

# Language support

## Collecting policy

## User profile

This collection statement covers provision for language learning support and refers to the collections held in the University Library. It also takes into account resources available at the Self-Access Centre for Language Learning (SACLL).

The language learning materials are primarily used by:

- Students and staff on the Institution Wide Language Programme (IWLP)
- Students and staff in the Department of Modern Languages and European Studies (French, German, Italian and Spanish studies)
- Other students and staff pursuing independent language learning
- English language learners (mainly pre-sessional students from the International Study and Language Institute (ISLI))
- Partners of international students and staff learning English

## Current holdings

Materials available in the Library include: textbooks, dictionaries, grammars and other language aids, multimedia, easy readers, films on DVD in original languages, literature in original languages and books on the history and culture of relevant countries. They cover the four main languages taught to degree level: French, German, Italian and Spanish; and the additional languages taught within the IWLP: Portuguese, Russian, Modern Greek, Arabic, Chinese and Japanese.

English language learners are mainly supported by the Self-Access Centre, but some materials are also kept at the Library.

Some basic textbooks for learning other languages are also in stock, but these are not a priority to be kept up to date.

### **Multimedia**

In the last few years a range of multimedia resources have been added to stock, mainly audio CDs, interactive CD-ROM applications and DVDs. A few materials are still in magnetic tape format, but this number is decreasing as they are gradually being replaced with digital recordings.

## Dictionaries

The Library has a good collection of printed dictionaries, not only for the languages taught at the University, but also for many other languages, reflecting the diverse student population at Reading. Most of these dictionaries are for reference only.

The Library provides access to online language dictionaries via the online encyclopaedia and dictionary collections, Credo Reference and Oxford Reference. The more specialised Oxford Dictionaries is also available for French, German, Italian and Spanish, providing enhanced features such as downloadable letters, grammar notes, verb tables and cultural information to provide practical help with writing.

## Strengths and exclusions

There is a good selection of dictionaries, including online ones.

There is good provision for French, German and Italian, which have been taught to degree level for many years, including supporting material such as literature, history and current affairs. The number of Spanish materials has increased in recent years, largely reflecting the popularity of learning the language with the IWLP, and is expected to continue to do so now a degree programme in Spanish studies is offered.

The Library does not provide any online language tools, with the exception of self-study CD-ROMs and DVDs, which often accompany textbooks.

## Collecting level

The purpose of the language collection is to provide loanable copies of material at various levels of proficiency, including resources for language teachers, and covering all languages taught at Reading. The collection supplements provision at SACLL and, although there is a degree of duplication of materials, more of the collection is able to be borrowed.

Liaison between the Library, IWLP and staff in the SACLL aims to provide appropriate material at each site and avoid unintentional duplication.

## Alternative access

### Self-Access Centre for Language Learning (SACLL)

Intended as an independent learning facility, SACLL offers an environment in which to develop and practise language skills through a range of resources. These include extensive resources at different levels for learning English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Russian, Modern Greek, Arabic, Chinese and Japanese. In addition, the centre holds a core collection of materials in 40 other languages.

The resources include language-learning textbooks, books on grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation and listening, as well as graded readers, magazines and dictionaries, many of which can be borrowed. An increasing number of resources are now available electronically and can be accessed off-campus, through the SACLL website. Other online and digital materials can be accessed via 30 fully networked computers within the Centre.

In addition to the resources described above, the Centre provides learning advice and support, e.g. conversation practice with native speakers.

## Selection, acquisition and stock editing

See the General Collection Development Statement for general principles.

The updating of the Library's language collections is a continual process – digital multimedia materials are bought (in place of magnetic tape format), and dated textbooks are replaced with modern editions. Materials for new languages taught by the IWLP have been bought in recent years; for example Portuguese is now offered.

New stock is mainly selected in response to purchase requests from IWLP staff and, to a lesser extent, staff in the Department of Modern Languages and European Studies. The Liaison Librarian may also fill perceived gaps in provision and there is ongoing liaison with the Director of SACLL.

There is a degree of duplication between the Library and SACLL, but the Library's stock is more likely to be loanable, although an increasing number of SACLL's stock is becoming loanable. Duplication of easy readers, especially, is required to ensure availability, but they tend to be cheaper than other books.

The Teaching Practice Collection within the Library contains a large number of children's books, which also provide simplified readers for English language learners.

*Policy written by Charlie Carpenter, International Study and Language Institute Liaison Librarian, August 2015*