World Language Networking Group

Prospect Heights Public Library

Meeting notes

September 11, 2024

Presentation:

**Cultivating Desi Language Awareness and Promotion in Libraries**

Presenters :

**Nincy George**, Cataloging Service Manager, RAILS

**Naseem Saiduzzaman**, Adult and Outreach Services Assistant, Niles Public Library

 [CULTIVATING SOUTH ASIAN LANGUAGES AWARENESS PROMOTION IN LIBRARIES.pptx .pptx](https://palatinelibraryorg-my.sharepoint.com/%3Ap%3A/g/personal/agolash_palatinelibrary_org/EdDRMIAiTpBGrQenz5yLe-UB8ahQrQLz6HGhue7koBP0PQ?e=byKzDG)

Desi Languages: a term that did not exist until 1970s. It designates the languages and cultures of India. Q and A following the presentation

Is English taught in schools in India along with Hindi?

Performing diversity audit in world languages collections.  Not easy as sometimes information provided by a vendor is minimal.

Participants expressed concern that books in Urdu are often translations from Hindi.

Some advice for selectors: hold ordering during monsoon months in India. Books may arrive damaged by water and mold!

Larissa, Skokie PL – Popular authors

**Urdu** – Bushra Rahman

**Gujarati, Hindi, Urdu** – Premacanda, 1881-1936

Desi book sources:

* Amazon books.  Suggestion to use country specific Amazon, like Amazon India or Amazon Japan to look for books.
* Ingram
* Wepa Libros, <https://www.wepalibros.com/>, offers books in Tamil, Hindi and Gujarati.
* Multicultural books <https://www.multiculturalbooksandvideos.com/>
* DK agencies <http://www.dkagencies.com/>

Good transliteration source: Lexilogos, <https://www.lexilogos.com/english/index.htm>

Upcoming meetings:

**February 12, 2025, 10.00 am – 2.00 pm on Zoom**

Topic: Presentation from the vendor, DK agencies <http://www.dkagencies.com/>

**May 15, 2025, 10.00 am – 12.00 pm**

Algonquin Public Library

Tentative topic: Polish and Spanish collections