

Reference Collection Development Proposal: Spanish Children's and Young Adult Library

In 2005 Spanish was the number one English Language Learner (ELL) language in the United States. U.S. schools support an ELL population of about 77% Spanish students, (<http://www.ncela.gwu.edu/expert/faq/05toplans.html>). Hispanics have become the largest minority group in the United States.

Within the County of Clackamas, Oregon Hispanic families are numerous and are active library users. The City of Milwaukie a member of the Clackamas County Library Network recognizes the growing number of Spanish users. The library has addressed Spanish collection development in children's fiction and non-fiction and adult fiction, non-fiction and reference. As these collections have been added and grown the library's Spanish user ship has increased by 120%. Within a half mile of the library there is a bilingual English / Spanish immersion school for grades kindergarten through 6. The school visits the library regularly as they do not have their own library to support their students and staff. To continue furthering this service and meet the needs of the Spanish users the library proposes adding a children's and young adult reference collection beginning with the following almanacs, dictionaries, encyclopedias, geographical sources and other computer-based resources.

Almanac:

The Hispanic-American almanac: a reference work on Hispanics in the United States (3rd ed.). Nicolas Kanellos. Detroit: Gale Research, Inc. (2002). ISBN: 0787625183. List price \$191.00

The Hispanic-American Almanac: A Reference Work on Hispanics in the United States, discusses United States Hispanic life and culture. The book is organized chronologically with historical landmarks and overviews as well as significant documents. The text includes a glossary, general bibliography and index. This 25 chapter, 886-page book covers topics such as art, business, education, family, Hispanics biographies, law, literature, politics, population and religion. This is a reference tool intended for grades 7 through 12 full of black-and-white photographs, drawings, tables, and figures. Notable in the "Significant documents" chapter is that the actual documents, such as the NAFTA agreement, are provided. The lists of references at the end of each chapter, glossary of Spanish terms and comprehensive keyword index provides users easy access to the text's contents and further reading sources. This book would be an excellent resource for the library's preteen students through adults who are researching Hispanic-American life and culture.

Reviewed by the American Library Association's **Booklist** the 3rd edition of *The Hispanic-American Almanac: A Reference Work on Hispanics in the United States*, is said to be, outstanding for both public and school libraries, easily understood and organized quite well. Although an older addition, UCLA's Amy Goldenberg, a first year Graduate student at UCLA in the Department of Library and Information Science in 1995, included *The Hispanic-American Almanac: A Reference Work on Hispanics in the United States* 2nd edition, on the Annotated Bibliography of Children's Literature

focusing on Latino people, history, and culture web page
([http://cnet.ucla.edu/Latino Bibliography.html](http://cnet.ucla.edu/Latino_Bibliography.html)).

Dictionaries:

Tu primer diccionario Vox. tr. by Evarista Garcia-Pena., & Sergi Torner. Spain: SPES Editorial. (2002).

ISBN: 8483322331. List price \$26.99

Tu primer diccionario Vox, (Your First Vox Dictionary), a 259-page dictionary intended for grades 3-7 includes illustrations and information presented simply. The illustrations are drawn in a cartoon style to define its 2,000 words. The book begins by explaining the methods used to define the words in the book. Each word is defined with audience in mind and used within a sentence. The bright colors and cartoon style draws young readers into the text.

Reviewed in **Criticas**, a publication in association with Library Journal and School Library Journal, in January/February of 2004, *Tu primer diccionario Vox*, was written to be “unlike so many other reference books, the information here is simple without being simplistic (p.62).”

Diccionario internet & informatica: Ingles/Espanol. Miguel Martin. Spain: Oceano. (2003).

ISBN: 8449420784. List price \$35.24

Diccionario internet & informatica: Ingles/Espanol, (Computer & Internet Dictionary: English/Spanish), is designed to appeal to children in grades 3-6 with humorous illustrations and a decorative style. The bilingual computer and internet dictionary’s 256-pages include acronyms, typographical measurement chart, metric prefixes, crossword puzzles, word finds, other games and appendix of emoticons. This proves extremely useful for Spanish speakers because many of the computer industry terms are not included in the standard dictionary. For each entry the dictionary provides the Spanish equivalent, definition and references to other like computer terms. The book also offers a unique feature in the sidebar of each page exploring questions the reader may have, such as “Are watches computers?” and password advice.

Reviewed and highly recommended by **Criticas**, a publication in association with Library Journal and School Library Journal, in November/December of 2003, noted that the dictionary cross references often and would be great resource for every library and computer lab serving Spanish speakers (p.66).

