
**LIBRARY OF CONGRESS COLLECTIONS POLICY STATEMENTS
SUPPLEMENTARY GUIDELINES**

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Lesser Known Languages

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I. Scope

This document covers materials in languages that are not widely known and/or are endangered. This includes languages from within the United States and throughout the world.

II. Collecting History and Current Policy

The Library's Lesser Known Languages Collection holds materials that were collected on a sample basis to document these languages. The materials are housed together in document preservation boxes in the custody of the Collections Access, Loan and Management Division (except materials in Asian languages are in the custody of the Asian Division and those in Near Eastern languages are in the custody of the African and Middle Eastern Division). In 2008, a decision was made that no further items would be added to a language's document preservation box once it was filled with examples. In 2009, a decision was made to close the collection completely to new receipts. Materials in these languages will continue to be acquired, however. They will, for the most part, be cataloged individually and shelved as appropriate throughout the Library's collections, although this does not preclude some materials being added to pamphlet collections in custodial divisions.

Materials in lesser known languages covering any subject area, may be acquired, as guided by the relevant Collections Policy Statements.

III. Collecting Levels

In any specific case, the collecting level identified in the applicable Collections Policy Statement shall be applied.

Books about lesser known languages are collected at Level 4 and are part of the Library's classified collection.

These are new guidelines effective November 2009