

This year the library's budget allows for \$1000 to be spent on the purchase of Spanish-language texts and periodicals, \$250 of which is earmarked for the young adult section. I am asking for you to increase that amount to \$350. Because I realize the total amount spent cannot be changed, I propose that the additional \$100 be taken from adult non-fiction.

Middle school and high school students are our largest group of Spanish-speaking patrons. Patron surveys showed that Spanish-speaking middle school and high school students outnumber Spanish-speaking children by 50%, and Spanish-speaking adults by about 75%. As you know, our young adult collection currently has 13 Spanish-language books, and no Spanish-language periodicals. Surveys show that patrons consider this to be the second-weakest area of our collection, after Spanish-language children's books.

Increasing the young adult books would impact patron satisfaction more than increasing adult non-fiction. Adult non-fiction has approximately 75 books in Spanish, and these see 30%-50% less circulation in a typical month than the Spanish-language young adult books. I believe increasing the number of young adult books in Spanish would bring the library closer to your goal of a 30% increase in library usage by the Hispanic community, and at the same time help the Young Adult Read Program reach more teens and preteens, thereby helping to increase literacy for these groups.

I request permission to begin surveying our young adult patrons to find out what Spanish-language books they would like to see on our shelves. Next month I would like to use the initial \$250 of the budget to purchase 20-30 Spanish-language books and 1-2 periodical titles for the young adult section. If these are well received, I request an additional \$100 the following month, for a total of \$350.