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Standing with Ukraine: Building Library Collections to Support New Ukrainian Communities

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Abstract

Libraries in occupied areas have become spaces of "Information Warfare" - where books are deliberately destroyed, particularly books about Ukrainian history. In occupied areas, Russians have repurposed libraries to disseminate propaganda. Today, over 80% of Ukraine's books are published in Kharkiv. The targeting of Ukrainian libraries and publishing houses is indicative of Russia's determination to destroy Ukrainian identity by targeting Ukraine's national treasure: its literature.

Libraries have become central to the war effort. Librarians and community members coordinate food packages for the military, make camouflage nets, and coordinate humanitarian aid. In Kyiv, libraries also coordinate the shipment of books to Poland and other areas where refugees are sheltering. Our presentation covers the history of Ukrainian book collections, information destruction in war, and the recovery efforts of today.

Standing with Ukraine: Building Library Collections to Support New Ukrainian Communities

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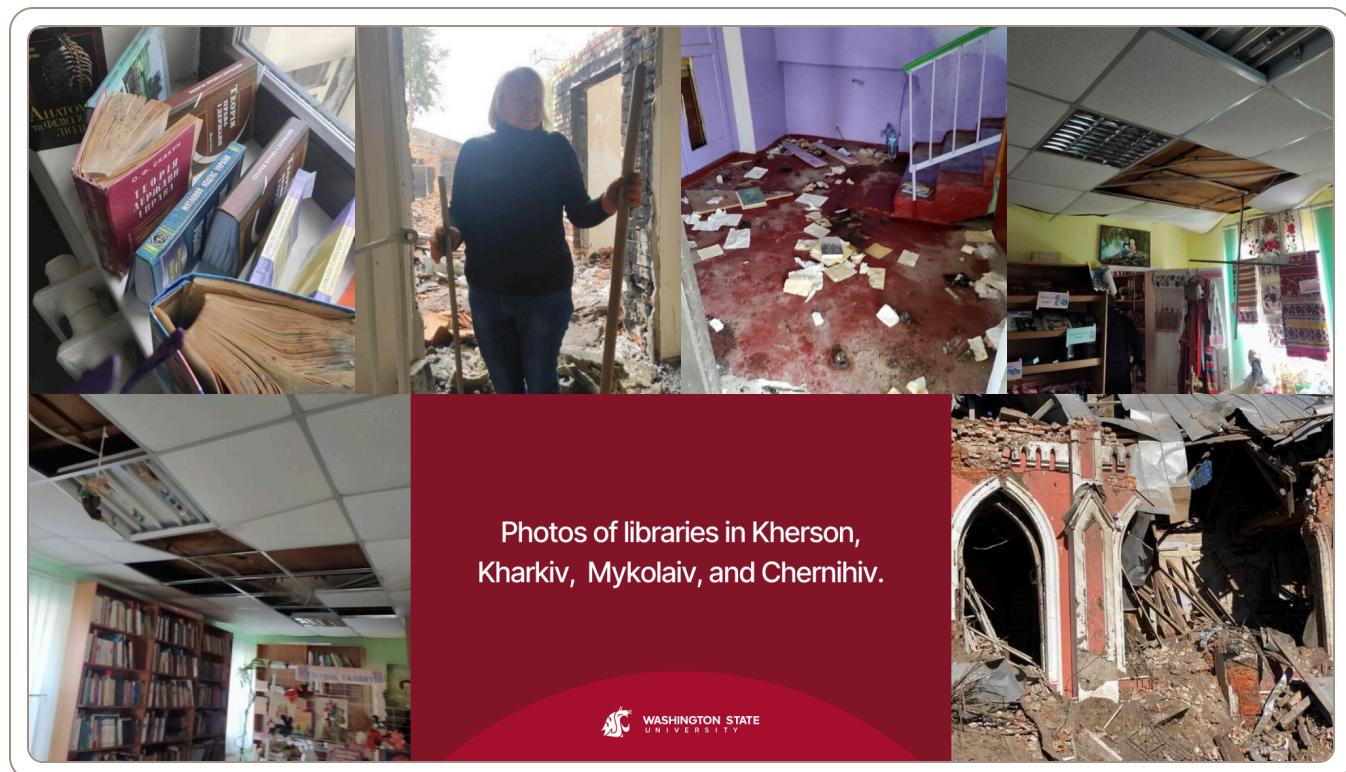
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Libraries Under Attack

These photos show libraries in several eastern regions of Ukraine that have been heavily hit by Russian bombs and missiles. While the damage to the physical structures is evident, in many cases, library collections themselves have also been damaged. Some Ukrainian libraries have also experienced occupation by Russian troops who have looted equipment and removed Ukrainian materials.

