

LIS 615
Professor Wertheimer

Collection Management Portfolio

Somalia Collection for
Hilltop Branch Library, a branch of the Columbus
Metropolitan Library
Columbus, Ohio

By Molly Due
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The Hilltop Branch Library

The Hilltop Library is a branch of the Columbus Metropolitan Library (CML) located on the west side of Columbus, Ohio. The Columbus Metropolitan Library has a long tradition of excellence. The CML has consistently ranked in the top five public library systems in the Hennen's American Public Library Rankings.¹ CML is one of America's most used public library systems. It is important to CML to adapt to the changing needs of our community. In the year 1999 the city of Columbus witnessed a significant migration of Somali refugees attracted by a lower cost of living and available jobs. They came from other cities in America like Washington, D.C. and Atlanta. The Somali population in Columbus has continued to grow and today Columbus is now home to the second largest Somali immigrant population in the United States.²

A large portion of the Somali population in Columbus lives in the area surrounding the Hilltop Library. The users of the Hilltop Library break down as follows: 40% Somali, 25% White Americans, 25% Black Americans and 10% Latino.

Prior to the addition of the Somalia Collection our holdings were insufficient in meeting the needs of the new Somali population living in the community. The subjects most in need of new materials to serve the Somali community were English as a Second Language (ESL) and Immigration and Citizenship. Many members of the non-Somali

¹ Thomas J. Hennen Jr. "Hennen's American Public Library Rating Index." <http://www.haplr-index.com/HAPLR100.htm> (accessed September 20, 2008).

² Kefa M. Otiso and Bruce W. Smith. "Immigration and economic restructuring in Ohio's cities 1940-2000." *The Ohio Journal of Science*, December 2005.

community curious about their new neighbors were disappointed to find the only resources we had on the history and people of Somalia were encyclopedia entries. Thanks to the generous support of the Kashu Foundation we were able to build a Somalia Collection to meet the changes needs of our community.

Parameters of the Collection

The collection consists of the following three subjects:

ESL MATERIALS

According to the Somali Community Association of Ohio only 15% of Somalis living in central Ohio speak English well enough to get a job. Due to this a large portion of the Somalia Collection is ESL materials.

IMMIGRATION/CITIZENSHIP MATERIALS

The Somali Community Association of Ohio also states that 55% of Somalis in central Ohio are eligible to become U.S. citizens. Other members of the Somali population need assistance gaining asylum or refugee status. For these reasons materials on Immigration and Citizenship are included in the collection.

GENERAL MATERIALS ON SOMALIA OR ABOUT SOMALIS

Lastly the collection includes General Materials on Somalia. These materials serve two purposes. They educate the non-Somali population about the Somali people and their history. The majority of news Americans receive about Somalia is negative, often about Somali pirates or Islamic extremists. Due to this many in the non-Somali

population look upon Somalis with suspicion and distrust. The CML believes that education and understanding are two of the best weapons against ignorance and discrimination.

The other purpose for including general materials on Somalia is to show the Somali community that the CML values them as part of the community. We wish to welcome the Somali community to our public libraries. By collecting materials by Somalis and about Somalia we can introduce a new community to the myriad resources available to them at their local public library.

The collection consists of 45 total materials. All materials were evaluated based on published reviews about the materials, their relevance to the collection, and their cost. No materials solely in the Somali language were collected. The Somali community has expressed more interest in learning English than reading materials in Somali. However, two Somali-English newspapers were added.

All materials have become a circulating part of the collection except for the two bilingual newspapers and the book, *An Anthology of Somali Poetry*. Due to the difficulty and high cost associated with acquiring back copies of newspapers the two bilingual serials are to be used inside the library only. *An Anthology of Somali Poetry* is non-circulating because it is out of print.

