



## WHAT IS LIBROS FOR OREGON?

Libros for Oregon (LfO) began in July of 2016 as a two-year LSTA-funded project. In July 2018, Libros for Oregon became a subcommittee of OLA's REFORMA Oregon. The goal of the project is to increase access to high-quality Spanish language books for the users of Oregon libraries, particularly smaller, rural libraries, by helping more libraries take advantage of the resources of the Guadalajara Book Fair (or FIL), the largest Spanish-language book fair in the world.

## WHY BUY BOOKS AT THE GUADALAJARA BOOK FAIR?

Spanish is the second most-spoken language in Oregon. However, many Oregon libraries lack easy access to high-quality, culturally relevant books in Spanish for our Hispanic/Latinx community members. Many such books, especially children's books, and others written originally in Spanish, are simply not available in the United States. The Guadalajara International Book Fair (FIL) is the largest Spanish language book fair in the world, providing access to high quality materials not easily available through our usual channels in the United States.

## HOW DOES IT WORK?

The Libros for Oregon committee selects 8-10 libraries to participate in the consortium each year. Three willing representatives will be selected to travel to the Guadalajara Book Fair in the fall to buy materials on behalf of these libraries. Our mentorship model requires that at least one of these Travelers must have attended on behalf of LfO in a previous year, and at least one should be a new LfO participant. LfO considers many variables in selecting participating libraries.

Every participating library commits \$500-\$3000 (from their own selection budget) and provides the LfO Traveling team with rough selection parameters. Each library must also submit plans for outreach activities to connect their Spanish language collection with their community.

LfO works with a vendor at the FIL, who will ship the selected materials to the purchasing libraries and provide them with individual invoices.



### WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

Any public or school library in the state of Oregon can apply to participate. Applications are accepted in the spring (check the website for that year's dates). LfO strives for balanced representation among the 8-10 selected libraries. We consider geographic region, underserved Spanish-speaking/Latinx populations, previous participation, size, and more.

### HOW DOES MY LIBRARY APPLY TO PARTICIPATE?

Application guidance can be found on our [Apply page](#) on the website. Applications are typically open March 15th-May 15th. The FIL is held in late November each year.

### HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

Each participating library contributes \$300 for travel expenses. Libraries commit \$500-\$3,000 of their own materials budget to pay for materials purchased on their behalf at the FIL.

Many conference expenses for FIL attendees, including conference registration and 3 nights at the hotel (6 if the room is shared), can be covered by the ALA-FIL Free Pass program. The \$300 that each participating library contributes will be combined to pay the airfare, ground transportation, per diem, and incidental costs incurred by the Travelers representing the consortium. Travelers and/or their libraries will need to pay their travel costs upfront, and will be reimbursed by LfO after the trip. Although we anticipate that the funds collected from participating libraries should prove sufficient to cover all travel costs, each participant's library will need to cover any extra funds required.

### WHAT'S THE ALA-FIL FREE PASS PROGRAM?

The [ALA-FIL FREE PASS Program](#) is a partnership between those two entities that provides participating ALA members with:

- 3 nights at the business hotel (6 nights if you share a room with a colleague who is also part of the program)
- 3 (or 6) continental breakfasts
- FIL Registration, courtesy of FIL
- \$100 toward the cost of airfare, courtesy of ALA (for the first 100 applicants)

### DO YOU HAVE TO SPEAK SPANISH (OR HAVE SPANISH-SPEAKING STAFF) TO PARTICIPATE?

No, it is not required that staff at the participating libraries, or even the selected Travelers, speak Spanish. For Travelers: The ALA-FIL partnership provides some infrastructure, orientation and guidance to help non-Spanish speakers navigate the FIL successfully. This includes bilingual staff at the hotel and the Expo Center, an on-site orientation, other library staff from the US, and the option of working with a bilingual vendor. However, speaking Spanish is certainly an asset in navigating the town, the FIL, and the selection of materials in Spanish.

### WE'D LIKE TO PARTICIPATE, BUT WE CAN'T SEND ANYONE TO GUADALAJARA. IS THAT OKAY?

Yes. Participating libraries may indicate if they would like one of their staff to be considered for one of the 2-3 Traveler spots on behalf of the cohort that year.

Our mentorship model means that at least one of these Travelers must have attended the FIL in a previous year, and at least one should be a new LfO participant.



### **WE'D LIKE TO PARTICIPATE AND SEND SOMEONE TO GUADALAJARA. DO THEY HAVE TO TRAVEL WITH THE REST OF THE LFO TEAM? CAN THEY COMBINE LFO AND VACATION TRAVEL?**

Travelers must commit to certain work days in Guadalajara, and will stay with the LfO team in the sponsored hotel. Travelers make their own flight reservations; some add days to their trips to travel.

### **HOW DO WE BUY THE BOOKS? HOW DO THEY GET TO US?**

Representatives will be making purchases at the FIL on behalf of the cohort in various selection categories (mainly adult and youth fiction and nonfiction). Each participating library will indicate their selection preferences in a Purchase Request/Authorization form. LfO will work with experienced vendors at the FIL, who will be responsible for shipping materials to their headquarters in the US and then to the cohort libraries, and providing libraries with their individual invoices. Typically shipping and invoicing occurs in December and January.

### **HOW DOES OUTREACH FIT INTO IT?**

All libraries selected to participate in the Libros for Oregon program will be required to submit and enact plans for at least three appropriate [outreach](#) or program activities (these can be existing programs or new ones) to promote FIL materials to their Latinx/Spanish-speaking population and engage Spanish speakers with their library. They will also be asked to submit short outreach reports.

### **I STILL HAVE QUESTIONS!**

Feel free to contact us with any more questions at [Libros4Oregon@olaweb.org](mailto:Libros4Oregon@olaweb.org)!