Much of the information about Russia's attacks on Ukrainian libraries has come to us through Ulia Gosart, a librarian at San Jose State University and an advocate for Ukrainian libraries. Ulia highlights the role libraries in unoccupied areas play in welcoming internally displaced people: "In Ukraine, the public library has traditionally been at the heart of community, cultural, and intellectual life. Today, Ukrainian libraries are spaces that symbolize stability while also nourishing the community's spirit."



Photos of libraries in Kherson, Kharkiv, Mykolaiv, and Chernihiv.

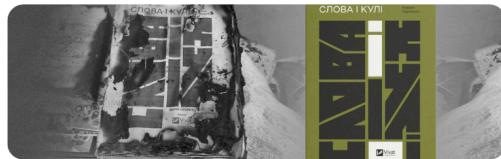


While many libraries remain open, in some unoccupied areas, libraries have had to close due to a lack of funding and personnel. Libraries in occupied areas have become spaces of "Information Warfare" - where books are deliberately destroyed, particularly books about Ukrainian history. In occupied areas, Russians have repurposed libraries to disseminate propaganda.

Publishing Under Fire

These photos show a targeted missile attack on the Factor-Druk publishing house on May 27, 2024. The attack left seven employees dead and more than 20 wounded. Kharkiv has historically been the publishing center of Ukraine. Today, over 80% of Ukraine's books are published in Kharkiv. The targeting of Ukrainian libraries and publishing houses is indicative of Russia's determination to destroy Ukrainian identity by targeting Ukraine's national treasure: its literature.

In Ukraine: Libraries and Culture Under Attack



The Kharkiv "Factor-Druk" publishing house was attacked by Russia on May 23, 2024. Photo Credit: Kyiv Independent

Sources: Ukrainian Ministry of Culture and Information Policy, Chytomo, Euromaidan Press,

- As of July 2024, 138 libraries have been destroyed and 577 severely damaged since the beginning of the full-scale invasion.
- An estimated 47 million books have also been damaged or deliberately destroyed, although these numbers could be as high as 200 million.
- A targeted missile attack on the Factor-Druk printing house killed 7 employees and destroyed 50 thousand books.

Public Libraries in Ukraine

These figures are from the 11th report by the Yaroslav Mudriy National Library of Ukraine, which periodically surveys libraries about the effects of the war. Public libraries are spaces of community and culture, and in smaller towns and villages, they often represent the one center where people can access free Internet. Ukrainians view libraries as central community spaces; this is also the very reason that Russia has placed Ukrainian libraries under attack.

Public Libraries in Ukraine:

Includes information from 11,802 reporting public libraries:

- Public libraries are the second largest category of cultural institution targeted by Russian aggression, accounting for 35% of the total number of cultural institutions damaged or destroyed.
- 194 public libraries have been completely destroyed, including Donetsk (61), Kharkiv (53), Kherson (25), Mykolaiv (16), Zaporizhzhia (15), Sumy (8), Chernihiv (5), Luhansk (5), Kyiv (4), Zhytomyr (1), and Dnipro (1).
- Between 2022 and 2024, the number of public libraries in operation decreased by 17.7%
- 420 public libraries have suffered major damage; 467 have suffered minor damage (window, doors, roof, facade).

Source: Yaroslav Mudriy, National Library of Ukraine, <https://oth.nlu.org.ua/?p=10951>



Occupied Territories

In occupied territories, information is used as a tool for Russian propaganda. In an interview with Ulia Gosart, Tetiana Svatula, a librarian at the Kherson Regional Library, explains that the slogan "Russia is Here Forever" is used to undermine Ukrainian identity. Libraries are used to disseminate Russian propaganda, and large shipments of Russian books are delivered to replace Ukrainian works. Libraries are used by Russia as centers for indoctrination, which targets children, in particular. To resist Russian narratives, Ukrainian librarians in unoccupied territories have developed materials to help people recognize false information and identify propaganda.

Ukrainian Libraries in Occupied Territories: Kherson

- For over a week, over 70 people sheltered in the Kherson Regional Library basement.
- While occupied, Russian soldiers looted the library and its collections.
- Library employees "cooperated" with occupiers long enough to retrieve and smuggle out rare editions of Shevchenko and other precious materials that they had hidden.
- Over 70% of the braille book collection at the Kherson Regional Library, one of the most significant in the country, has been destroyed, among other losses.



Occupied Territories (cont.)

Libraries are not only being damaged by shelling, but collections are deliberately destroyed using other means. During the occupation of the Kherson region, many strategies were used to undermine libraries, including burning books, urinating on books, and shooting out library windows from the inside. These tactics are used to attack morale through the systematic destruction of Ukraine's literary history and culture.



- In occupied territories, Ukrainian books are being burned or removed as "extremist" literature.
- Over 9,500 books removed in occupied Donetsk
- Luhansk lost 4 libraries and an estimated 180,000 books
- Eyewitness accounts report that book burnings in the town of Mykhailivka took place for over a week.