The materials selected for the Somalia collection are as follows:

Materials for Learning English

Somali-English Materials

1. Korshel, Mohamud, *Somali- English English-Somali Dictionary*, New Dehli: Star Publications distributed by New York: French & European Publications, 1994, 445p., \$25.95 PA ISBN: 0-7859-8763-0
2. Peate, Wayne F., *English-Somali Phrase Book of Common and Medical Terms*, Tucson, AR: CompCare, L.L.C. Publications, 1993, 101p., \$17.95 PA ISBN: 1-883023-07-6
3. Qoorshel, Maxamud, *Somali- English Dictionary Ingrisi-Soomaali Qaamuus*, United Kingdom: Simon Wallenberg Press, 2007 2nd ed, 460p., \$39.99 PA ISBN: 1-84356-007-0

Acquiring a Somali-English Dictionary is an important first step for any Somali learning English. Unfortunately, few are in publication. Only a handful are published in America and these are typically for Americans learning Somali.

Many Somali-English dictionaries are not in print and used copies are expensive and hard to find. The dictionary by Korshel while older was readily available and relatively inexpensive.

The book of medical terms I believe will be useful because in the world of doctors, nurses and hospitals a particular jargon is used. This book can be helpful to our Somali patrons when challenged by their own or a loved ones illness or accident.

The dictionary by Qoorshel is newer, published in 2007, and readily available.

4. Sullivan, Barbara, *Learning to Speak English: Somali Program 1*, California: California Language Laboratories, 2002 Audio cassette, \$49.95 ISBN: 1-57451-019-3
5. Sullivan Barbara, *Learning to Speak English: Somali Program 2*, California: California Language Laboratories, 2005 sound disc, \$44.00 ISBN: 1-57451-123-8

California Language Labs have produced a number of ESL programs for native speakers of a wide variety of languages including Arabic, Farsi and Armenian among others.

These audio materials for Somali speakers are the only ones of its kind I found published in the United States making them a must have for this collection.

Dictionaries and Thesaurus

6. Adelson-Goldstein, Jayme and Norma Shapiro, *The Oxford Picture Dictionary (Monolingual)*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008, 320p. illus., \$16.95 PA ISBN: 978-0194369763

This picture dictionary is specifically for ESL students. Norma Shapiro has been a language teacher for over 15 years. This dictionary includes over 4000 words. ESL students should find this picture dictionary not only useful but also a lot of fun.

*7. *American Idioms Dictionary*, Chicago: NTC Contemporary, 2000 3rd ed., 625p., \$18.95 HC ISBN: 0-8442-02738

Reviewed by:

Jensen, Bruce, *Library Journal*, Aug. 2002, 127:13, p.53 Via ABI/Inform Global (accessed Nov. 15, 2008)

This book was one of many featured in an examination of essential ESL materials for libraries by Bruce Jensen, a librarian from Texas. He has a master's degree in Teaching English as a Second Language. He also has 15 years experience teaching ESL to immigrants, college students and inmates in the U.S., Japan, and Mexico. As he states in his review, "Idioms are hard to learn, easy to misuse, and eternally captivating for learners who strive to speak like natives." It is important to note that this book compiles American idioms as opposed to British. Examples of over 8500 idioms used in context are included in this dictionary of idioms.

*8. LeBaron, Joyce and Susannah LeBaron, *The American Heritage Thesaurus for Learners of English*, Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2002, 326 p., \$18.00 HC ISBN: 0-618-12990-1

Reviewed by:

Booklist, March 15, 2003, 99:14 p.1344 Via Academic Search Premiere (accessed Nov. 11, 2008)

This book comes recommended by *Booklist* for libraries serving ESL communities. It is useful for beginner and intermediate students. It compiles more than 6,000 synonyms.

While this is much fewer than what standard thesauri provide this book defines each synonym and displays the synonym in a sample sentence. A thesaurus is needed to complete any reference collection. This one with its “extremely readable larger font” and focus on ESL students should prove to be indispensable to our Somali population.

