Finding L1 & Bilingual Resources for TESOL & Content Instruction

How do you find L1 & bilingual resources for your L2 learners?

What L1 & bilingual resources can you use? And how do you find L1 & bilingual resources for your L2 learners?

Here are some options:

- For bilingual books, use university & public Library Catalogs, or start with Publisher Sites, then see if the books listed there are in a Library Catalog
- For bilingual dictionaries in print, go to a Library Catalog
- For a popular book you’d like your students to read in English & see if it has been translated into the L1, go to a Library Catalog
- To see if there is a video that could be used with a popular book that has been made with (a) dubbed L1 or (b) L1 subtitles, use a Library Catalog
- To see if a movie has dubbed L1 or has L1 subtitles, use a Library Catalog--you can have students watch a specific scene
- For government materials in the L1 pertaining to citizenship or daily life, go to a Government Portal or Search Engine
- For an online bilingual dictionary, use a Search Engine

This guide will provide you with strategies & resources for your L1 & bilingual needs!

Books & Videos in Libraries

Academic libraries & public libraries are good sources for fiction & nonfiction, books & videos, & dictionaries for your learners. Here are 4 catalogs for central Ohio: ODU Library | OhioLINK | SearchOhio | Columbus Metropolitan Library (CML)

(Interested in CML library card? Visit http://www.columbuslibrary.org/about/using-the-library#faq_391)

All of these catalogs are available from http://library.ohiodominican.edu/search/.

Not in Columbus or Ohio? See our guide Using Libraries at https://ohiodominican.libguides.com/using-libraries

Good Starting Points:
Start with whichever catalog works best for you. Search for any of these:

1. L1 translations of English fiction you use in class
2. Bilingual fiction that includes English & the L1
3. Videos in L1 of English fiction works to use as supplement with those works
4. Videos with English dialog and options for dubbed L1 or L1 subtitles that you can use a scene from in class
Use these Sample Starter Search Strategies for any Library:

- [your language] and bilingual
- [your language] and bilingual and [desired theme or literature]
- ["book or movie title"] and [your language]
- ["book title of a dual language book"]

Sample Starter Searches & Results:

- **chinese and bilingual and folklore**
  - This bilingual book, in the results above, also has a note about the readers' age range (view record)
- "charlotte's web" and french
  - This video, in the results above, has French subtitles (view record)
- "a gift for abuelita"
- english and somali

Look for notes in the catalog records for a summary or description of the book too! See the videos for examples. For videos of sample searches, visit [https://ohiodominican.libguides.com/tsl570/libraries](https://ohiodominican.libguides.com/tsl570/libraries).

**Books Reviews & Articles on Dual Language Books**

Bilingual books that have become popular may have book reviews you can read for more information on the books.

You have 2 options for finding reviews:

1. In the library catalog
2. In a library database

In a library catalog, if there is a cover image of the book, you can click on that image. If a book review is available there, you will see a link for it.

In library databases, you can enter the book's title in the search box & look for book reviews or for brief articles by other educators who have used the book in class.

Recommended Databases:

- **Academic Search Complete**
- **Education Full Text**
- **Education Research Complete**
- **Library, Information Science & Technology Abstracts with Full Text (LISTA)**

(All of these databases are available at [https://ohiodominican.libguides.com/az.php](https://ohiodominican.libguides.com/az.php).)

For a video on how to search for book reviews and articles, visit [https://ohiodominican.libguides.com/tsl570/libraries](https://ohiodominican.libguides.com/tsl570/libraries).

For off-campus access to our Ebooks & Databases, you will need to log in with the following:

- Your last name
- The last 7 digits of your ODU ID number

For help, visit our Off-Campus Access page at [http://www.ohiodominican.edu/library/off-campus-access](http://www.ohiodominican.edu/library/off-campus-access)
Bilingual Dictionaries in Print & Online

Academic libraries & public libraries are great sources for dictionaries. And if you are a discerning searcher, you can find some great ones online too!