Ruined libraries in Kherson region (Photo Credit: Ukrainian Library Association via Ulia Gosart), "Ukrainian Libraries: Fortresses of Information Resistance". Public Library Quarterly, 1-5.)

From Tetiana Svatula's interview with Ulia Gosart

"The War in Ukraine: A Librarian's Perspective." Published in Public Library Quarterly, 2024.

Tetyana: Occupiers understand that libraries are crucial during a full-scale invasion, as they are the most effective and extensive means of propaganda. Through libraries, Russian occupiers seek to persuade the integration, primarily of Ukrainian children, into the Russian environment. That's why libraries opened by the occupiers on the left bank of Kherson have become outposts of Russian imperial propaganda.

From Ulia Gosart's Interview with Tetyana Svatula, Kherson Regional Library



Libraries Mobilize

Libraries have become central to the war effort. Librarians and community members coordinate food packages for the military, make camouflage nets, and coordinate humanitarian aid. In Kyiv, libraries also coordinate the shipment of books to Poland and other areas where refugees are sheltering.

Librarians Mobilize to Defend Libraries and Readers:

"Whoever needs books to distract them, or to calm down, stop by; or call, we will bring them,"

- Librarians have pivoted to protect Ukrainian libraries and convert them into shelters for internally displaced people.
- Librarians assist the war effort by cooking food and making camouflage nets.
- Libraries have become collection and coordination centers for humanitarian assistance and information .
- Librarians have also set up mobile collections, and relocated to spaces where internally displaced people shelter, such as subway stations.



Community members make camouflage nets in the Khmelnytsky Central Library Source: Ukrainian Library Association Facebook Page



Books as a Refuge: Daria Rybalchenko

There are two spheres of advocacy for Ukrainian libraries and books: one sphere addresses the attacks on Ukrainian libraries, and the other addresses supporting Ukrainian readers sheltering abroad.

Daria Rybalchenko,

Head of the Ukrainian National Network of Local Philanthropy Development <https://philanthropy.com.ua/>

I'm twice a refugee, and books are something that saved me. Books help you stay connected to "normal" life, so that you can keep dreaming, and not lose hope. Books provide comfort for those who are not ready, or able, to talk to a mental health specialist yet.

From the front lines of Ukraine, to the United States, Ukrainian books and libraries are so needed right now.



Ukrainian books represent an important connection to Ukrainian identity and language, while providing readers a chance to temporarily escape the realities of war. Daria Rybalchenko was 16 when Russia attacked her hometown, Stanytsia Luhanska, in eastern Ukraine. That summer, in 2014, she bought a copy of "The Count of Monte Cristo," the French adventure novel by Alexandre Dumas. She read the book by a solar-powered flashlight while sheltering from the shelling.

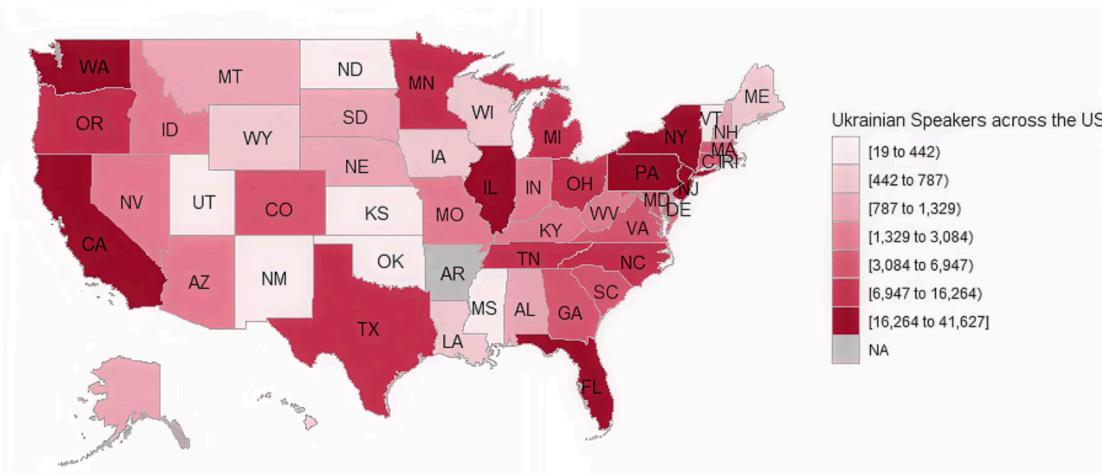
Daria's copy of the book is now in the War Memory Museum in Sarajevo - the only museum in the world that specifically examines how childhood is affected by war. The museum currently includes over 600 items from Ukrainian children, providing tangible evidence of their experiences.

Ukrainian Speakers in the U.S.

Ukrainian Speakers in the U.S.