9. Random House, *Random House Webster’s Easy English Dictionary: Beginner*, New York: Random House Reference, 2007, 640p. illus., \$12.95 PA ISBN: 978-0375722110

As Bruce Jensen states in a review of an earlier incarnation of this book, “For a language learner, graduating to a monolingual dictionary is a significant step toward integrating the target language rather than translating back and forth.” This dictionary is for non-native speakers and features over 13,000 basic words as well as over 400 illustrations.

Life Skills and Vocational English

*10. Haiden, Herbert, Madison Tamara and Jean Owensby, *English for Technology*, Carlsbad, CA: Dominic Press, 1999, 146p. illus., \$14.95 PA ISBN: 0-7685-0008-7

Reviewed by:

Jensen, Bruce, *Library Journal*, Aug. 2002, 127:13, p.53 Via ABI/Inform Global (accessed Nov. 15, 2008)

Like the medical world, the world of technology uses its own jargon. This book covers the language used at vending machines, gas pumps, office machinery and library OPACs. This should be very helpful and allow our Somali patrons to be confident when using these ubiquitous electronic devices

*11. Merriam-Webster, Inc., *Webster's Business Writing Basics*, Springfield, MA: Federal Street Press, 2001, 416p. illus. \$9.98 HC ISBN: 978-1892859273

Reviewed by:

Jensen, Bruce, *Library Journal*, Aug. 2002, 127:13, p.53 Via ABI/Inform Global (accessed Nov. 15, 2008)

This book is suitable for intermediate to advanced English speakers. It instructs readers on the appropriate language and tone used in business writing. As Mr. Jensen writes in his review, "Fifty different kinds of sample business letters appear, along with guidance on grammar, punctuation, and the finer points of electronic correspondence."

12. Paullin, Dawn and Jane Sheridan, *Instant Immersion ESL*, Renton, WA: Topics Entertainment, 2006 8 sound discs, \$19.95 ISBN: 978-1591508502

Many in the Somali community are uncomfortable and embarrassed when forced to speak English in their day-to-day encounters. This 8 CD set focuses on survival English. It should help those in the community who rely on friends or family member to speak for them learn conversational English. Each disc focuses on specific situations. Disc 1: Meeting New People Disc 2: Visiting the Supermarket Disc 3: Asking for Bus Information Disc 4: Finding a Job Disc 5: Visiting the Doctor Disc 6: Renting an Apartment Disc 7: Communicating at Work and Disc 8: Buying a Car

13. Penruddocke, Andrea and Christopher A. Warnasch, *English for the Real World*, New York: Living Language, 2003 3 sound discs and 224p. PA, \$24.95 ISBN: 978-1400020874

Living Language, the publisher of this multimedia set, has existed since 1946. They originally developed language materials for U.S government personnel working overseas. Like *Instant Immersion ESL* this set of CDs are for beginners wishing to learn survival English. A 224-page book is also included with plenty of exercises for ESL learners to practice and grow confident speaking English in their everyday encounters.

*14. Robinson, Catherine and Jenise Rowekamp, *Speaking Up at Work*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1985, 192p. illus., \$10.95 PA ISBN: 0-19434196-8

Reviewed by:

Jensen, Bruce, *Library Journal*, Aug. 2002, 127:13, p.53 Via ABI/Inform Global (accessed Nov. 15, 2008)

At over twenty years old this book at first seemed inappropriate. However, Mr. Jensen believes it to be a crucial resource for any ESL collection. He states in his review this book provides something not found in other vocational ESL materials. "More than a few ESL instructional hours have been squandered teaching students how to grovel, apologize, and snap to attention. This book addresses in 33 units less servile issues of occupational English: clarifying work assignments and schedules, broaching the subject of promotion and, yes, calling in sick."

15. The Standard Deviants, *Learn English as a Second Language*, Falls Church, VA: Cerebellum Corporation, 2004 4 DVDs, \$69.98

The Standard Deviants was originally a show on PBS attempting to make learning fun. Now a part of Cerebellum Corporation, they produce a number of entertaining educational shows for high school and college students. This DVD set for ESL students focuses on the basics of English grammar rather than simply survival English.

