

Walking the Tightrope: Maintaining a Balanced
Collection Amidst Changing
Academic Needs, Information Seeking Habits,
and Publishing Patterns.

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Last year spoke about a-literacy and impact of Web 2.0. This year want to return to the theme of language and its use on the web, and about implications for library collections. The original paper for this slot was supposed to be about non-English language material and the erosion of library collections. I've chosen to change the emphasis slightly to cover not just non-English language collecting But also the impact of Web 2.0 on the need for collections at all – as opposed to supporting net skills;

dealing with the language needs of non-first language English students as we recruit more overseas students and as universities in other countries such as Germany start teaching in English.

There is a common thread that English language purchasing has been and is declining.

There is an assumption that this is somehow linked to the dominance of English on the internet.

I will argue that this is a naïve and facile assumption. The position is much more complicated. What is threatened by the web is monolingualism and libraries need to rethink their approach to the support of culture as well as language. Without straying too far into politics I think it is clear that at least some of the issues which seem so intractable and violent in the world today result from a monolithic Anglo-Saxon culture failing to appreciate cultural differences and approaches as well as linguistic niceties.

**Please be advised that
sweaters are not to be
left overnight in the
Division.**

Librarian,
West Indiana & Special Collections Division.

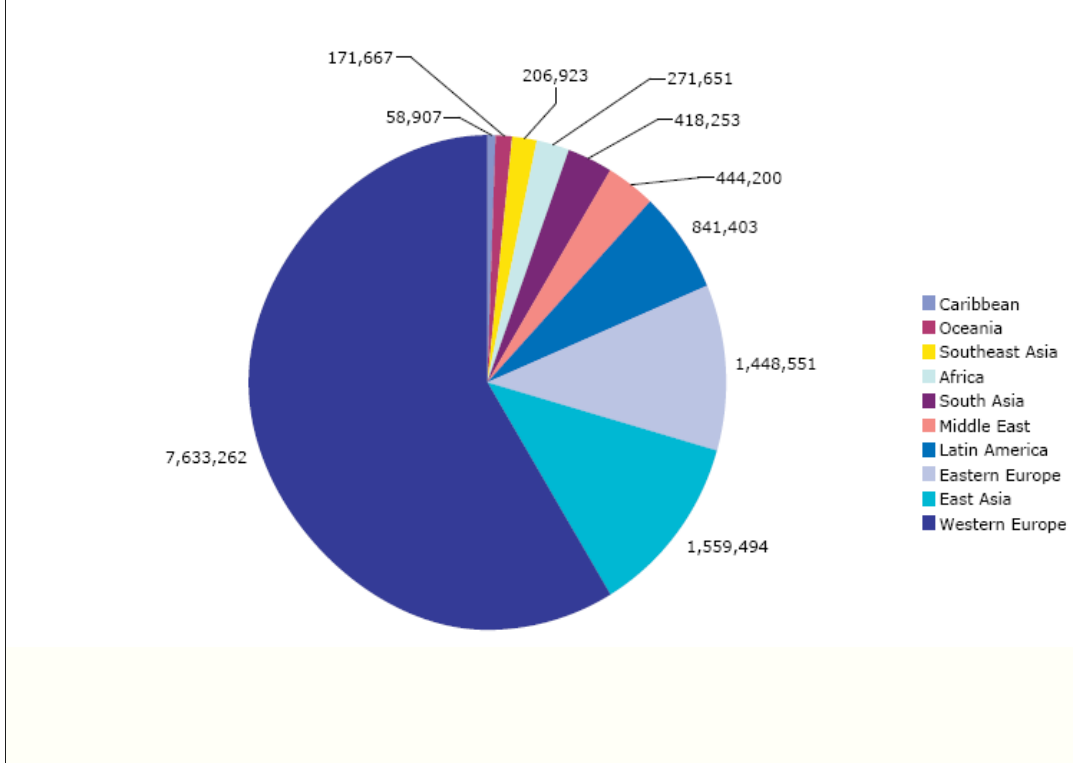
Changing Global Book Collection Patterns in ARL Libraries



Mary E. Jackson, Auto-Graphics, Inc. (formerly Association of Research Libraries)
Lynn Silipigni Connaway, OCLC Online Computer Library Center, Inc.
Edward T. O'Neill, OCLC Online Computer Library Center, Inc.
Eudora Loh, University of California, Los Angeles