Identifying Communities



Hotspot for Ukrainian Diaspora



Ukrainian refugees arriving in WA grew after 2014

When the conflict in eastern Ukraine with Russian separatists escalated in 2014, Congress expanded the number of refugees allowed into the U.S., leading to an increase in Ukrainian refugees in Washington.

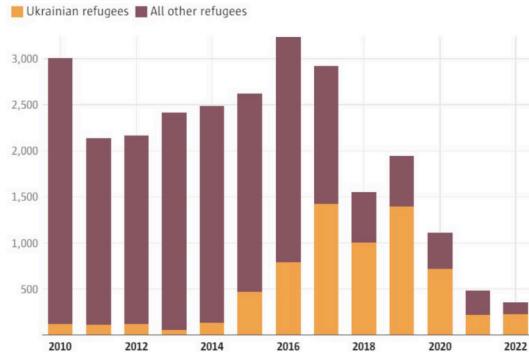
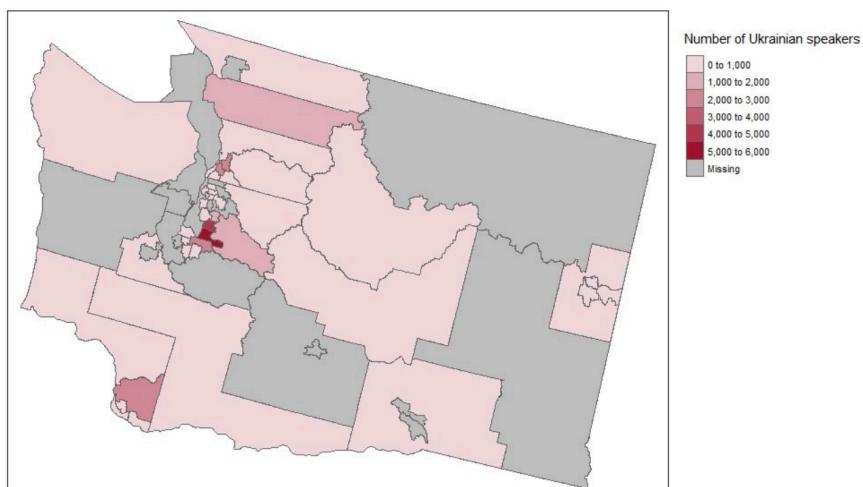


Chart: Alison Saldanha / The Seattle Times • Source: U.S. Department of State Bureau of Refugees, Population and Migration/
Seattle Times analysis

"Over the last 10 years, more Ukrainian refugees arrived in Washington than any other state in the U.S., according to a Seattle Times analysis of data from the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration. Their arrivals particularly increased after 2014 when Congress authorized refugee admission as the conflict in Eastern Ukraine with Russian separatists escalated."

Ukrainian speakers in Washington



WA Regions with Most New Ukrainian Speakers from 2022-2023



Approx. location	Example cities	2022	2023	Increase
King County (SW)	Auburn City, Lakeland	2932	5686	2754
King County (SW Central)	Kent City	2447	4383	1936
Pierce County (North Central)	Bonney Lake, Edgewood, Fife, Sumner	858	2245	1387
Snohomish County (West Central)	Mukilteo, Martha Lake	1322	2555	1233
King County (SE)	Maple Valley, Covington, Enumclaw	599	1762	1163

Importance of Ukrainian Books to Refugee and Diaspora Communities

Importance of Ukrainian Books to Refugee and Diaspora Communities



The Ukrainian language has been subjected to a historical continuum of suppression and bans. Ukraine's most famous poet, Taras Shevchenko, published the first book of modern Ukrainian poetry, Kobzar. He was such a formidable force that his poems were published even in Russia; however, Russian and Soviet editions of his poetry were redacted or changed to eliminate Ukrainian identity and nationhood. While this timeline covers up until 1972, today, linguistic oppression of Ukrainians is again occurring under Putin.

It is important to note that the Yale Center for Human Rights has documented at least 19,500 cases of Ukrainian children who have been abducted and taken to Russia. These children are put in filtration camps and re-educated as Russian children, or adopted into Russian families. Russia seeks to erase its identity and language.



HOW REGIMES RULING OVER UKRAINE TRIED TO DESTROY ITS LANGUAGE

During the XVII-XX ct, Ukraine was split up between various empires and states. The ruling regime of each of them tried to assimilate Ukrainians and prevent their self-determination by destroying what made them different: their language and culture.

Overall, there have been 60 prohibitions on the Ukrainian language in the 337 years that Ukraine was under foreign rule, from 1654 to 1991.

They aimed to eradicate the Ukrainian language by inhibiting or prohibiting its use in education, official use, and the print.

Most of these policies contributed to the forced Russification of Ukrainians in the Russian Empire and the USSR. Here are some of the most important ones.

1789 – The Polish Sejm orders to close all Ukrainian schools.

