

Module 3 Discussion

1. If you currently work in a library, how are selections handled in your facility? Is there a written policy? Is this an effective process or does it need to be changed? If so, in what respect?
2. With the large quantity of materials produced annually, how much should format and cost figure into the selection process?
3. What factors should you consider when selecting producers of materials for ethnic collections? For example, if you are not of Asian descent/origin, how do you determine which materials and formats would be most useful for your Vietnamese patrons/users?

In answer to the question about how librarians can increase their subject knowledge of foreign language and cultural materials, collaborating with leaders of ethnic organizations and talking with subject specialists at other libraries and institutions would be beneficial. (Also, we can't overlook what kind of resources the population would like. Talking with community leaders about developing interviews or surveys would be beneficial. It would depend on the culture as to which research method would be best.)

For example, although the Asian population is smaller in Stanislaus County, located in California's Central Valley, than in other parts of the state, off-hand, I know four people the Stanislaus County Free Library system could talk to in order to gain more cultural knowledge and possibly recommendations to other knowledgeable people or groups regarding Chinese or Japanese language materials. The Merced County Courthouse Museum director, Sarah Lim, holds a Masters degree in history from CSU Stanislaus. She is originally from China. Dr. Shou Wang, a professor of history also at CSU Stanislaus, is of Chinese descent. Her specialty is in Chinese cultural history. Dr. Nancy Taniguchi, retired from CSU Stanislaus a couple of years ago. She specializes in the history of the American West, including Japanese Americans. Her husband, Robert Taniguchi, teaches math at Merced Community College, and, from my recollection, is involved with the Livingston-Merced Chapter of the Japanese Americans Citizens League.

There is also the Chinese American Librarian Association (CALA), which is a part of the American Library Association (ALA). The California Library Association has a Chinese American Librarians Interest Group. To access the group, you need to be a California Library Association member. One other interesting resource I found is the Japanese American National Library. According to their website:

The Japanese American National Library (JANL) is a private nonprofit organization incorporated in the State of California. Since 1969, it has served the public as the only national Japanese American resource center that devotes its attention to collecting and preserving primary and secondary source material related to Japanese Americans. The

library makes their materials available to the public, and it provides information and referral services. (2006)

This organization could probably refer librarians to organizations or reputable publishers for Japanese language materials. The Asian Reading Room at the Library of Congress might also be a good place to direct questions.

I did a quick Google search and discovered that a library in Andover, Massachusetts, the Memorial Hall Library, has a collection of materials for Chinese and Russian speakers. In my “Googling,” I also discovered that UCLA and UC Berkeley each have a Center for Japanese Studies and a Center for Chinese Studies. CSU Los Angeles also has a Chinese Studies Center. I’m sure I could find more universities within California and in the other states with similar centers, libraries, or programs. The librarians and educators at these libraries and universities, as well as others, might be good resources.

While WebJunction, an online community for library staff, has resources for services geared to the Spanish speaking community, it also has a smaller section of resources for library services for Immigrants & World Languages.

This is just a very small sample of some potential resources. By putting our search and communication skills to use, we have many ways to contact individuals personally or find organizations or institutions to point us in some directions to acquire a background in subjects with which we are unfamiliar.

Resources

American Library Association. (2011). *Chinese American Librarians Association*. Retrieved from <http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/affiliates/affiliates/cala.cfm>

California Library Association. (2010). *Chinese American librarians interest group*. Retrieved from <http://www.cla-net.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=184>

California State University Los Angeles. (2008). *Chinese Studies Center*. Retrieved from <http://www.calstatela.edu/academic/mld/chinesestudiescenter.php>

Chinese American Librarians Association. (2011). *CALA: Chinese American Librarians Association*. Retrieved from <http://www.cala-web.org/>

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Library of Congress. (2010). *Asian Reading Room*. Retrieved from <http://www.loc.gov/rr/asian/JapanTeam.html>

Memorial Hall Library. (2011). *Materials and library services to Chinese and Russian speakers*. Retrieved from <http://www.mhl.org/catalog/collections/chinese.htm>

Online Computer Library Center. (2008). *Immigrants & world languages*. Retrieved from <http://www.webjunction.org/immigrants-and-world-languages>

University of California Berkeley. (2011). *Center for Chinese Studies*. Retrieved from <http://ieas.berkeley.edu/ccs/>

University of California Berkeley. (2011). *Center for Japanese Studies*. Retrieved from <http://ieas.berkeley.edu/cjs/>

University of California Los Angeles. (2011). *Center for Chinese Studies*. Retrieved from <http://www.international.ucla.edu/china/>

University of California Los Angeles. (2011). *Center for Japanese Studies*. Retrieved from <http://www.international.ucla.edu/japan/>