



What is LIBROS?

Mission: LIBROS is a systemwide initiative at Multnomah County Library that connects the Spanish-speaking community with library services. It makes services available within its libraries and in the surrounding community to a population that is underserved because of cultural and language differences.

LIBROS began with an LSTA grant in 1998 and since then has been responsible for numerous changes to improve service to Multnomah County Library's latino community. Since it began we have increased the number of bilingual Spanish employees from one person to more than 30 employees in 11 of our 18 locations.

Since it began outreach staff have made over 120,000 contacts with the Latino community through our events and programs for adults and children both in the library and in the community. These include:

- Spanish and bilingual storytimes
- Computer classes in Spanish
- Intercambio language exchanges
- Regular music and craft programs in Spanish
- Parenting and literacy classes for adults and children
- Special events like Hispanic Heritage and Día de los Niños

Since 1999 Multnomah County Library has hosted *Día de los Niños y Día de los Libros: A Celebration of Childhood Bilingual Literacy*. We were the first agency in the Northwest to sponsor such an event, which is attended annually by thousands of children and their families. In 2002 we won the Estela and Raúl Mora award for our festivities.

Between 2001 and 2005 circulation of materials in Spanish has increased 161%. Over 280,000 Spanish language items circulated in 2005. Reference services in Spanish have gone up nearly 100% in the last two years. Our Web site in Spanish was created in 1998 and has been recognized on a national and international scale. It provides information not only about the library and our events and materials, but also includes a directory by topic of Web sites and databases for online research in Spanish.

Patrons have access to a telephone interpreter at all library locations to receive service in any number of languages. A great deal of printed promotional materials, phone recordings, emails and other correspondence are also provided in Spanish. Our new library catalog introduced in fall of 2005 provides a full interface and searchability in Spanish.

For more information about LIBROS
contact Kristen McKee, 503.988.4332