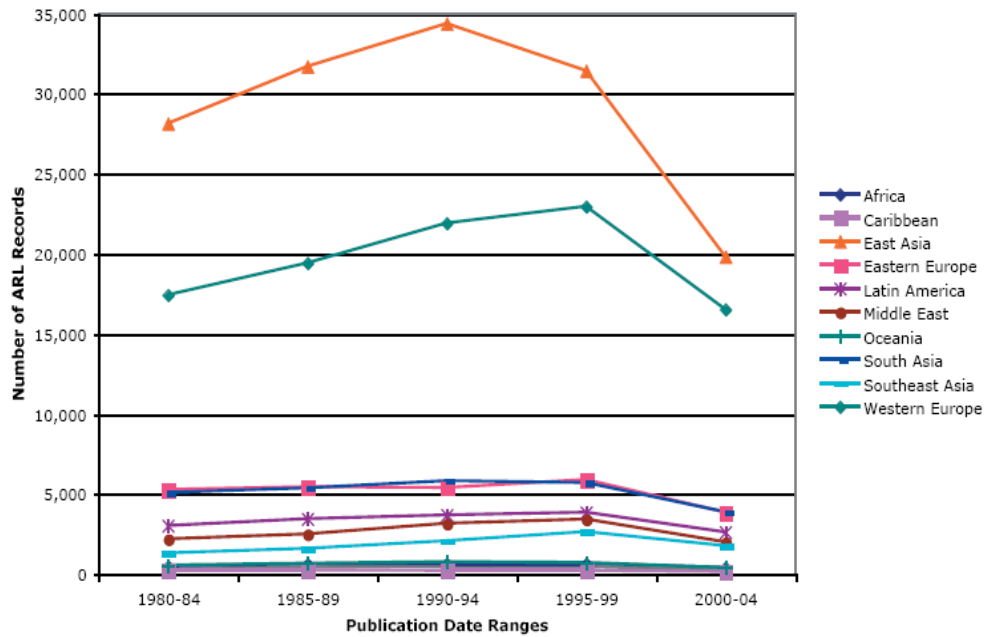
2006

Figure 2: ARL Libraries' Records in WorldCat, by Region of Publication



Looking at the distribution of records we can infer that the vast bulk of these are in English. Western Europe includes the UK, while Africa, the Caribbean and Oceania are dominated by English

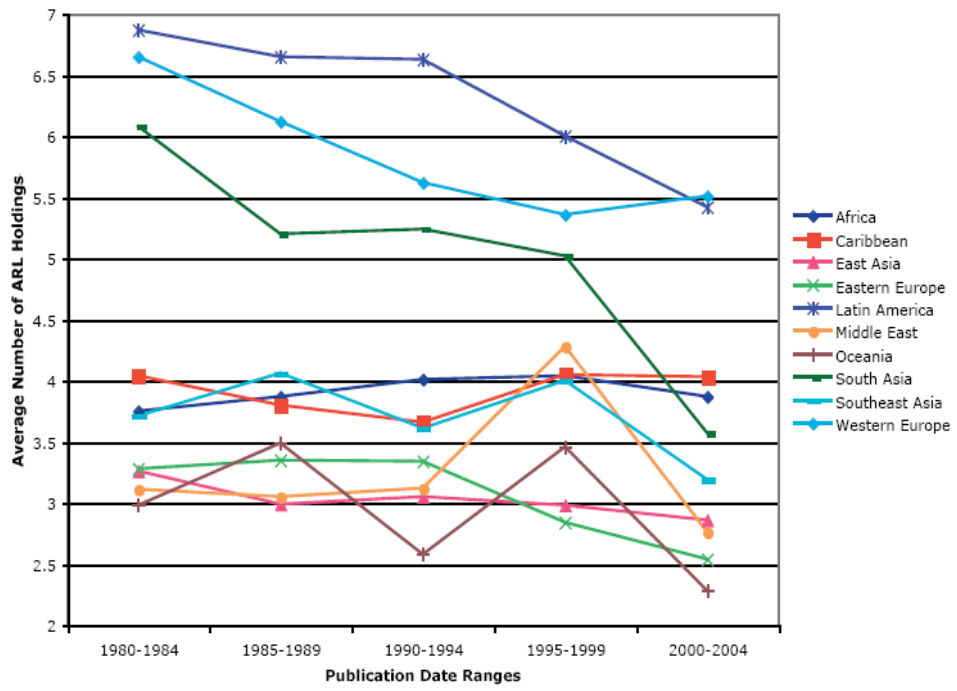
Figure 7: Total Number of ARL Libraries' WorldCat Records, by World Region: 1980–2004