Immigration and Citizenship Materials

*16. Kimmel, Barbara Brooks and Alan Lubiner, *Immigration Made Simple: An Easy-to-Read Guide to the U.S. Immigration Process*, Chester, NJ: Next Decade, 2009 8th ed., 325p., \$24.95 PA ISBN: 1-932919-16-3

Earlier edition reviewed by:

Pedzich, Joan, *Library Journal*, May 1, 1998, 123:8 p.118 Via ABI/Inform Global (Nov. 11, 2008)

17. Kimmel, Barbara Brooks and Alan Lubiner, *Citizenship Made Simple: An Easy-to-Read Guide to the U.S. Citizenship Process*, Chester, NJ: Next Decade, 2008 5th ed., 125p., \$16.95 PA ISBN: 1-932919-17-1

Immigration Made Simple, now in its 8th edition, and *Citizenship Made Simple*, in its 5th edition, have both proved valuable at providing accurate, up-to-date explanations on U.S. Immigration and Citizenship procedures using clear and simple language understood by non-native speakers. Ms. Kimmel, for fifteen years, successfully guided thousands through the immigration process as a relocation consultant in New York. Mr. Lubiner has been an Immigration lawyer since 1985.

18. United States Government, *Civics and Citizenship Multimedia Presentation: A Promise of Freedom: An Introduction to U.S. History and Civics for Immigrants (and) Becoming a U.S. Citizen: An Overview*, Washington D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 2007, 2 DVDs and 1 booklet, \$21.00 ISBN: 978-0160785818

19. United States Government, *Learn About the United States: Quick Civics Lessons*, Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 2006, sound disc and booklet, \$14.50 ISBN: 0-16-076781-4

The United States Government explains on the online bookstore of the U.S. Government Printing Office these materials were created to “offer an engaging and informative overview of U.S. history and government, the rights and responsibilities of U.S. citizenship, and the naturalization process.” The *Quick Civics Lessons* CDs are designed to help immigrants prepare for the naturalization interview.

The Somali community should find this government issued information helpful in their efforts to become U.S. citizens.

*20. *US100 Your Road to Passing the U.S. Citizenship Test*, Reno, NV: ECM Multimedia Inc., 2008 DVD, \$17.98

Reviewed by:

Sandstrom, John C., *Library Journal*, June 15, 2008, 133:11, p.101 Via Academic Search Premiere (accessed Nov. 20, 2008)

The U.S. Citizenship test changed in 2008. This is one of the first DVDs to reflect the changes made to the Citizenship Test. This DVD consists of two programs. The content of the programs are the same but one is in English and other in Spanish. The Spanish version will not be of help to the Somali community but because it includes updated information on the Citizenship Test I believe it a necessary and valuable addition.

Electronic Resources for ESL and Immigration/Citizenship

Ebooks

NetLibrary Subject Set “Resources for U.S. Immigrants” \$500.00

<http://library.netlibrary.com/subjectsets.aspx>

Includes the following 12 books:

21. Marks, Jon and Liz Greasby, *Check Your English Vocabulary For Banking and Finance*, London: A. & C. Black, 2007 2nd ed., ebook ISBN: 978-1-4081-0250-3
22. Wyatt, Rawdon, *Check Your English Vocabulary For Business and Administration*, London: A. & C. Black, 2007 4th ed., ebook ISBN: 978-1-4081-0251-0
23. Marks, Jon and David Riley, *Check Your English Vocabulary for Computers and Information Technology*, London: A. & C. Black, 2007 3rd ed., ebook ISBN: 978-1-4081-0246-6
24. Wyatt, Rawdon, *Check Your English Vocabulary for Law*, London: A. & C. Black, 2006 3rd ed., ebook ISBN: 978-1-4081-0239-8
25. Wyatt, Rawdon, *Check Your English Vocabulary for Leisure, Travel and Tourism*, London: A. & C. Black, 2007, ebook ISBN: 978-1-4081-0236-7
26. Wyatt, Rawdon, *Check Your English Vocabulary for Medicine*, London: A. & C. Black, 2006 3rd ed., ebook ISBN: 978-1-4081-0238-1
27. Ghistini, Elisabetta and Angelika Blendstrup, *Communicating the American Way: A Guide to U.S. Business Communications*, Cupertino, CA: Happy About, 2008, ebook ISBN: 978-1-6000-5074-9
28. Dabbah, Mariela, *How to Get a Job in the United States*, Naperville, IL: Sphinx Pub., 2006, ebook ISBN: 978-1-5724-8588-4
29. Liebman, Henry G., *Invest to Emigrate: How to Gain Permanent Residence in the Country of Your Choice Through International Invest-to-emigrate Programmes*, Oxford, U.K.: How to Books, 2007, ebook, ISBN: 978-1-8480-3061-9
30. Davis, Kenneth C., *Que se yo de historia: Todo lo que necesitas saber acerca de la historia de los Estados Unidos*, New York: HarperCollins, 2007, ebook ISBN: 978-0-0614-9466-6
31. Gilbert, Martin, *The Routledge Atlas of American History*, New York: Routledge, 2006 5th ed., ebook, ISBN: 978-0-2030-0709-9
32. Bray, Ilona M. and Carl Falstrom, *U.S. Immigration Made Easy*, Berkeley, CA: NOLO, 2007 13th ed., ebook, ISBN: 978-1-4133-0810-5

I felt it important to include ebooks in the Somalia collection. The majority of our Somali patrons are comfortable using the computers in the library. They often go online to check their email, read the news, and catch up with friends. The CML already provides ebooks

from NetLibrary to their patrons. NetLibrary was founded in 1999 and since 2002 has been a part of OCLC Online Computer Library Center, Inc. Our staff and patrons are familiar and comfortable with using NetLibrary to “check out” and read ebooks.

NetLibrary has compiled a special subject set for U.S. Immigrants. Looking over the titles I found them all to be useful and helpful for the community. Some more than others. The books for Spanish speakers obviously won't be much help for our Somali patrons but we do have Latino patrons, so they shouldn't go unread. The first six books from the publisher A. & C. Black fill a gap of materials for more advanced ESL students. All six focus on English for specific vocations. Though written by British authors, they are still quite useful and appropriate for people living and working in America. The book *U.S. Immigration Made Easy* is an example of a book I would add to the collection in print form had it not been included in this subject set. It is up-to-date and includes step-by-step instructions, in clear, simple language, on applying for a work visa, refugee status, and citizenship, among others.

Due to the fact our library staff and patrons have been using NetLibrary with success the past few years I chose to purchase this subject set to add to the Somalia Collection.

Electronic Database

33. *LearningExpress Library*

1 year subscription cost: \$545.45

LearningExpress, LLC

Two Rector Street, 26th Floor

New York, NY 10006

<http://www.learningexpressllc.com>

LearningExpress Library is an online database that provides sample tests. Simultaneous users with an active library card can view these tests in the library or at home. The company has agreed to provide CML with their full set of sample tests for \$12,000 for one year. The Hilltop Library share will be \$545.45. Many tests included are particularly useful for our Somali patrons. These are the U.S. Citizenship test, TOEFL, GED as well as the SAT and ACT practice tests. I believe these practice tests are a wonderful complement to our print collection. One advantage these electronic tests have to a print book is that each test can be taken multiple times by different users. With print books once one user has written in the book it cannot be fairly used by others.

I chose *LearningExpress Library* due to their experience working with other public libraries. They have provided services and technological support for public library systems across the country. Due to the fact our Somali patrons are constantly borrowing each others worn, dog-eared and written-in test books I believe the online practice tests will be one of the most used resources of the Somalia Collection.