1817 – Polish language ordered to be used in all national schools of Western Ukraine

1859 – the Ministry of Religions and Sciences of Austro-Hungary in Eastern Galicia and Bukovina tried to replace the Ukrainian cyrillic alphabet with a latin one

1869 – Polish language deemed as the official language of education and administration of Eastern Galicia

1924 – the order of the Polish Republic to limit the use of Ukrainian in administrative institutions, courts, education on lands governed by Poland

1960-1980 – mass closure of Ukrainian schools in Poland and Romania

Ukraine divided between empires, late XVIII-early XX ct



1983 – "Andropov order" of the Soviet government increases salaries of Russian language teachers and similar measures to increase Russification

1990 – Soviet parliament approves law establishing Russian as the official language of the USSR

1720 – Muscovite Tsar Peter I bans book printing in Ukrainian and eliminates Ukrainian texts from church scriptures

1769 – Smotrych of the Russian Patriarchal Church prohibits printing and using the Ukrainian bukvar, an alphabet book

1863 – Valuyev order of the Russian Empire bans printing Ukrainian spiritual and popular education literature

1876 – the Ems decree of Alexander II prohibits printing and importing any books in the Ukrainian language from outside the country, as well as prohibits Ukrainian theatrical performances and printing Ukrainian texts on sheet music, including national songs

1970 – Soviet government orders that dissertations can be written only in Russian

1972 – the Communist Party of the USSR proclaims that its goal is the "creation of a new historical community – the Soviet people" and establishes an official de-nationalisation course



TODAY, UKRAINE GRAPPLS TO OVERCOME THE NEGATIVE LEGACY OF THESE POLICIES AND UNDO THE CENTURIES OF REPRESSIONS, AS RUSSIA PLAYS ON THE DIVIDING LINES IT CREATED IN UKRAINE.

EUROPEAN RENAISSANCE

The Diaspora as Space for Language Resistance:

"Endangered Language Project"

"I hid my tears

When Mrs. Kolenska

Read aloud the works of writers

Of the Executed Renaissance.

Writing was a dangerous

Profession and so was

Speaking Ukrainian.

And weren't we lucky

We could do both

And only had to

Survive the jeers

Of our neighbors

And the silence

From the homecountry,

....the silence

And the insistence

That we did not exist."

- Virlana Tkacz,

Three Wooden Trunks

Throughout the tsarist and soviet periods, the diaspora has played an important role in upholding the language and culture; this continues today as the Ukrainian diaspora engages in advocacy to support the maintenance of the Ukrainian language among refugees who have fled the war. This poem by Virlana Tkacz highlights her experience as a Ukrainian learner in the diaspora during the Soviet period, underscoring the freedom to speak and learn Ukrainian in the US, while it was suppressed in her homeland. The diaspora has a great desire to uphold the values of their language by ensuring that Ukrainian children have access to the Ukrainian language and reading materials. These materials also provide comfort and support to the community, including, in particular, to children and the elderly.

Community Engagement

In June 2022, the Portland-based Ukrainian American magazine Kanon published a profile on community member Kristine Mushkevych's efforts in advocating for Ukrainian language books. The article described the importance of Ukrainian language collections to the community and provides advice on methods to work with and engage local libraries. Mushkevych also shares tips and talking points to guide advocacy, and a sample materials request letter. This article speaks to the efforts of the Ukrainian community in their desire to work with libraries and to help Ukrainian readers access books in their language.

Community Engagement



Аргументи, на які ви можете поспілкуватися з бібліотекарями та народом іншої. Можете схильніше їх копіювати або адаптувати до своїх потреб:

1. We would like the libraries to stand with Ukraine and show their support of Ukrainian communities by providing us with books in Ukrainian language.

2. Continuing purchase of Russian books in times when Russia continues its invasion on Ukraine and denying large Ukrainian communities books in Ukrainian is discrimination to our community.

3. In Multnomah County, for example, lives 5,803 persons who were born in Ukraine and over 2,422 who were born there, yet Multnomah County Library has 4,689 printed books in Russian and only 15 in Ukrainian. Statistics taken from the site: <http://statistics.multco.us/city/Orion/Multnomah-Country/National-OriginFigure>

4. Libraries use our tax money to purchase books. In Beaverton, for example, the library receives 58 cents for every \$1,000

of Assessed Property Value. An average homeowner is paying \$140 from their property taxes towards library funds. We would like some of our money to go towards purchase of Ukrainian books.

5. E-books and digital materials are not available through the interlibrary loan process, so if you live in Beaverton and found a Ukrainian e-book in Portland which you like to read, it will not be available to you. Secondly, they can be loaned between libraries.

6. Ukrainian refugees come to 100,000

Ukrainian refugees, which

can mean up to 2,000 Ukrainian refugees in each of the 50 states. Children need to be able to continue reading books in their language.