Libro de sinonimos antonimos. Harriet Wittels, & Joan Greisman. U.S.: Barron’s Educational Series. (2004).

ISBN: 0764124374. List price \$8.95

Suitable for both native Spanish speakers and those learning Spanish *Libro de sinonimos antonimos*, (Spanish Thesaurus), fills its 140 pages with synonyms and

antonyms of 2,000 Spanish words. The book begins with an English introduction to what a thesaurus is and how to use it. Most entries have black-and-white illustrations to help readers understand concepts presented. The illustrations are drawn in a comic book style to appeal to young readers grades 2-3. **Criticas**, a publication in association with Library Journal and School Library Journal, in their September/October 2004 issue recommends *Libro de sinonimos antonimos*, for all libraries. **Criticas** emphasizes that although intended for a young audience it will be useful beginning Spanish learners and bilingual students and teachers of all ages.

Encyclopedias:

Encyclopedia of Latino popular culture. Cordelia Chavez Candelaria, Peter c. Garcia., & Arturo J. Aldama. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood. (2004). ISBN: 0313322155 List Price: \$183.95

Arizona State University's Department of Chicana and Chicano Studies authored *Encyclopedia of Latino popular culture*, a two-volume reference encyclopedia. Although designed in a university setting this encyclopedia is useful to both young adults and adults. The encyclopedia includes a preface followed by a how to use section, introduction, acknowledgments, board advisor, chronology, list of entries, entries by subject, entries of people by field of endeavor and by country of origin or heritage, encyclopedia, bibliography and index. The subjects covered include the arts, cuisine, customs, entertainment, leaders, legends literature, music, religion and sports, totaling 1,200 entries. Each entry contains bibliographic references, and a subject-classified bibliography is appended. Subject accessibility is easy by use of the comprehensive index and through the alphabetical entry arrangement. Visually the encyclopedia is pleasing including photos and prints in color of throughout the volumes. In June of 2005 **School Library Journal** wrote that the *Encyclopedia of Latino popular culture*, is comprehensive in both the past and present Latina and Latino popular culture of the U.S., it "is a must-buy for all libraries that serve Latino populations."

The World Book Encyclopedia Estudiantil Hallazgos. Chicago: World Book. (2001). ISBN: 9780716674054. List price \$399.00

An American Library Association's **Booklist** pick in October, 2001, *The World Book Encyclopedia Estudiantil Hallazgos*, is a 13-volume encyclopedia rich in illustrations and written at a lower reading level, making it ideal for grades 4-10. *The World Book Encyclopedia Estudiantil Hallazgos* is a translation of the English version, **World Book Student Discovery Encyclopedia**. The age-based content of the encyclopedia is designed for the young user and inexperienced researcher. The text uses its rich illustrations and famous Hispanic authorship such as Ricky Martin and astronaut Ellen Ochoa to attract readers. This is an excellent encyclopedia for young visual learners who need help building research skills.

Geographical Sources:

Continentes: Atlas de geografía e historia. illus. by Gabriel Galindo. Puerto Rico/U.S.:

Norma. (2002).

ISBN: 4580464820. List price \$22.95.

Extremely informative *Continentes: Atlas de geografía e historia*, (Continents: Atlas of Geography and History) is organized into 14 sections containing 245-pages of maps, photos and information. The first section explores concepts, symbols and information on how to use the maps in the book. The second section explores the history of space, the solar system and Earth. While section three contains maps with geography characteristics, climate, natural resources and population statistics. Sections four and five explore Puerto Rico's history and geography in detail. The remaining sections explore the rest of the continents and oceans. The book presents all history sections in chronological order of events. The book raps-up its history and geography with color plates of all the national flags. To be noted is the books impressive foldout map of the world, which puts the rest of the sections into perspective. The organization of this book into visual representations of history and geography make the book an excellent resource highly recommended by **Criticas**, a publication in association with Library Journal and School Library Journal, for grades 3-8 (July, 2004, p.61).

Other Resources:

Expand the Library website to include Spanish news. Reference MIT website at, <http://libraries.mit.edu/guides/types/flnews/spanish.html>

Subscribe to Spanish EBSCO database in addition to English EBSCO subscription. Spanish EBSCO includes more than 4,000 Spanish title listings. This application would be available to use on all library computers or by library card number access at a patron's home on the internet via our website.

At the reference desk:

I suggest that the library keep the following book on hand as ready reference for library staff. It would likely prove useful when non-English speaker need help at the library.

?Habla español? No, but I can try to help you: practical Spanish for the reference desk.

Promis, Patricia. Chicago: Reference and Adult Services Division, American Library Association. (1991).