

NEWS

From the San Bernardino County Library

<http://www.sbcounty.gov/library>

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County Library Adds Online Language Learning Capability

SAN BERNARDINO — The San Bernardino County Library has added Mango Languages to its suite of online electronic resources for its patrons. Mango is an online language-learning system that can help one learn languages like Spanish, French, Japanese, Brazilian Portuguese, German, Mandarin Chinese, Greek, Italian, Russian and more. It also provides English as a Second Language (ESL) lessons for people who natively speak one of those languages.

Mango Languages, free for all library patrons, offers a fast and convenient solution for our community's increasing language-learning needs. Each lesson combines real life situations and audio from native speakers with simple, clear instructions.

Mango uses real-life situations and actual conversations to teach a new language. By listening to and repeating after material designed from native conversations, users not only learn the individual words and phrases, they also learn correct usage in practical situations. The emphasis is on practical pronunciation and everyday conversation. Knowledge of correct grammar, vocabulary and conjugation are built into the lessons in a way that enhances how one communicates in their new language.

The Mango Languages addition was made possible by the Inland Library System (ILS), a consortium of 19 public library systems with over 100 branches in San Bernardino, Riverside and Inyo Counties. Each year the ILS submits a Plan of Service to its state funding authority under the California Library Services Act (CLSA). This year's plan includes the Mango language database as part of its funded reference services to libraries.

"ILS is proud to offer this excellent resource to the patrons of our member libraries, and soon there'll be a Mango App, so learning a new language can happen anywhere you and your smart phone might be," says Susan Erickson, Executive Director of Inland Library Systems, which is funding the \$43,000 annual subscription fee.

Erickson notes that in the first couple weeks the resource has been available, without any publicity, well over 400 patrons have already gotten started on languages as diverse as Arabic, Mandarin, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese and Korean. Spanish has led the way with 121 registered users. Also, two dozen ESL learners have gotten started from six different languages.

Getting started is as easy as clicking on the Mango logo on the library's home page (<http://www.sbcounty.gov/library/home/>). It takes about two minutes to register as a user. Mango sends an email to the user's email address and once they respond, they are registered and ready to go. Users choose their own password and can start right away. The Mango program keeps track of the user's progress and makes it easy for users to keep track of where they are in their lesson plan.

For more information on Mango Languages and other county library programs, contact Greg Zerovnik, Marketing and Public Relations Coordinator for the San Bernardino County Library, at 909-387-9619.

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