Academic libraries & public libraries are good sources for fiction & nonfiction, books & videos, & dictionaries for your learners. Here are 4 catalogs for central Ohio:

- ODU Library
- OhioLINK
- SearchOhio
- Columbus Metropolitan Library (CML)

(Interested in CML library card? Visit [http://www.columbuslibrary.org/about/using-the-library#faq_391](http://www.columbuslibrary.org/about/using-the-library#faq_391))

All of these catalogs are available from [http://library.ohiodominican.edu/search/](http://library.ohiodominican.edu/search/).

Not in Columbus or Ohio? See our guide to Using Libraries at [https://ohiodominican.libguides.com/using-libraries](https://ohiodominican.libguides.com/using-libraries)

Dictionaries in Print:
Starting with the L1 in bilingual dictionaries enables students to look up words and common phrases in their own language to help them generate those phrases in the L2.

To find a bilingual dictionary in a library, do a SUBJECT search:
- Search Strategy: SUBJECT: [your language] language dictionaries english
- Sample Search: SUBJECT: russian language dictionaries english

And in public library catalogs, you can sometimes filter your results by age range or by children vs. adult.

Take a look:
- Sample Search [in CML: SUBJECT russian language dictionaries english] - Click on "Audience" under "Filter your results"

Online Dictionaries

To find a good online dictionary, try this search in a search engine:
- Search Strategy: [your language] english dictionary
- Sample Search: russian english dictionary

Look in your list of results for a quality dictionary. Some good language dictionary publishers:
- Cambridge
- Cassell
- Collins
- Langenscheidt
- Leo

Avoid online translators like Google Translate, please! These have too many errors.
Publishers of Dual Language Books

Publishers advertise what they have--take advantage! Go to a publisher site, identify the book(s) you want, and then you can search in a library catalog for more information and/or to get a copy of the book.

To Find Publisher Sites:

Search Strategies for Using Google:

- "children's books" (bilingual OR "dual language") publishers
- "children's books" (bilingual OR "dual language") [your language]

Sample Searches:

- "children's books" (bilingual OR "dual language") publishers
- "children's books" (bilingual OR "dual language") spanish

Publishers advertise what they have--take advantage!
Go to a publisher site, identify the book(s) you want, and then search in a library catalog.

For a list of publishers of bilingual books, visit https://ohiodominican.libguides.com/tsl570/publishers

To Find Additional Publisher Sites, Use these Search Strategies:

- "children's books" (bilingual OR "dual language") publishers
- "children's books" (bilingual OR "dual language") [your language]

Sample Searches:

- "children's books" (bilingual OR "dual language") publishers
- "children's books" (bilingual OR "dual language") spanish

A Note about Assessing Dual Language Books

Publishers who list these books sometimes provide any or all of the following:

- Age range
- Information about the author
- If the book has won any awards
- Book reviews

Sometimes, if you take the title of a book you'd like & look it up in a library catalog, you may also be able to get more information about that book. For a quick video, visit https://ohiodominican.libguides.com/tsl570/publishers
Government Sites

If you are teaching in the United States, U.S. government agencies can provide L1 resources on various aspects of daily life & citizenship.

Two sites often helpful for adult learners:

- **MedlinePlus: Health Information in Multiple Languages** - Consumer health information in the L1.
- **USA.gov** - Use the search box at this site with searches like these two: (1) "spanish materials," (2) "spanish materials" education. Note: Some languages are better represented than others.

**To Find Government Resources:**

Use a good search engine & do this search for L1 & bilingual materials on citizenship & consumer info:

Search Strategy: site:.gov language [your language] [what you need]

Sample Search: site:.gov language russian "consumer health"

This guide, along with an annotated list of publishers and videos, is available at https://ohiodominican.libguides.com/tsl570.

See also our guide to Using Libraries, https://ohiodominican.libguides.com/using-libraries

**Need help?**

Ask a Librarian:

(614) 251-4754 | toll-free (888) 681-8044 | refdesk@ohiodominican.edu | www.ohiodominican.edu/library/help/ask