <p>4) Learning languages...stayed with the non fiction audio, by Dewey.</p> <p>Children's Spanish has its own area within the children's department.</p> <p>The wall of materials...is directly behind the adults close enough in proximity to adults so they can be used simultaneously.</p>	
<p>Received 12/31/2005</p> <p>At Glendale we have two major languages besides English and we have ESL materials for many more languages.</p> <p>Because both our Russian and Spanish sections are large enough to be separated from the rest of the collection, and because people who speak these languages find it easier to use our collection if it is separated, we have a Spanish area and the call numbers begin with SPA and we have a Russian area and the call numbers begin with RUS. The prefixes appear on the normal spine labels above the usual information. In addition, the Russian fiction is in order by the Cyrillic alphabet rather than the English for the sake of our patrons who may not know the English spelling of their favorite authors. Separating into distinct areas makes it much easier for patrons and pages. I think, however, I should mention that foreign language speakers account for the majority of use at our library and Russian speakers are the largest group we serve. English language speakers are in the minority here.</p> <p>Our ESL section begins with ESL at the beginning of the call number. We do place the ESL for Spanish speakers in the Spanish section because our Spanish speakers often are new arrivals who have never used libraries before and they do not know how to locate things easily. We add an extra Spanish sticker to those items for ease of paging. The rest of the ESL materials, whether for a language group or for anyone, are all together in a section and we can help people find things that match their language and level of learning. We serve about 30 different language groups in our ESL classes and we do have some targeted ESL materials for the larger groups and some that are good for everyone. Some of these groups are very small in total numbers so we do not have general materials in all those languages, but we try to have bi-lingual</p>	<p>Annette Choszczyk Glendale Library Supervisor</p>

<p>dictionaries and a good supply of both bi-lingual and mono-lingual picture dictionaries.</p> <p>In our other Arapahoe Library District libraries, those that have a major language collection use the prefix for the collection and separate it. These libraries are Sheridan and Smoky Hill. If a library has just a few items in a language they do not separate them and interfile them in the English sections.</p> <p>Libraries with targeted collections also have bi-lingual staff to help the patrons who use those collections. The Glendale library has bi-lingual staff who speak Russian and Spanish. We always have Russian staff available to help patrons during all open hours, and we are gradually adding Spanish speakers, when we have vacancies, so that we can cover more and more of our open hours in both languages.</p> <p>I would be glad to answer questions you might have or would be happy if you wanted to come for a visit.</p>	
<p>Received 1/2/2006</p> <p>Our largest foreign language collection is fiction. We have a separate Spanish collection that contains books, videos, magazines, etc. The fiction books are alphabetical by author's last name, non-fiction books are in Dewey call number order, the same as the regular collection.</p> <p>Material to learn languages (media and kits) are housed in a foreign language section, Dewey call number order. Books are housed in the 400's (Dewey) at the appropriate number. Foreign language fiction books are kept in this same area. The only language we separate out is Spanish.</p> <p>Hope this helps.</p>	<p>Carol McArdell, Pitkin County Library-Aspen</p>