General Materials about Somalia or Somalis

Books

*34. Ali, Ayaan Hirsi, *Infidel*, New York: Simon & Schuster, 2007, 353p., \$26.00 HC
ISBN: 0-7432-8968-4

Reviewed by:

Applebaum, Anne, *The Washington Post*, February 4, 2007

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/02/01/AR2007020102307.html> (accessed Nov. 11, 2008)

Infidel is an autobiography by Ayaan Hirsi Ali. She is a former Dutch parliament member born in Somalia. Ms. Ali was named one of *Time Magazine's* "100 Most Influential People of 2005."

This excerpt from Ms. Applebaum review shows how both Somali and non-Somali will be interested in this woman's extraordinary life: "Even the bare facts of this unusual life would make fascinating reading. But this book is something more than an ordinary autobiography: In the tradition of Frederick Douglass or even John Stuart Mill, *Infidel* describes a unique intellectual journey, from the tribal customs of Hirsi Ali's Somali childhood, through the harsh fundamentalism of Saudi Arabia and into the contemporary West."

35. Andrzejewski, B.W. and Sheila Andrzejewski translators, *An Anthology of Somali Poetry*, Bloomington, IN: University of Indiana Press, 1993, 128p., ISBN: 0-253-30463-6 Out of Print available at www.alibris.com used VG Blueverie Books, PA \$12.99

Somalis are known for their love of poetry. The majority of poetry is not in written form but continues through an oral tradition. The authors and translators of this anthology compiled what they deemed the best of Somali poetry from the late 19th Century to the present. This book should be valuable to the community as a whole. One way to celebrate a culture is through the poetry they create. Despite the fact this book is out of print it is still affordable at only \$12.99 for a used copy in "very good" condition.

*36. Barnes, Virginia and Janice Boddy as told to, *Aman: The Story of a Somali Girl*, New York: Vintage Books, 1995, 368p. illus., \$15.95 PA ISBN: 0-679-76209-4

Reviewed by:

Kirkus Reviews, June 15, 1994 Via LexisNexis (accessed Nov. 11, 2008)

This is a personal account of a Somali girl growing up in the 1950s and 1960s. Through Barnes and Boddy, Aman describes her ritual clitoridectomy, an unwanted marriage at the age of 13 and her escape to Mogadishu, where she worked as a prostitute. *Kirkus Reviews* describes the book as a “unique and rich account of life in a fascinating and troubled land.” This book affords our community an intimate look into the personal life of a Somali girl.

*37. Farah, Nuruddin, *Links*, New York: Penguin Books, 2005, 353p., \$24.95 PA ISBN: 978-0143034841

Reviewed by:

Eder, Richard, “Hell in a Very Small Place,” *The New York Times*, April 11, 2004
<http://query.nytimes.com/gst/fullpage.html?res=940CE2DF1339F932A25757C0A9629C8B63&scp=9&sq=nuruddin%20farah&st=cse> (accessed Sept. 26, 2008)

*38. Farah, Nuruddin, *Knots*, New York: Riverhead Books, 2007, 422p., \$25.95 HC ISBN: 978-1-59448-924-2

Reviewed by:

deBellaigue, Christopher, “Return to Mogadishu,” *The New York Times*, April 8, 2007
<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/04/08/books/review/deBellaigue.t.html> (accessed Sept. 26, 2008)

Farah is one of the most well-known authors from Somalia. He received the Neustadt International Prize for Literature in 1998. The Neustadt International Prize for Literature is a biennial award sponsored by the University of Oklahoma and *World Literature Today*.

These two novels, *Links* and *Knots*, are part of a trilogy. The third has not yet been published. Both novels are about a Somali exile returning to the war-ravaged city of

Mogadishu. Farah's portrayal of the violence occurring today in Somalia will help non-Somalis understand the reason why so many refugees have moved to their community. Due to this and because Farah is a preeminent African writer these books have been added to the collection.