7. Salem school district alone estimates that they've received 50+ Ukrainian families since the beginning of the war. Starting April 8, 2022, Ukrainian refugees, and especially children, need to be able to check out Ukrainian books in local libraries to preserve our culture.

8. Since the start of the war it became difficult to get books from Ukraine. In the past families could rely on relatives for mailing us books. They are currently either hiding in shelters or occupied with other troubles.

9. Ukraine, the number of people studying Ukrainian on Duolingo has increased 577% globally.

Також нададіть зразок листа для початку діалогу з бібліотеками. Якщо ви відкажете конкретна книга, саме це погано!

Dear XX,

As a Ukrainian family we cannot help but notice the absence of the Ukrainian section in the library. You might have seen horrific images from the unprovoked and brutal aggression by the Russian Federation on Ukraine. In current conditions our community is seeking consolation by gathering and rediscovering our cultural heritage. Spoken and written language is a cornerstone of any culture, and Ukrainian is no different.

With the beginning of the invasion, the Ukrainian community has effectively lost the ability to receive books in Ukrainian language. Having a Ukrainian section in the library would have been a great relief for us. While not very numerous, it is estimated that close to 20,000 Ukrainians live in Oregon, and to my knowledge we have no official library or a bookstore.

Should you kindly agree to help us and buy the following book(s) _____, you will certainly find a devoted number of patrons and supporters.

Sincerely,
XX

Community Self-Advocacy

When Ukrainian community members in King County were still finding a path to work with their local libraries, they set up their own book exchange system using QR codes to "check out" books. Tabling at community events, they promoted the program and developed their own community-driven library.

Community Self-Advocacy: UA Library Project

Будемо раді бачити вас!

UA Library Project will be waiting for you at the event Вєрте мандрує Україною!

Come - there will be a shelf with children's books where you can take books to read and return the ones that have been read.

It'll be self service this time.

To return - just leave the books on the shelf.

For the taking:

BOOK CALL

from the UA Library Project

We are looking for books in Ukrainian for our next pop-up events.

If you have Ukrainian books for kids and/or adults, please DM us!

Don't have books but want to participate? No problem - you can donate to us, and we'll buy books.

<https://www.paypal.com/pools/c/8MhY5dBJZK>

UA Library Project



Ukrainians Celebrate Book Acquisitions

Examples from social media groups where the Ukrainian community shares information about recent library acquisitions and encourages one another to advocate for Ukrainian books.

Ukrainians Celebrate Ukrainian Book Acquisitions!

Kristine Mushkevych
April 5, 2022 ·

If you live in Beaverton and would like to see Ukrainian books in the library, please PM me or comment below. The library says there is no "patron demand" for Ukrainian books and I'm the only one who has contacted them so far. I know this is not true, since there was at least one request before. Another data they rely upon is the number of Ukrainian speaking children in Beaverton schools. The district says there are only two families in the whole district which identified as Ukrainian, but I know that in just my kid's elementary school there are two families. If you would like to join in my efforts, let me know.

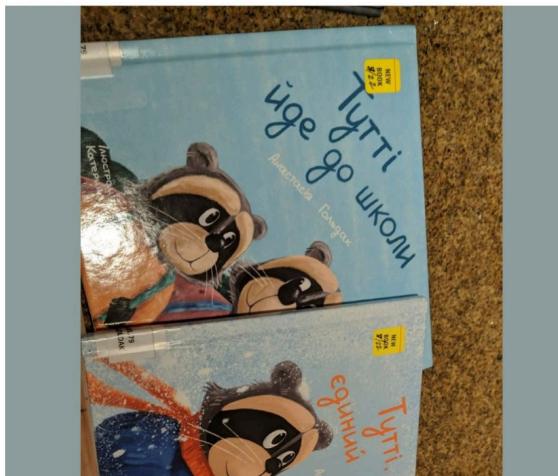


Friends, I have good news! Do you remember my efforts to promote Ukrainian books at the Beaverton library? They were a success and the collection has been started! It currently only has 35 books, but if there is interest from the population (that is all of us), the library will be expanding it. So please, if you are interested in any of these books, you can: (a) drive into the library and pick it up, or (b) ask for Beaverton to deliver this book to your local library. If you need help with directions, please reach out. List of books in the first comment. Pictured is the book I plan on getting my children. They've already reread 3 other books in this series and are looking forward to this one.

[Hide Translation](#) · [Rate this translation](#)



Camas Public library keeps getting new books for children in Ukrainian and they even said they accept requests for more books in Ukrainian, for kids and grown ups alike. It's so inspiring. Thank you, Camas Public Library.



In the first borrow Ukrainian book from Washington County Public Library System. I'm at the Tualatin library and the same book is from the Beaverton City Library. 😊

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Community-Driven Initiatives

Community member Lyuba Uzik started her own book club and uses the platform to share information about Ukrainian book acquisitions in communities around Seattle.

