

Librarian's Shelf by Karen Connell

Language Learning at your Library

Have you or someone you know been wanting to learn a language? Perhaps you just want to brush up on your skills or learn specialty phrases. Either way, Mango Languages is the answer! Mango offers access to 72 foreign languages and also offers 21 English courses taught in the user's native language.

Mango is free for all Columbus Public Library cardholders and can be accessed anywhere with an Internet connection. Each lesson combines real life situations and audio from native speakers with simple, clear instructions. The courses are presented with an appreciation for cultural nuance and real-world application by focusing on the four key elements of language learning: vocabulary, pronunciation, grammar, and culture.

In addition to traditional language courses, Mango also offers the opportunity to learn through foreign film with Mango Premiere™. The newest addition to the popular Mango Languages database, Mango Premiere™ is the first and only language-learning resource to teach through film.

Turning the entertainment experience into a learning experience, Mango Premiere™ exposes students to four key areas of language learning – vocabulary, phrases, culture and grammar – all while enjoying the fun and excitement of a movie.

Users are able to customize their learning experience by choosing how they want to watch a film. In “Movie Mode”, you can watch the entire movie with your choice of subtitles (English subtitles, subtitles in the language you're learning, or both). Or you can select “Engage Mode” to learn each scene's dialogue, part-by-part.

Along the way, you'll see all the same features that Mango users have come to know and love: semantic color mapping, phonetic pop-ups, quizzes, Grammar Notes, Culture Notes, and more.

Kids can also enjoy Mango Languages with Mango Premiere. Children's videos are available in Spanish and Chinese (Mandarin). They have all the same features of the full length films but the content is for kids. Adults can of course use these videos as they are especially helpful for beginners!

Mango also offers access to a variety of specialty mini courses, like Pirate, Medical Spanish and romance courses. Business Spanish, Legal Spanish, and Oktoberfest are a few more specialty mini courses to try.

To get started with Mango Languages, follow the link from the Digital Library page of our website, cplconnect.us. You can use Mango as a guest or to track your progress, create a free account. Creating an account is fast and easy; just type your name, email, and create a password. With an account, Mango keeps track of what lessons you've completed and videos you've watched so you avoid duplication.

Mango can be accessed at the Columbus Public Library, remotely, or even on-the-go with apps for your smartphone or tablet.

If you have any questions about Mango Languages or need help getting started, stop by or call the library at 402-564-7116. You can also “Book-A-Librarian” to meet with a staff person at a specific time to help you with any of our online resources.