Changing Global Book Collection Patterns in ARL Libraries. M. Jackson et al. 2006

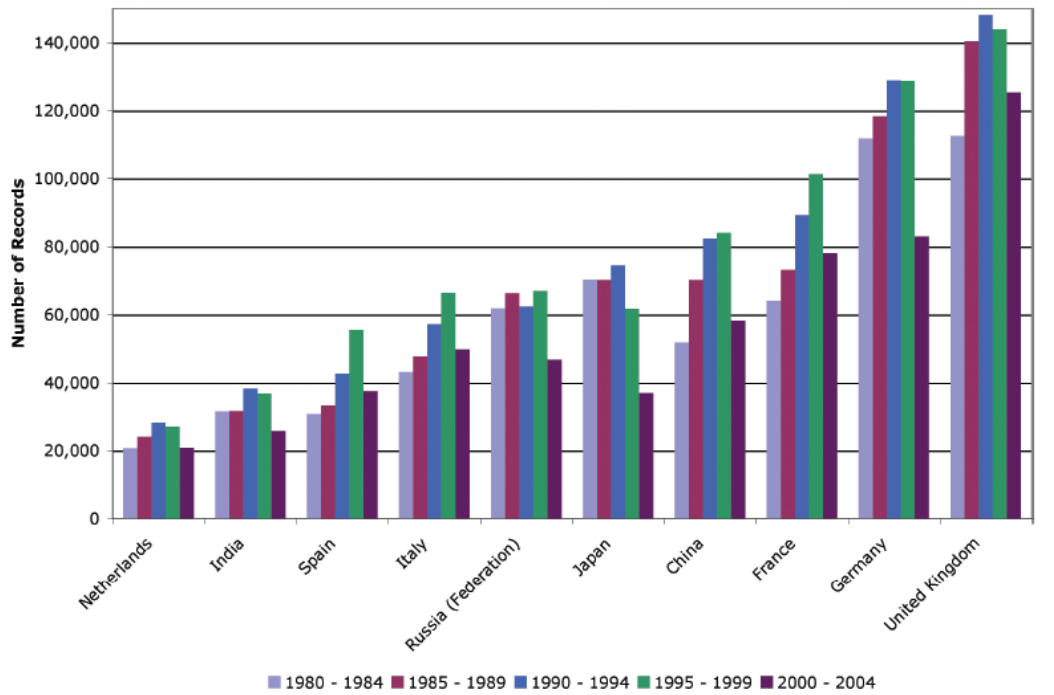
This and the following slide show a steep decline in overseas acquisitions. One school of thought blames cataloguing backlogs – but if these backlogs are lasting between five and ten years, the material might as well not be held

Figure 8: Average ARL Libraries' WorldCat Holdings, by World Region: 1980–2004



Changing Global Book Collection Patterns in ARL Libraries. M. Jackson et al. 2006

Figure 10. Top Ten Countries Represented by ARL Libraries' Records in WorldCat, 1980-1984 to 2000-2004



Changing Global Book Collection Patterns in ARL Libraries. M. Jackson et al. 2006

Library Acquisition Policies (1)

- **Loughborough University**
 - English is the preferred language when acquiring materials. Works published in other languages are acquired where they are relevant to programmes or where needed for research and there is no appropriate English language version.
- **Sheffield University**
 - The University currently teaches *seven* major **foreign** languages - Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Korean, Russian and Spanish - as well as a number of others to a lesser degree. Material is bought in all of these languages. Purchases in other subjects are mainly in English, although **foreign language** titles are bought where appropriate, normally as research material
- **University of Connecticut**
 - only a minority of language and literature journals (and even to a lesser extent those for foreign language and literature study) are likely to be electronically accessible in the near future
- **Las Positas College**
 - Foreign language material will not be acquired, except those materials, whether in monograph, serial or audiovisual format, which supports the foreign language teaching programs of the college.

When I started as a librarian in St Andrews University thirty years ago, the rule of thumb was that the library budget was spent, thirty per cent UK, thirty per cent North America, thirty per cent European languages, and ten per cent rest of the world.

In my present library, which has more of an overlap with St Andrews than one might think, the proportion spent on non-English language material is now less than 5%. That is a precipitate decline.

As these randomly gathered statements show, there is no great appetite for non-English materials other than for language based disciplines.