Ukrainian Community Involvement and Collection Promotion



Lovage Book Club
Книжковий Клуб Любисток

Tacoma Public Library

TPL активно поповнює свої World Language Collections. Наразі, мають 156 паперових та електронних матеріалів українською мовою.

tacoma.bibliocommons.com



MVLC також збільшили каталог книжок та навчальних матеріалів українською мовою. На даний момент, доступно понад 45 книжок.

mvern.ent.sirsi.net



Понад 920 паперових аудіо та електронних книжок, фільмів та матеріалів на DVD & CD

seattle.bibliocommons.com



Українські книжки присутні на полицях в місцевих бібліотеках в таких містах:
Algona-Pacific, Bellevue,
Federal Way, Federal Way
320th, Kenmore, Kent,
Outreach, Redmond, та Renton.

kcls.bibliocommons.com

Translations:

Are there some Ukrainian books and resources for children and young adults in libraries?

Tacoma Public Library has a World Language Collection with 156 print and electronic materials in Ukrainian.

The Mount Vernon Library Commons has also increased its holdings of books and educational materials in the Ukrainian language. At the present time, there are more than 45 books available.

King County Library System: Ukrainian books are present on the shelves at the following locations: Algona-Pacific, Bellevue, Federal Way, Federal Way 320th, Kenmore, Kent, Outreach, Redmond, and Renton.

Library Barriers to Ukrainian Book Acquisition

Library Barriers to Ukrainian Book Acquisition



- How to identify reputable vendors?
- Which books to choose (especially w/o a Ukrainian speaker on staff)?
- How to catalog (especially w/o a Ukrainian speaker on staff)
- How to find good records?
- How to promote the materials and keep them circulating
- How can the collection be sustained ("setting a precedent" for collecting)?

Overcoming Barriers to Collecting

Overcoming Barriers to Collecting



Ukrainian publishing remains robust, despite the dangerous conditions that publishers operate under. Ukrainian bookstores have increased in number as interest in Ukrainian books has soared. This slide shows the rebuilt Factor Druk Publishing House. Included is also a sample page from the Ranok catalog that provides English descriptions in an effort to provide selection tools for English speakers.

Ukrainian Publishing Remains Strong



Faktor-Druk Publishing House Rebuilt
[Ranok 2025 Hits / New Titles Catalog](#)
[Ranok Adult Catalog](#) | [Ranok Children's Catalog](#)
Page from Ranok Children's Catalog



Author: Julia Olefir
Illustrator: Anastasia Kryzhan

Capybara from the smoothie bar 3+

picture book

KEY POINTS

- ♦ Kindness
- ♦ Lighthearted stories

In a tropical smoothie bar on the seashore, works Capybara — a true master of creating unique drinks. Her guests are a variety of animals: energetic monkeys, a charismatic chameleon, curious turtles and even a respectable pelican. Each visitor has their own tastes and needs, but Capybara always finds the perfect smoothie recipe that gives joy and good mood. This sunny story reminds us that sincere kindness opens the way to friendship, and a favorite thing can unite and give happiness to everyone around.

Format: 200x260 mm,
48 pages,
Hardback
2025

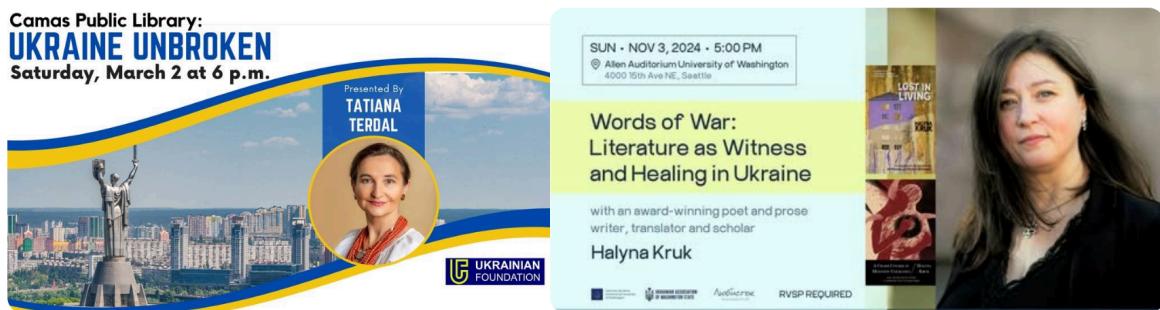


Work with Community Partners

The Ukrainian community has developed successful collaborative partnerships with libraries, such as the Camas Public Library and the King County Library System. Ukrainian community members are eager to share information about the war and its effects on libraries, writers, and publishers. The Lost Horse Press dual-language Ukrainian poetry series also offers opportunities for bilingual programming in Ukrainian and English.