*39. Farah, Nuruddin, *Yesterday, Tomorrow: Voices from the Somali Diaspora*, London; New York: Cassell Academic, 2000, 256p., \$24.95 PA ISBN: 978-0304707027

Reviewed by:

Cassanelli, Lee, *Journal of Asian and African Studies*, 2004 39:5 p484 Via Academic Search Premiere (accessed Nov. 21, 2008)

In this book, Nuruddin Farah collects and retells the stories of Somalis living abroad in Europe, East Africa, and North America. Mr. Cassanelli finds the majority of stories somber. Cassanelli commented on how Farah shows many Somalis "are subsisting without integrating into their host societies." Many in our Somali community may relate to this as the community continues to be an insulated one. Including materials like this book into our collection shows the Somalis in Columbus the public library recognizes and values them as a vital part of the community as a whole.

*40. Korn, Fadumo and Sabine Eichhorst, translated by Tobe Levin, *Born in the Big Rains: A Memoir of Somali and Survival*, New York: Feminist Press at CUNY, 2008, 185p., \$15.95 PA ISBN: 978-1558615311

Reviewed by:

Kirkus Reviews, March 1, 2007, 75:5 special section p.5 Via Academic Search Premiere (accessed Nov. 11, 2008)

This is a memoir chronicling the life experiences of Fadumo Korn. Ms. Korn was born in Somalia to the Darod people. Like all young girls in her tribe when she became a "big girl," in her case at the age of seven, she underwent female circumcision. There were

complications from this procedure that threatened her life. Her family moved her to Mogadishu for treatment, then to Rome and finally to a clinic in Germany. She endured many operations in Germany to correct the horrific complications from the female circumcision performed on her. She continues to live in Germany where she is an advocate against female genital mutilation.

Ms. Korn and her translator Levin believe it is important to spread awareness about the dangers of female circumcision. Female circumcision is still performed today in many Somali communities in North America. This book provides one side of a controversial issue.

41. Roble, Abdi and Doug Routledge, *The Somali Diaspora: A Journey Away*, Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota Press, 2008, 176p. illus., \$34.95 PA ISBN:0-8166-5457-3

The Somali Diaspora is a collection of photographs by Somali-born Abdi Roble with accompanying text by Doug Rutledge. Both Mr. Roble and Mr. Routledge currently live in Columbus. Given the fact Mr. Roble is a local Somali-born artist there was no question this book would be a valuable addition to the collection. Perhaps some of our Somali patrons can recognize their friends, family members or even themselves in Mr. Roble's photographs!

Movies

*42. Hamzeh, Ziad H. director, *The Letter, An American Town and the Somali Invasion*, Seattle, WA: Hamzeh Mystique Films distributed by Arab Film Distribution, 2003, DVD, \$29.99 ISBN: None

Reviewed by:

Gates, Anita, February 9, 2005, *The New York Times*,
<http://movies.nytimes.com/movie/292273/The-Letter-An-American-Town-and-the-Somali-Invasion-/overview> (accessed Oct. 20, 2008)

This documentary explores the town of Lewiston, Maine. The mayor of Lewiston sent an open letter to the local Somali refugees urging them to tell their family and friends not to move to Lewiston. This documentary examines the consequences of the letter. The letter received strong reactions from both sides of the issue.

This is a worthy addition to our collection. Our Somali and non-Somali patrons can view how one town has dealt with a new Somali refugee population and can gain insights on how to work together to live harmoniously.

*43. Makepeace, Anne director, *Rain in a Dry Land*, Oley, PA: Bullfrog Films, 2006, DVD, \$295.00 ISBN: 1-59458-523-7

Reviewed by:

Smith, Candace, *Booklist*, February 1, 2007, 103:11 p.62 Via Library, Information Science & Technology Abstracts (accessed Oct. 20, 2008)

This documentary follows Somali Bantu families from a refugee camp in Kenya to settlement in America. Somali Bantu are an ethnic minority in Somalia. The majority of the Somali population in Columbus are not Somali Bantu. Many Somalis consider Somali Bantu peoples to be inferior. For a time I thought it best not to add this documentary to the collection given the small population of Somali Bantu families here in Columbus as well as the cost of the DVD, which at \$295.00, is quite expensive. Ultimately I decided to add it to collection. One reason is it is a unique documentary, one whose focus and

content is not found in any other film. Even though the Somali Bantu population in Columbus is quite small it is important to give voice to all members of the community.

