

Librarian's Shelf by Karen Stuart

### Learn a Foreign Language

December is Learn a Foreign Language Month and Columbus Public Library has resources to help you do just that! From print books to audio CDs, and even online, we have options available suited to how you learn best.

If you learn best using DVDs, head to the instructional section on the DVD shelves for Sign Language, Italian, French, German, and Spanish options. Fiction DVDs often have subtitles available in multiple languages for those of you a little more advanced in your language learning.

Perhaps print books are your choice for learning a foreign language. We have plenty of those as well! Located on the first floor of the library in the east wing in the adult nonfiction section, look for the 400s call numbers and you will find many books from which to choose. Not only are there books to help learn foreign languages such as German, Spanish, French, Russian, Italian, Sign Language, Chinese, Japanese, and more, there are also English dictionaries, thesauruses, and grammar books to brush up on your English language skills.

Columbus Public Library also has a collection of audiobooks and audio/booklet sets to help learn languages such as German, Polish, Italian, Spanish, Mandarin Chinese, and more. These can be found in the east wing as well at the beginning of the adult nonfiction collection.

We also have English as a Second Language (ESL) resources available for Spanish speakers. Audiobooks, audio/booklet sets, and print books to help Spanish speakers learn English are located in the Spanish Room. In this room across from the Information Desk are also books, DVDs, magazines, and audiobooks available in Spanish.

If you prefer a more interactive way to learn a language, try Mango. Mango is our newest online resource, free to all Columbus Public Library cardholders. There are more than 60 foreign language courses for English speakers and 16 ESL courses available including French, German, Spanish, Biblical Hebrew, three Greek courses, and even Pirate! Mango is available on any device with an internet connection, with a free app for tablet or smartphone users. Lessons combine vocabulary, pronunciation, and grammar with clear, easy to follow instructions. Mango teaches conversational skills as well as cultural insights by combining real life situations and audio from native speakers so you learn more than just the words of a new language, you learn how to use it to communicate.

Sign up for a free Mango account with your library card by visiting our website [www.columbusne.us/library](http://www.columbusne.us/library), clicking the E-Materials link, and then following the Mango link. Once your account is created, Mango will track the hours you spend learning, which courses you have studied, and how many lessons you have completed.

You can also use Mango to translate text. Mango uses the Google translation engine which translates the core of the conversation enough to get the point across, but of course isn't a substitute for human translations. There is included on their website a helpful page for Mango support and the option to contact their Help Desk.

Start learning a foreign language today! Stop by the library, visit our website, or call us with questions at 402-564-7116.