

OCLC Language Sets: ideal for starting a collection and filling specific needs

Diverse library benefits from Language Sets' ease of implementation and special content



Situation

The city of Santa Fe is strongly influenced by its Hispanic and Latino history. It was settled in 1609–10 by the Spanish, and was under Mexican rule before New Mexico became part of the United States. The city remains rich with Spanish speakers, including families that are descendants of the original Spanish settlers, as well as recent emigrants from Mexico and other Spanish speaking countries. Today, almost 50 percent of its population is Hispanic or Latino, and the city strives to support and maintain this culture.

When the Santa Fe Public Library opened up a new branch in a heavily Spanish-speaking area of town in 2004, Library Technical Services Director Margret Baca was tasked with developing an opening-day collection. Baca and her colleagues made a commitment to establish a strong Spanish-language collection for the new library.

Solution

Because of her previous experience with OCLC Language Sets, Baca knew that the sets would be one of the quickest and most reliable ways to help build the opening-day collection. The Main library and the La Farge branch had used OCLC Language Sets as the foundation of their Spanish collections because they were a fast and easy way to build the collection, whether or not librarians had specialized experience in Spanish cataloging.

Baca, an experienced cataloger of Spanish-language materials, says, “If I were faced with starting a collection in any other language, I would immediately look to OCLC because the preassembled sets would be the only way I could do it. Everything is there for you. You don’t have to have a language cataloger.”

AT A GLANCE

- Santa Fe Public Library, Santa Fe, New Mexico
- Serving more than 87,500 registered borrowers
- 50 percent of service population is of Hispanic or Latino origin
- More than 360,000 items in the library’s collection
- 8,000 Spanish titles with 12,000 items

“I love the OCLC Language Sets because all the cataloging is done and everything’s ready to go. It’s as easy as it gets!”

Results

Staff at the Santa Fe Public Library have been able to carry out their commitment to the Latino and Hispanic community at the new branch. The opening-day collection was a success, with a strong Spanish-language component.

“The Spanish section of our library is quite popular,” Baca says. The children’s sets are heavily circulated. For adults, the topical sets, such as health and immigration, have been especially successful. “They filled a void in the library’s collection with information that has been extremely beneficial to our users,” Baca explains. “I plan on ordering more special sets, such as Homework Help, in the near future.”

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Continued

Even with its collection up and running, the ease of acquiring new titles remains beneficial to the library. “It works like clockwork when we get our monthly orders,” Baca says. “I get an e-mail saying that the books have been shipped and the records are attached. The records require no clean-up.

“As soon as the package comes in, all I do is run the file through our loader and everything’s ready to go. I wouldn’t ever want to give up the OCLC Language Sets because they help make it manageable for us to maintain our titles,” she says.

“OCLC is fabulous,” Baca adds. “I’ve had to make changes to a profile or other requests, and the response at OCLC is terrific.”



Order Language Sets

For detailed information on Language Sets and to place an order, please call OCLC at **1-800-898-6252** or **614-764-6000**; e-mail us at **langsets@oclc.org**; or visit the OCLC Language Sets Web site at: **www.oclc.org/languagesets**.