

## **World Languages Networking Group notes**

World Languages Meeting at Algonquin Area Public Library, May 15, 2025

### **Miscellaneous Info**

- Naperville PL is giving away Chinese books
  - o All have OCLC records
- Laconi had a world language vendor webinar on May 9
  - o [Webinar](#)
  - o [Slides](#)
- RAILS World Language Networking Group has a [web page](#)

### **Topic #1: ¡Wepa! libros**

Presenter: Allie Kreuz, Client Success Manager, [¡Wepa libros!](#)

#### **About ¡Wepa!**

- Headquarters in Elgin, IL; has a customer base throughout the US
  - o Elgin location is an appointment-only storefront, no warehouse
- Founded by Verónica Ramos
  - o When she was a ESL teacher, she saw a need for Spanish-language materials for kids
- Currently supplies books in 24 languages for ages baby to adult
- Spanish books come from all over Latin America

#### **Book quality**

- Staff live across the globe and can navigate logistics, cultural differences, and political climate
- Staff receives the books, inspects them , then ships to libraries
  - o Shipping cost is from ¡Wepa! to library
- Books are authentic, written by authors from the country of origin
- Books also need to have vibrant covers

#### **Client Success Manager**

- Collaborates with libraries to create collection
- Needs to know where the international community is from
  - o New to the US or second generation and beyond?
- Can give advice on displays and social media posts to promote materials

#### **Standing order vs custom picks program**

- Standing order
  - o Planned at the beginning of the fiscal year
  - o Create a contract with a budget schedule
  - o ¡Wepa! takes their payment at the beginning of the contract
- Custom picks

- iWepa! will work on library's timeline
- Good for those who don't want a full-year contract
- iWepa! will send a list of titles to choose
- Either via a customized showroom web page or a requested spreadsheet
  - If library chooses not to order after viewing showroom, they have to pay \$65/hour for its creation
- Have to request ISBNs
- For both: iWepa! doesn't create MARC records

### **Insight + program**

- Optional add on
- Curated selection
- Annual reports on circulation and engagement
- Data-driven title recommendations
- Collection evolution monitoring and diversity tracking
- Quarterly online staff training

### **Ordering process**

- iWepa! gathers information during a consultation (in-person or virtual)
  - Gets circ data from library to see what has been going out
- Provides a quote
  - Will accept either a signed quote or a purchase order
  - Minimum order \$400, depending on countries of origin
- Custom collection is curated, imported, inspected, and shipped
  - Shipping time depends on country of origin; can be sent in stages
  - Spanish shipping: Up to six weeks
  - Ukrainian, Russian, and Arabic shipping: Up to 10 weeks
  - Longest time has been 12 weeks
- Invoice sent with shipment
  - Net 30 terms

## **Topic #2: Polonia Bookstore**

Presented via video using AI speaker

### **About [Polonia Bookstore](#)**

- Chicago-based since 1969
- Polish bookstore; expanding to include Ukrainian
- Offers wide range of genres
  - Can also schedule a Zoom meeting

### **Placing an order**

- Need to register as a customer on Polonia's website
- Need to contact Polonia before placing an order
  - Will receive an email address to their special list

- Libraries receive 20% discount on books and are tax exempt
- If a book isn't listed online, email [books@polonia.com](mailto:books@polonia.com)
  - They will check if the book is attainable
- Can pay online with a credit card, PayPal, or PO number
- Orders usually take 10 - 15 days for delivery
  - Shipment will include the invoice
- Polonia also does standing orders and custom orders via email

### **Popular genres**

- Detective stories & mysteries
- Customary lit
- Self help
- Travel
- WWII history

### **Topic #3: Guadalajara International Book Fair (FIL)**

Presenter: Rebecca Jensen, Youth Services, Cook Memorial Public Library

#### **About FIL**

- Largest Spanish-language book fair
- In 2024: 1,769 publishers and 925,000 attendees

#### **Why attend**

- Access to books that aren't available in the US
- Essential for building a collection that represents the community
  - Look at geographic diversity of existing Spanish collection
    - Some MARC records include place of publication
    - ISBNs also have a one - three-digit [country code](#) that follows 978- or 979-
    - Note: Publishers may publish in different locations
- Opportunity to see the physical book before purchasing
- Books at FIL come from all over Latin America

#### **Working with a US distributor**

- Makes job easier at fair
- Simplifies receiving and processing for Acquisitions and Tech Services
  - Some distributors may create MARC records
- Distributors are experts in Spanish publishing and can guide
- Distributors will also act as language translator
- Book distributors
  - [Cinco Books](#)
  - Tomo Books
  - [Lorito Books](#)
  - [Lectorium](#)
  - [Chulainn Publishing Corp](#)

**Purchasing on your own**

- Walk up to each publisher's stand
- Purchase using a credit card
- Have to carry the books around

**ALA-Fill Free Pass Program**

- Free FIL 2025 registration fee
- Three nights of hotel accommodation in single occupancy
  - o Five nights if roomating with another library worker
- \$100 USD contribution for airfare, courtesy of ALA
  - o An additional \$100 USD towards airfare costs, courtesy of FIL if you're one of the first 100 registrations who send a purchased ticket
- Free breakfast
- Welcome dinner for librarians
- ALA pre-fair webinar
- Whatsapp group chat

**Next meeting date/location:**

10 am, Wednesday, Oct. 8, 2025 at Tinley Park PL - Topic: TBD