Newspapers

44. *The Somali Link War Helaa Talo Hela*
Bilingual Somali-English monthly newspaper
4889 Sinclair Rd, Suite 207
Columbus, OH 43229
<http://somalilink.com>
1 year subscription (12 issues)- Free

This bilingual newspaper published in our own city of Columbus is popular among our Somali patrons. It provides news about Somalia as well as Columbus from a Somali perspective. Though it is available for free throughout the community I believe it is important to keep an archive of the paper.

45. *Warsan Times*
Bilingual Somali-English monthly newspaper
249 E. 22nd St.
Minneapolis. MN 55404
www.warsantimes.com
1 year subscription (12 issues)- \$60.00

Like *The Somali Link* this monthly newspaper is bilingual and features news from Somalia as well as domestic and local news. *Warsan Times* is published in Minneapolis, which is home to the largest Somali immigrant population in America. Subscription to this newspaper gives our Somali population another print resource for news of the world from a Somali perspective.

Budget

Proposed Budget

Quantity & Format	Cost	Total
25 books	\$25.00 each	\$625.00
15 CD and DVDS	\$20.00 each	\$300.00
5 other materials		\$1,275.00
TOTAL		\$2,200.00

Actual Budget

Subject	Cost
ESL materials	\$395.45
Immigration/Citizenship Materials	\$95.38
Electronic Resources for both subjects above (NetLibrary ebooks and <i>LearningExpress Library</i>)	\$1045.45
General Materials on Somalia	\$566.68
TOTAL	\$2,102.96

Budget Narrative

The original proposal formulated a budget based on format of materials. When actual selection of materials began I noticed that many materials were mixed media. I therefore decided to focus on the subjects of the proposed collection as opposed to the format. I believed I could build a stronger collection with a focus on subject while still

staying within the proposed budget of \$2,200.00. The difference between the proposed and actual budget is \$97.04. It should be noted that shipping costs are not reflected in the actual budget.

The cost of a one-year subscription to *LearningExpress Library* was negotiated and settled over the phone with the director of sales. For a public library in the city of Columbus a price of \$12,000 was quoted. The Columbus Metropolitan Library consists of a main library and 21 branches. Each location split the cost of the subscription to *LearningExpress Library* equally.

The price of a one-year subscription to the newspaper *Warsan Times* varies depending on location of delivery within the United States. A phone call to a representative of the newspaper revealed a one-year subscription for a Columbus library to be \$60.00.

The focus of this collection is to assist Somalis in their adjustment to life in America. Therefore, three quarters of the budget was devoted to ESL and Immigration/Citizenship materials. The final quarter of the budget was devoted to general materials on Somalia. I believe this allocation sufficient to meet the needs of the Somali population through the ESL and Immigration materials as well as satisfy the curiosities of the non-Somali population via the General Materials on Somalia.

Summary

Thanks to the generous support of the Kashu Foundation we now have a quality collection to meet the needs of our growing Somali population. You have helped the CML continue its tradition of excellence. Like your foundation, part of our mission is to

advance learning, promote cultural heritage and social betterment. Recent budget cuts have strained our abilities to fulfill these promises to the community.

Our Somalia collection has been met with much enthusiasm by our staff and the community of Hilltop Library users. We will attempt to continue to collect materials to assist the Somali population with their integration into America. One aspect we are looking to explore is collection of Somali language materials. We also remain vigilant for quality Somali-English dictionaries, which are always in demand.

We believe our Somalia collection is strong. We welcome feedback from the community on the materials included in the collection. I am confident with help from the community and the efforts of myself and the other collection development librarians we will continue to strengthen the Somalia Collection.

Thank you again for your generosity. Rest assured that your grant has helped integrate new Somali leaders, businessmen and women and scholars into the pantheon of the city of Columbus. With your help we at the CML continue to provide exceptional service to everyone in our diverse community.