Work with Community Partners

- Include the expertise of community members.
- Ukrainian Association of Washington State's collaboration with KCLS
- Coordinate events with local organizations, colleges, and universities



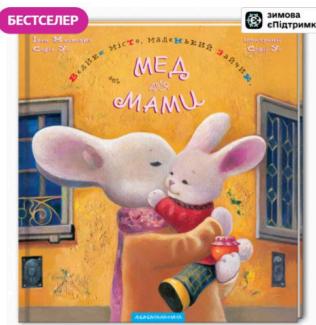
Choosing and Ordering Books

The Ukraine-based non-governmental agency Library Country ([Livelibrary - Благодійний фонд "Бібліотечна країна"](#)) has worked to facilitate the selection and shipment of books to Ukrainians sheltering in Europe, and has also coordinated shipments to libraries in the United States. The Ukrainian National Women's League of America has also developed booklists to help with book selection. The following library guide has links to many selection tools, booklists, and resources:

<https://libguides.libraries.wsu.edu/ukrainianlanguage>

Choosing and Ordering Books

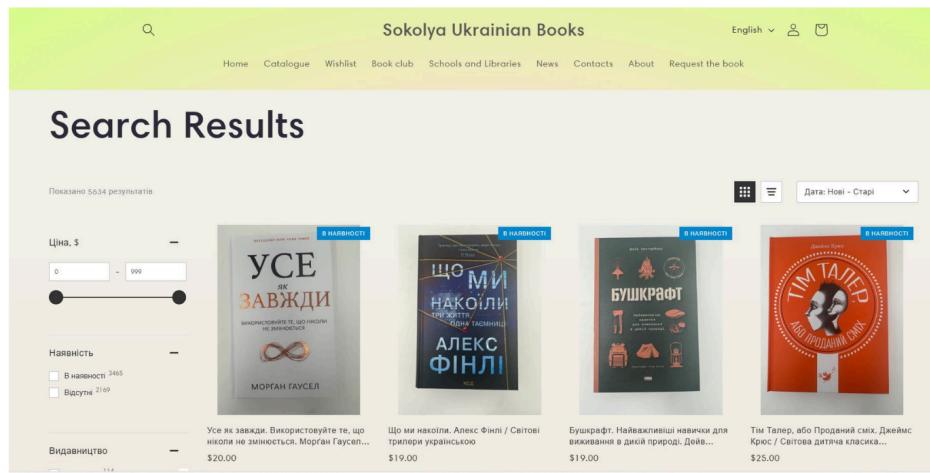
- Book lists from [Library Country](#).
 - [Book list for adults](#)
 - [Book list for children](#)
- [UNWLA Toolkit](#)



Sokolya.com

Ukrainian-owned online bookstore, Sokolya.com, was founded by Oksana Hluska in response to community requests for Ukrainian language materials. Sokolya regularly receives a broad range of new books by best-selling authors from a variety of Ukrainian publishers. The vendor can also select titles based on a library's selection profile.

Sokolya - US Based Vendor

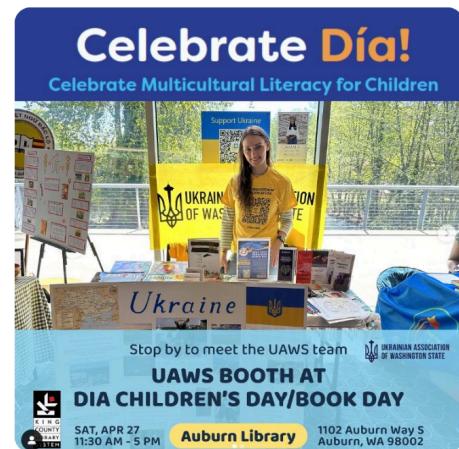


Overcoming Local Resistance from Libraries

Libraries are sometimes hesitant to collect materials in languages that they have not collected in previously. Some libraries are also hesitant to develop smaller collections and prefer long-term commitments to sustainable, large collections in a given language area. However, every language collection starts somewhere. Even a small collection can speak volumes to a language community and demonstrate that their language is valued within the broader context of the library and its services. The map visualization can be useful for identifying other libraries that have established collections of Ukrainian books that may be able to provide guidance and advice.

Overcoming Local Resistance

- We need partners, volunteers, allies, voices.
- Advice and mentoring on cataloging, engaging in partnerships with libraries and librarians
- Collaborate with other groups that could donate books – e.g., “Friends of the Library”
- Use **our map** to find partner libraries, and demonstrate other libraries that are collecting.



Methodology + State of Collecting

The rest of the presentation is available on the [presentation website](#). This includes the methodology and state of collecting that we shared in our earlier presentation, presented at the 2024 ACH Annual Conference.

Standing with Ukraine: Building Library Collections to Support New Ukrainian Communities

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Ukrainian Book Project

Researching and developing tools to ensure the global availability of Ukrainian book catalog records.

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