

World Languages Collection policy

Purpose

Christchurch City Libraries provides collections in various languages to reflect, and appropriately resource, the increasing cultural diversity in our community. The world languages collection aims to support cultural groups of significant size and/or need living in the local community.

Ngā Pounamu Māori collections are held in specific areas in all libraries¹.

Separate Pasifika collections are held in some libraries².

The World Languages collection excludes resources from countries where English is widely spoken as well as indigenous languages.

All languages are supported by the general library collection in various formats.

The World Languages collection

- Supports Christchurch City Council's Te Haumako Te Whitingia Strengthening Communities Together Strategy which reflects Christchurch City Council's continued commitment to building, in partnership with others, inclusive, safe, and resilient communities. In particular it supports Te Pou Tuatahi: Te Tāngata The People Pillar Objective 1.3 where it states: 'Continue to build on the relationships and achievements developed with Multi-ethnic and multicultural communities throughout the Multicultural Strategy – Our Future Together'
- Supports Community outcomes relating to resilient communities, including celebration of our identity through arts, culture, heritage, sport, and recreation; and valuing the voices of all cultures and ages, including children. (Christchurch City Council Strategic Framework 2020)
- Provides reading materials in languages other than English, helping to reduce social isolation for those with little English, particularly seniors (Public Libraries of New Zealand Strategic Framework 2020-2025)

Accordingly, World Languages collection is recognized as an important area of content that Libraries provide and is reflected as such in Christchurch City Libraries' Content Development Policy, and Ngā Aho, our internal Bicultural Plan.

Scope

1. Definition of World Languages Collections

The World Languages collection supports:

Migrant groups

¹ Refer to Content Development Policy for more information

² Refer to Content Development Policy for more information

Numerically, migrants are the largest group supported by the World Languages collection.

Migrants are individuals or communities who have chosen to leave their homeland and settle in New Zealand by choice. They have prepared for their arrival and know they can return to their homeland for visits or return permanently if they cannot settle.

The World Languages collection supports recent migrants for whom English is a second or subsequent language. Each collection is established to enable individual groups to connect with their language and culture and maintain access to their first language. Resources provided may vary according to the needs of the individual migrant group.

Migrant groups supported by this collection are identified primarily through census and immigration data.

Refugee communities

Unlike migrants, refugees do not choose to leave their homeland. Refugees arrive ill-prepared and often traumatised, with little in the way of possessions or financial resources. English will be a second or subsequent language and the New Zealand culture may be totally unknown. In some communities, several people will have little or no literacy in their own language.

Because of the unplanned nature of refugee arrivals, the Library is unable to predict which new communities will require a collection in their first language, how long it will take to source suitable material, and what the long term use of the collection will be.

International students

International students attending language schools or learning centres in New Zealand also use library resources to maintain a connection with their language and culture.

Second or more generation communities

Individuals or communities who have been here for many generations and use the collection to stay connected to their homeland by understanding their culture and gaining fluency in their language.

General public

Traditionally the Library has held collections of French, German, Dutch and Spanish resources. These have been collected for general readership and learning, or for earlier migrant groups. These collections continue to be supported with additions of content.

The general public also uses the wider World Languages collection for lifelong learning, travel and recreation purposes, to gain a greater understanding of the cultures of recent migrant and refugee communities, and to retain their fluency in more than one language.

2. Collection purpose

- To reflect the increasing diversity of communities in the city
- To provide first language resources for groups and individuals settling in the community
- To provide recreational 'own language' resources for English language students
- To provide resources for first or subsequent generation New Zealanders to retain or develop the languages of their ethnic communities
- To provide lifelong learning and recreation resources in a variety of languages for general use

3. Collection scope

Collections will include formats relevant to the needs of each group. This may include electronic resources, books, magazines, newspapers, and audio-visual resources.

Format options are often influenced by availability in a particular language, customer preference, and potential usage.

Physical collections in specific languages are located at designated library locations rather than distributing the resources across all libraries in the network. Collections may be located at libraries close to areas where significant numbers of a particular group live. This enables comprehensive collections to be kept together and refreshed regularly, and for connections to be developed with relevant individuals and groups in the community.

Material in some formats such as DVDs will include languages other than English and will be located in the general collection.

Resources for both children and adults will be collected. Resources specifically appropriate for children will be housed in the children's area.

4. Collection size

A minimum collection size is required for an effective and viable collection. The minimum stock number needed to establish a collection is usually 100 items, with a growth or maintenance level of **up to** 100 items added each year depending on usage and budget available.

