World Language Cataloging Services Program Report
May 2022

Introduction

RAILS established the need for specialized cataloging support for Illinois libraries, especially world language cataloging and original cataloging, through several surveys in the past five years. This year, we were able to establish a centralized cataloging support program to provide original cataloging and world language cataloging services to Illinois system members, funded by a special grant from the Illinois State Library.

In the first phase of this project, RAILS implemented a pilot project to test-drive all procedures and processes of the World Language Cataloging Services program. Five libraries of different types participated in the pilot. We provided a total of 14 original bibliographic records to the materials for this pilot. The pilot project finished successfully and received great feedback from the participants, and RAILS fully launched the World Language Cataloging Service program in the second week of January 2022.

World Language Cataloging Service Basics?

- Statewide cataloging support program for Illinois library system members. This service provides supplementary cataloging services to libraries when original cataloging or world language cataloging is needed.
- The intention is for this to be an ongoing program.
- Funded by the State library. There is no cost to libraries to use this program.
- We cover all languages that are considered part of the library's regular collection, as opposed to being a special collection. Materials covered would not be in libraries' rare books and special collections department (supplementary cataloging of special collections is provided by the Cataloging Maintenance Center, operated by Illinois Heartland Library System). Each library makes that determination.
- Eligible formats of this service include most print and physical AV materials. We do not cover electronic resources, digital collections, or special collection materials.
- You can learn more about this program's services, procedures, and guidelines on the RAILS website: https://www.railslibraries.info/services/cataloging-world-languages

Program highlights

Members have shown great interest in the program, and we have received positive feedback from participants. Many participants commented that it was a huge help to receive full catalog

records, *especially* for items they can't read themselves. They are so happy that RAILS is providing this much-needed service for their libraries. As of May 11, we have received 96 items from member libraries. Additional libraries continue to inquire about this service and are preparing their internal procedures to be able to take advantage of it. We have also been working with CCS staff to establish a workflow for centrally coordinating services provided to their member libraries.

Advancing equity, diversity, and inclusion in library collections

This program is also helping RAILS further our EDI work. This ongoing support helps libraries provide better service to previously underserved groups who have not had access to materials in their native languages.

Marketing and promotion

We widely promoted this service program to Illinois libraries via e-news of RAILS, IHLS, ILA, CARLI, LLSAPs, and different RAILS email lists. RAILS Cataloging Services Coordinator presented about this service at CCS, Pinnacle, and RSA catalogers' meetings. She also presented at different RAILS networking group meetings such as RAILS Tech Services Networking Group and World Languages Networking Group meetings. Promotion will be ongoing.

Grant extension and expansion

As of the final quarter of the fiscal year, we are underspent in all grant budget lines. This is due to a several-month delay related to the Cataloging Maintenance Center expanding their stated scope of languages covered. Once resolved, we reworked our promotional plan and were able to begin publicizing the program. The project is quickly picking up in volume with increased cataloging requests as well as inquiries from libraries. The grant period has been extended through June 30, 2023, to allow for us to fully expend the awarded funds.