

PROJECT: ASIAN COMMUNITY LIBRARY

►Description

Through this project, a community branch library in a transitional neighborhood is being revitalized to serve its new population, including 25,000 persons of Chinese, Japanese, Filipino, Korean, and Vietnamese background living in the area. Services through multi-lingual staff include: 1) accessibility to the Library's popular reading collection of books, newspapers, magazines, and audio-visual materials in the Asian languages and in English on Asian and Asian-American subjects; 2) programs for children - films, storytelling, and crafts; 3) monthly programs for adults - films, speakers, and cultural presentations; 4) twenty bookmobile stops per month in the Asian community; 5) information and referral services to Asian community resources; and 6) quarterly booklists on Asian and Asian-American titles. These services and programs help these peoples to retain their own identities and cultures in our melting pot nation, while at the same time assisting in problems with language, employment, and acculturation. The Library also serves as a bridge from the Asian to the English-speaking community.

►Users

Asian immigrants, American-born Asians, and others interested in Asian language materials or English language materials on Asian countries and Asian-Americans. Age groups range from preschoolers to senior citizens.

►Facilities/Materials Required

A library building easily accessible to the target groups with adequate adult and children areas for collection and seating; meeting room for community groups and library programs; work room for processing audio-visual and library materials; storage room for audio-visual, craft, and bookmobile materials, bulletin board. Collection of books, newspapers, magazines, and audio-visual materials in Asian languages; books, periodicals, vertical file and audio-visual materials on Asian, Asian-American history and contemporary issues in English; books and audio-visual materials on English as a Second Language and American society; equipment to utilize audio-visual materials; bookmobile.

►Descriptors

Bilingual/Bicultural
Bookmobile

►Financial Requirements

Initial two-year cost for equipping building, staff salaries, planning, purchase of reading and audio-visual collection, and bookmobile: \$300,000. Continuation cost for following year: \$75,000.

►Evaluation

Based on circulation figures, head counts, new library card applications, reference questions received, reaction from Asian community agencies, Community Advisory Committee, and library patrons, the Library has become an important resource to the Asian community and the Bay Area at large. Circulation has tripled compared to branch statistics before the project started. Community agencies and patrons were supportive of the Library's application for re-funding.

One factor adding to the success of the project has been the active participation of schools, the University of California, and other educational and social agencies. This community interest has even attracted the support and participation of a neighboring city.

FOR PROJECT REPLICATION

►General Criteria

Asian immigrants and Asian-American population in need of this service.

Multi-lingual staff sensitive to needs of target group.

Participation from Asian community in planning, implementing, and evaluating project through an advisory board.

Good working relationships with Asian community agencies and other bilingual/bicultural educational institutions.

Financial support and publicity.

►Staffing/Training Requirements

One bilingual Library Director experienced in book selection, reference and referral services, cataloging, program planning, community outreach, and supervision, and capable of training paraprofessionals to assist in above duties.

One bilingual Children's Librarian.

Two bilingual Library Assistants.

One bilingual Audio-Visual Technician experienced in selection of Asian software and working with hardware.

One bilingual Library Aide.

Library staff should complement one another to cover language needs of the project.

REPLICATION SERVICES OFFERED BY PROJECT LIBRARY

►Project Materials

Available free of charge upon request:

- Project proposal
- Quarterly progress reports for two years
- List of sources for purchase of Asian library materials
- Brochure in six languages
- Booklists
- Film catalog
- Suggestions for programs
- List of consultants and Asian community agencies in the Bay Area
- Directory of Asian media.

►Demonstration/Site Visit

Site visits welcomed. Appointment necessary for observation of bookmobile service and guided tour of the library.

►Training

Orientation slide talk available. Staff willing to provide limited consultant services.

CONTACT

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