Finding and Creating Heritage Language Books Using Bloom

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Multilingual Children and Multilingual Libraries: Cultivating Reading Habits in the Heritage Language

Looking at:

● how to incorporate literature into HL program curricula,
● how to build libraries,
● how to use existing multilingual digital libraries, and
● how to get multilingual children motivated to read in the heritage language
Heritage language books and libraries

- Books that are
  - Suitable for children
  - High quality
  - Will hold children’s interest

- The big challenge: Long-tail languages
Heritage language books and libraries

- Books that are
  - Suitable for children
  - High quality
  - Will hold children’s interest
- The big challenge: Long-tail languages

A few languages, lots of books
Many languages, few books
The “long tail”
A few languages, lots of books

- 6 languages, 2 billion people (English, Mandarin Chinese, Hindi, Spanish, French, Modern Standard Arabic)
  - Easy to find books
- 105 languages, 4 billion people
  - Includes national languages
  - Not too hard to find books
- 177 languages, \( \frac{2}{3} \) of the world’s population
  - Getting more challenging to find books
Lots of languages, few books

- 396 languages that are widely used, used in schools
  - Around 900 million people
  - Books are hard to find
- 1,519 languages that are written but not used in schools
  - 740 million people
  - Forget about finding books!

3,631 languages in vigorous oral use, nearly half a billion people

Total of 7,151 living languages in the world
Many multilingual book collections

*LESLLA: Literacy Education and Second Language Learning for Adults  https://www.leslla.org/
Bloom specializes in long tail languages
Bloom is...

...a free online library, desktop editor, and Android book reader app
...easy to use, even by people with very basic computer skills
...software that can create books in any language and any script
Bloom Library has an extensive coverage of languages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Books</th>
<th>Languages</th>
<th>Language Names</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&gt;1000</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>400-999</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>French, Hausa, Kyrgyz, Russian, Spanish</td>
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<tr>
<td>200-399</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Bengali, Cebuano, Dangaura Tharu, Dotyali, German, Haitian Creole, Indonesian, Kagayanen, Kalanguya, Maithili, Nepali, Newar, North Tanna, Pashto, PNG SL, Portuguese, Swahili, Thai, Tok Pisin</td>
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<tr>
<td>&lt;10</td>
<td>388</td>
<td>...</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>526</td>
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What can I do with Bloom?

- Read books online
- Download books in multiple formats
- Download the book to the Bloom Desktop Editor
  - to modify or enhance, or
  - to translate into a new language
- Share your books with others

https://bloomlibrary.org
How can I get books in a language I’m interested in?

Start typing a language name and Bloom will show you the matches.
Language-specific collections

- If there are books in that language, you will be able to browse them.
- Some books are sub-categorized by topic, some by level, etc.
Books also organized by
- Topics
- Special interests
- Book features
- Publishers
- Projects
- Organizations and Governments

Some of the best books are in the collections for publishers, projects, and organizations and governments.
Reading online

- You can read books online
- Some books can be read in multiple languages
- Audio or sign language video will play
Bloom Reader App

Free Android app for reading BloomPUBs
Plays audiobooks and books with video
Available on Google Play

Search for “Bloom Reader”
What will I find on Bloom Library?

Books in Dari and Pashto
What will I find on Bloom Library?

Sign language books
(Papua New Guinea)

Philippines, Central Bikol
What will I find on Bloom Library?

A Talking Book written, illustrated, and narrated by Tz’utujil Mayan children

https://youtu.be/lmxy896jkg4
What will I find on Bloom Library?

Simple word and picture books
(Kaqchikel, Guatemala)

Even Talking Book bilingual dictionaries!
(K’iche’, Guatemala)
Create books with the free Bloom Editor

Create books or adapt/translate existing books to any language in any script

Upload Bloom books to Bloomlibrary.org for viewing anywhere

Automatically generated PDFs, ePUBs, and BloomPUBs can be distributed freely via websites, email, and social media

https://bloomlibrary.org/page/create/downloads

https://bloomlibrary.org/downloads
Adding audio narration to an existing book

Same book ready to translate
How do I get the Bloom Desktop Editor?

https://bloomlibrary.org/downloads
But how do I learn to use Bloom?

- Take the self-paced course to get started
- Starts from zero
- Ends with your first book

https://classroom.google.com  Then add a course with code hybxxrd
Thank you for listening

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