Library Acquisition Policies (2)

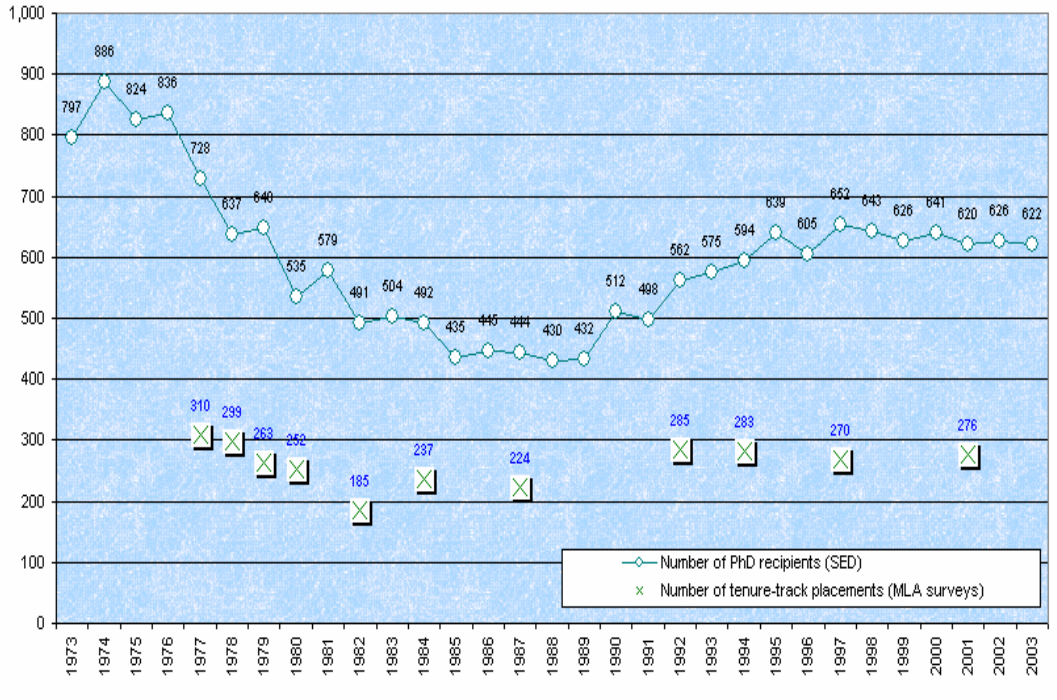
- **Auburn University, Montgomery**
 - English is the primary language of the collection. Foreign language material is excluded. Key works originally published in a foreign language will be purchased only in English translation.
- **Idaho State**
 - The library collects primarily English-language materials. Foreign language materials will be acquired as needed to support coursework in foreign languages and literatures, as well as specialized research at the graduate and post-graduate levels in all subject areas
- **Auckland University**
 - Foreign language material is bought to support teaching in Maori, Cook Islands Maori, Samoan, Tongan, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, French, Italian, Spanish, German, Croatian, Polish, Russian, Latin, Greek, Ancient Egyptian and Hebrew. In general, purchases for other subjects are mainly in English, although foreign language titles are purchased where appropriate.

University Staffing Policies

- Bangor and the Internet
 - Librarians are unnecessary
- SOAS and the Internet
 - We need librarians, but not linguistic specialists
- PhD's and tenure track placements for linguists



Fig. 2. Numbers of PhD Recipients in Foreign Languages, 1973-2003, and Numbers of Tenure-Track Placements Reported on Eleven MLA Placement Surveys, 1977-2001
 Sources: Survey of Earned Doctorates (SED) and MLA Surveys of PhD Placement



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- PhD's and tenure track placements for linguists
- Library School support for languages

Access in the United States to Foreign Language LIS Scholarly Journals Through Indexing Services

Michele Pope

Loyola University Law Library

*Access to foreign language LIS scholarly journals is
not widely available in the United States.*

*Ulrich's does not list all foreign published LIS
scholarly journals*

*LIS schools do not appear to be directing students
to resources covering international aspects of LIS.
Foreign language material is less likely to be included
in databases, and less likely to be noticed if it is.*



We cordially invite you to study
INFORMATICS
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in the heart of Europe



taught in English
at the Faculty of Economics and Management
of the Czech University of Life Sciences in Prague.

