



50th anniversary of books in your language 1974–2024

Dear public library colleagues,

This year we are celebrating 50 years of the Multicultural Bulk Loan Service. With more than 29 per cent of the population of NSW born overseas, and over 280 languages spoken, having access to books in your own language is incredibly important. Since 1974, the State Library has proudly provided books in community languages to the people of NSW through the local public library network. We now have 43 languages on offer.

Public libraries are some of the only spaces in society that people can use free of charge. It is powerful for people to be able to see themselves in such spaces, and it is at the heart of giving them a sense of belonging. Collections are at the core of the services public libraries provide — everyone should have access to information that meets their needs and be able to connect to their culture through stories and written language. We have been committed to making this possible since 1974.

You can read more about the history and evolution of the Multicultural Bulk Loan Service in the Autumn issue of *Openbook* [here](#).

We hope that your library will be able to celebrate this wonderful milestone with us. In this document, you will find some ideas for activities and resources to promote your events and service.



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State Library of NSW since 1974





50 years of books in your language

Ideas for activities to celebrate throughout 2024

Here are some suggested activities to help you celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Multicultural Bulk Loan Service at your library. Please be as creative and colourful as you like.

1. Celebrate with your multicultural community in 2024

- Host a celebration event in your library. For example, a morning or afternoon tea.
- Explore recipes, art, songs, dances or games from around the world.
- Host bilingual storytimes and activities.
- Collaborate with your local community organisations.

2. Showcase the history of your multicultural community

- How has your multicultural community changed over time?
- Are there any significant events, buildings or interesting stories?
- Start collecting multicultural community stories for your local studies collection.

3. Spotlight on multicultural collections and the Multicultural Bulk Loan Service

- Place multicultural collections in prominent locations in your library and book displays.
- Order a mixed box of bulk loans from the State Library for a display of books in different languages. [Bulk loan requestion form](#).
- Use the [downloadable promotional material](#) and [professionally translated phrases](#) to help promote the collection.

4. Promote your multicultural events and collection

- Submit short articles about your multicultural activities and programs for the [In the Libraries e-newsletter](#) - we'd love to see more multicultural activities included
- Share your multicultural events and programs for 2024 with the NSW Public Library network through the [Public library multicultural events for 2024 form](#).
- Promote your multicultural events on your social media and marketing channels.



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Social Media

Use the images and suggested text on your social media and marketing channels. You can also use staff language expertise to translate the text for your posts.

Images for Instagram and Facebook

Use these links to download images for your social media campaigns.

[Images for Facebook](#)

[Images for Instagram](#)

Suggested posts:

Did you know you can borrow books in over 40 languages? Ask about this free service from the State Library of NSW at your local public library today.
#NSWPublicLibraries #multiculturalNSW

Do you or someone you know read in another language? Did you know we can get books in over 40 languages from the State Library of NSW? Ask about this free service at your local public library today. #NSWPublicLibraries #multiculturalNSW

Looking for books in your language? We can borrow books in over 40 languages from the State Library of NSW. Ask about this free service at your local public library today.
#NSWPublicLibraries #multiculturalNSW



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Promotional materials

Use these resources to promote the 50th anniversary in your library. The digital signage and posters say “Let’s Celebrate!”, “Congratulations!” and “Amazing!” in all 43 languages across the two pages.

Digital signage

Use these images on your library’s digital screens.

[50 years Digital signage Portrait \(2 pages\)](#)

[50 years Digital signage Landscape \(2 pages\)](#)

Posters

If your library doesn’t have digital screens, print the posters in A4 or A3 to display.

[50 years Printable poster A4 \(2 pages\)](#)

[50 years Printable poster A3 \(2 pages\)](#)

Pin badges

[Pin Badges template](#)

Download the template and make your own badges.

Bookmarks

Each library service will receive some limited edition 50th anniversary bookmarks.

50th Anniversary pull-up banner (for loan)

The special edition pull-up banners can be **loaned** to your library for a limited time for your events.

Order through the [50th Anniversary banner order form](#).

The banner will be posted through regular post, so please put in your request at least a week before your event. We will supply a pre-paid return address label with the banner.



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Useful Links

Use these links to help plan your events and activities.

- [List of UN International Days and Weeks](#)
- [Multilingual library signage](#)
- [Resources to help you understand your multicultural community](#)
- [2021 Report: First language reading and the role of public libraries](#)
- [Share your Public Library Multicultural events for 2024 Form](#)

Please contact Joanna Goh (mc.bulk.loans@sl.nsw.gov.au) if you want to learn more about the Multicultural Bulk Loan Service.



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