Libros for Oregon: Collections Connect Communities

An LSTA grant to support Spanish-language collection development in Oregon libraries

Deborah Gitlitz, Outreach Librarian
Wilsonville Library
Background: The Conversation(s)

The perennial challenge: Acquiring good books in Spanish for our libraries!

- Materials reflecting and honoring the experiences of people in our service populations
- Written originally in Spanish
- Formats suitable for libraries
- Available for purchase

Fall of 2015: Oregon library listserv discussion
- Not enough satisfactory resources yet in the US
- Challenges of sending staff to the important Guadalajara book fair
  - biggest Spanish-language book fair in the world
  - 2017 = 31st year
  - More about this later

California library book-buying collaborative?
- Why couldn’t we do that in a way that would benefit all of Oregon?
The Grant: Outline

• The idea: to support Spanish-language collection development for participating Oregon libraries.

• The goal: for Spanish-speaking Oregonians statewide -- especially in rural areas -- to have improved access to high quality, culturally relevant collections.
Libros for Oregon: Three Parts

BUYING BOOKS AT THE FIL:
Form an Oregon library book-buying cooperative (with new participants each year) to purchase materials for members at the International Book Fair (FIL) in Guadalajara

OUTREACH:
Help participating libraries to develop and implement outreach plans for connecting their enhanced collections with their Hispanic/Latino communities

BOOKLIST:
Create a “Best of FIL” booklist (annotated to show US availability) for all Oregon libraries to use in collection development.
The Guadalajara International Book Fair!
FIL: The Basics

- Biggest Spanish-language book fair in the world
  - 2016 was 30th anniversary
  - 9 days (and nights!) long

- Book professionals from all over the world
  - Authors, literary agents, librarians, booksellers and of course publishers
  - More than 2,042 publishing houses from 47 countries
  - 300,000+ titles
  - 1,500+ librarians from Latin America attend

- “Over 800,821” visitors in 2016
FIL: The Basics

• Massive literary arts festival and cultural event
  – Music, theater, workshops, performances, art, author talks, lectures
  – Day and night
  – FIL Niños
Well over 800,000* visitors

“Over 800,821” visitors in 2016
The Professional Days

- Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday
- Only registered book professionals
- 12 hour days
- Hydrate!
- Wear good shoes...
—Es un perro, Pita Hermano. —le explicó la señora. —Los perros están durmiendo y a veces, de pronto, les salen las patas y montan una pieza. Pero si se quedan muy quietos, y no hacen nada, su paso es nada.

La señora entró en la carnicería y compró un jamón, dos pollos, tres libras y veintisiete deliciosas salchichas.

—En que mi Pita Hermano come de maravilla —explicó con orgullo.

Pero la hormiga le contestó:

—Pues yo soy la hormiga alegre, y como no abras la pica en la burra.

A la cabra cabrita le dio un golpecito.

**EL BÚHO SE MURIÓ (AL IGUAL QUE EL LOBO, ERA MUY VIEJO).**
Surprisingly Affordable: The ALA-FIL Free Pass Program

- A long-standing partnership: since 1999
- 3 nights at the Hotel Guadalajara Plaza López Mateos
- 3 (or 6) continental breakfasts
- FIL Registration, courtesy of FIL
- $100 toward the cost of airfare, courtesy of ALA
Searching, sorting, stacking, unwrapping, calculating, recalculating, walking, walking, walking...
Logistics: the Participants (II)

Ten libraries annually (depending on experience this trial year)

Annual application
  – Library data
  – Outreach plan

The “Travelers”
• 3 staff representatives
• At least one seasoned LfO Traveler and one newbie
• Buy for the 10 libraries
Contact info

Deborah Gitlitz
Outreach Librarian | Bibliotecaria Comunitaria
Wilsonville Public Library

503-570-1582
gitlitz@wilsonvillelibrary.org

(Libros for Oregon website coming soon!)