Factors considered in conjunction with this minimum size include:

- Availability of adequate stock – being able to source a minimum number of 100 items of suitable quality for libraries
- Availability of funds to establish the collection
- Availability of suitable material published regularly to keep the collection refreshed
- Availability of formats appropriate to meet the needs of the group
- Size and predicted growth rate of the migrant or refugee group
- Availability of physical space in the library closest to where a significant portion of the community lives

Where a collection is held in more than one library, material will be swapped between libraries on a regular basis to provide refreshment.

Collection management

1. Establishing a new World Language collection

Once an approach by a community is made, the feasibility of establishing a new World Language collection is explored. Usage may be tested in the first instance by offering an eBook collection on an existing platform the Library has. This will be done after consulting with the relevant community to identify potential needs and preferences, such as content, format, balance between adult and children's material, and oral and/or written tradition. In all instances, the scope of a new collection is limited to what is available through our library vendors.

New collections for migrant groups are established based on:

- Population size of the migrant group – this is based on census and immigration data, while at the same time considering how long members of the group have been resident in New Zealand.

- Number of speakers of a particular language
- Customer demand for resource in their language
- Availability of suitable resources
- Availability, or lack of availability, of alternative sources of relevant material such as other institutions providing accessible and suitable resources

New collections for refugee groups are established based on:

- Need of the group at the time
- Customer demand
- Availability of suitable resources

A minimum of 1000 people identified through Census data as users of a language is used as a guide for establishing a new collection.

Profiles for each world language collection are established after considering:

- Usage patterns
- Format preferences
- Familiarity with technology
- Balance of recreational reading resources, lifelong learning resources, and other specific needs
- Literary tradition of the country of origin
- Oral or written tradition of the culture
- Religious or cultural practices
- Any other considerations relating to the specific language

2. Selection

Selection of items for the collection is managed by members of the Content team.

Selection is based on the criteria identified in the collection profile for each language and reviewed annually in consultation with library staff from different ethnicities and key community contacts. Usage figures are also considered.

Purchase is contracted to vendors specialising in the supply of world language material.

Some items are also acquired through donations.

3. Donations

Donations are accepted where a particular language collection is held, the format already exists in the collection, the material is in good condition, published within the last five years, and meets the criteria identified in the profile for that language.

Any donations considered unsuitable for the collection will be disposed of. The donor will not be contacted.

Once a donation is added to the collection it becomes the property of the library.

4. Accessibility

Cataloguing of resources will be consistent across all language collections. Catalogue records are downloaded from a global catalogue of library materials or purchased from an external source.

Where relevant, items from the wider Library collections will be catalogued to enhance their usefulness for migrant and refugee groups.

To enhance customer access, the World Languages collection is promoted through the library website, and by engaging displays in libraries.

5. Deselection

To keep each collection fresh and inviting, items are withdrawn from the collection after considering:

- Age and physical condition of items
- Changes in patterns of use
- Continued relevance of the content
- Currency of information
- Usage

There may be occasions where there is no longer a need for a collection in a specific language, due to the changing nature of refugee and migrant groups. Factors influencing this decision are:

- Population decreasing significantly over a sustained period of time
- Resources not being used
- Little or no demand for a dedicated collection

Relevant library staff and community contacts will be consulted before a final decision is made.

If a collection is no longer required, the Library will endeavour to offer it to another library network or community group where the collection may be of value.

References and related documents

Document	Link
Christchurch City Council Strategic Framework 2020	Strategic Framework : Christchurch City Council (ccc.govt.nz)
Christchurch City Council Multicultural Strategy :Te Rautaki Mātāwaka Rau 2017-2021	Multicultural Strategy : Christchurch City Council (ccc.govt.nz)
Te Haumako Te Whitingia Strengthening Communities Together Strategy 2022-2032	Strengthening Communities Together Strategy : Christchurch City Council (ccc.govt.nz)
Public Libraries of New Zealand Strategic Framework 2020-2025	MASTER - PLNZ Strategic Framework Final.pdf (publiclibraries.org.nz)
Content Development Policy	Christchurch City Libraries : Content Development Policy 6th edition
Ngā Aho	(Christchurch City Libraries Internal document only)

Donations policy	DonationsPolicyCollections2020.pdf (christchurchcitylibraries.com)
IFLA/UNESCO Multicultural Library Manifesto	IFLA/UNESCO Multicultural Library Manifesto – IFLA

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