

The Roots Family Language Library

Frequently Asked Questions

What is TRFLL?

TRFLL stands for *The Roots Family Language Library*

What is The Roots Family Language Library?

The Roots Family Language Library is a [collection of books](#) and other materials available for community loan in Aurora, CO.

Where is it located?

Our physical location is housed in the East Colfax neighborhood of North Aurora, inside the Liz Holdeman English Language Center (1633 Florence Street) on The Roots campus, home of Project Worthmore.

How do you pronounce TRFLL?

We like to say “Truffle” because we are sniffin’ out hard to find books!

Who runs TRFLL?

TRFLL is run by Project Worthmore, a non-profit 501c3 organization. It is a component of our Understanding Neighbors program.

How does it work?

The library is open to all. You can sign up to become a patron by visiting us during business hours. All we need is your first name, last name, and a phone number. You can check out up to 5 books for 30 days at a time.

What kind of books do you have?

- Monolingual books in languages besides English
- Bilingual books
- English Reference materials about other languages
- *Virtual Readalong* Books in English

What's a *Virtual Readalong* Book?

Virtual Readalong books are books that contain a QR code linking to an audio recording created by a community member who also donates a copy of the book. This allows English learners to hear the book as they read it. Currently all of these books are in English only. Contact TRFLL for info.

Where do your books come from?

Our books come from a range of sources, including books given by individual community members, books collected by partner organizations, books donated from personal collections, and books purchased through a small designated budget.

Can I donate my books?

Maybe! We are NOT looking for English books (with the exception of those specifically created as Virtual Readalong books). But we ARE interested in books in languages other than English.

Why don't you want English books?

Project Worthmore already receives a steady supply of English books through our partnership with Bookgive and other sources, and all of these books are available to our community for free. They can be found on carts or in tiny free libraries throughout the Roots campus. They are not library books, but simple free books available to keep permanently (or pass along!). We label them as "FREE BOOKS" and work hard to communicate to people that this is separate from the TRFLL books, which we want returned.

What languages do you need most?

We are especially looking for the following "Neighborhood languages": Afar, Amharic, Arabic, Burmese, Bembe, Chukese, Dari/Farsi, Ewe, French, Karen, Karenni, K'iche', Kinyarwanda/Kirundi, Lingala, Mandingo, Nepali, Oromo, Pashto, Pulaar, Rakhine, Rohingya, Somali, Soyinke, Spanish, Swahili, Tigrinya, Ukrainian, Vietnamese, Wolof, and Zomi

What do you mean by “Neighborhood Languages”?

We think of “Neighborhood Languages” as the first languages of the people we encounter regularly as English students, dental patients, foodshare clients, and through other Project Worthmore programs.

What kind of books are most useful?

Higher priority (We need more of these now or we will soon.)

- Bilingual materials in Neighborhood Languages* besides Spanish
- Monolingual books in Neighborhood Languages besides Spanish

Medium Priority (We expect to need more at some point.)

- English-Spanish bilingual books
- Monolingual Spanish books

Lower Priority (But we will still happily receive them)

- Any books written in any languages besides English

Hard to find Treasures

- English learning materials *IN* Neighborhood languages

Examples:

- A textbook *IN* Farsi about how to speak English.
- A book for Spanish speakers about English grammar
- A guide *IN* Burmese about the Citizenship test

- Monolingual books in Neighborhood Languages

Examples:

- Monolingual literature written in Amharic
- Children’s books in Kinyarwanda
- “The Little Prince” in Ukrainian

Can I purchase books for the library?

Yes! We’d love your help expanding our collection by ordering from our wishlists! You can look at the lists [here](#), organized by language.

What about languages that are not on the lists above?

The lists above is based on the refugee and newcomer communities we are most in contact with, but there are certainly many other languages widely spoken by communities throughout the Aurora/Denver area- Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Hebrew, Russian, and Tagalog, to name a few. We'd welcome books in these and any other languages!

Do you only accept new books? What if I have a used version or see a cheaper version of the book?

We accept used books as well! If you can locate a used version of the books on our wishlist, we would welcome that!

What about the books in the free libraries?

Those are free English books. Please feel free to take a book or leave a book as with other free libraries!

So, can I drop off my books?

If you have books that meet the criteria above (ie, NOT English books), then YES! You can then bring them to 1633 Florence Street any time Monday to Thursday between 9-4pm. But please contact trfill@projectworthmore.org to let us know.

When are you open?

We are open for checkout Monday-Thursday, 11am-1:30pm, except for holidays. We hope to expand our hours as more people volunteer to take shifts.

Do you need volunteers?

Yes! We need people to help serve as clerks. During our designated shifts (Mon-Thurs, 11:00-1:30) library clerks will be on site in the library to check books in/out, sign up new patrons, help restock shelves, and generally serve as a promoter of TRFLL to students in the English building, staff, volunteers, and the wider community!

If I speak another language, could that be useful?

Yes! Not only can that be useful as a clerk, but we are looking for people to become curators for any of the languages in our collection. The role of a curator is to help us steward and expand our collection of books for that language, by identifying gaps, researching resources, facilitating partnerships, and making calls to patrons with overdue books.

The language I speak doesn't seem that relevant to this community.

Since one of our goals is to spark curiosity in languages in general, all languages are relevant, even if it is not one of our "Neighborhood Languages". We would love your help curating and improving our collection for that language, and developing it into a resource for other speakers and learners of that languages.

How do I become a volunteer?

All volunteers must go through the Project Worthmore volunteer orientation. Additional training specific to the library will be required before/during your first shift. Please reach out to trfl@projectworthmore.org if you are interested!

When is the next Orientation?

The next orientation can be [found on this page](#).

I'm already a Project Worthmore volunteer. How can I sign up?

Find TRFLL under the "Understanding Neighbors" opportunity in Bloomerang! And please reach out to Jamie at trfl@projectworthmore.org