Duration of study: 2 years

Admission requirements:

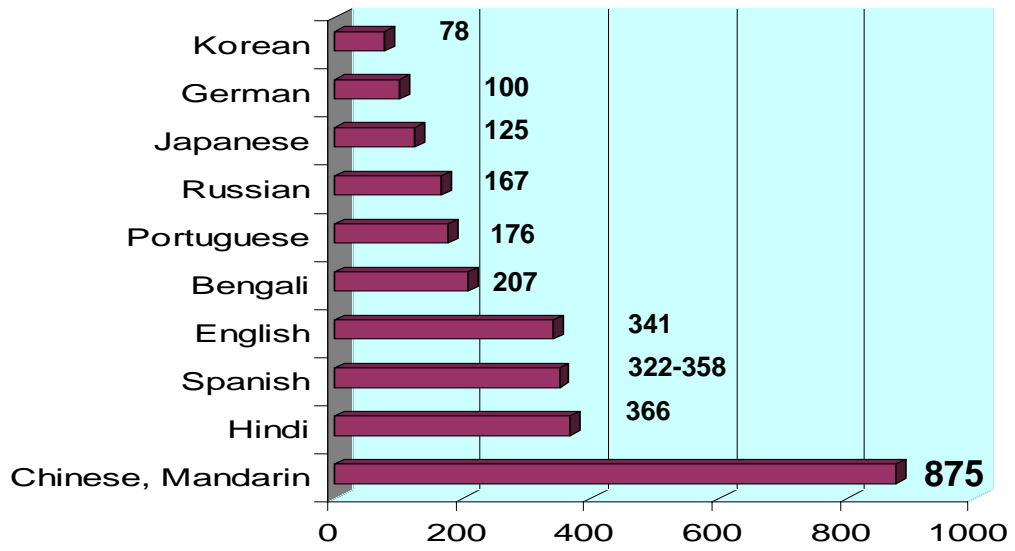
- 1) bachelor degree completed
- 2) admission examination.

No tuition fee for students from EU member states.

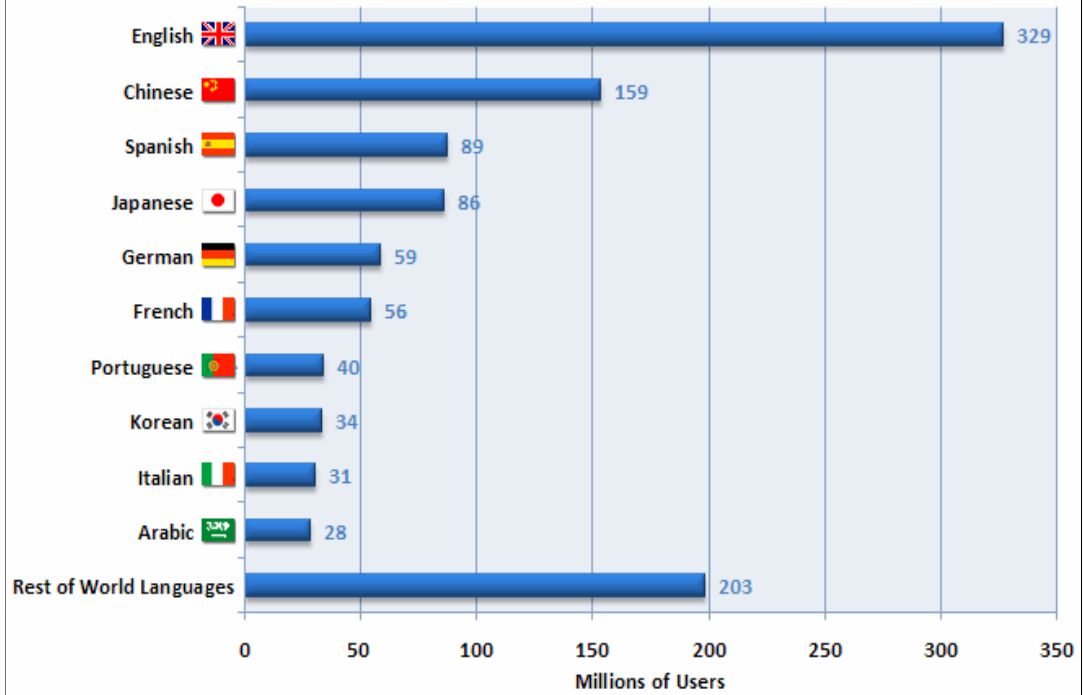
There is a possibility to accomplish part of the study abroad

Information for applicants at: vytupek@paf.czu.cz

World Top Ten Native Languages



Internet Top 10 Languages

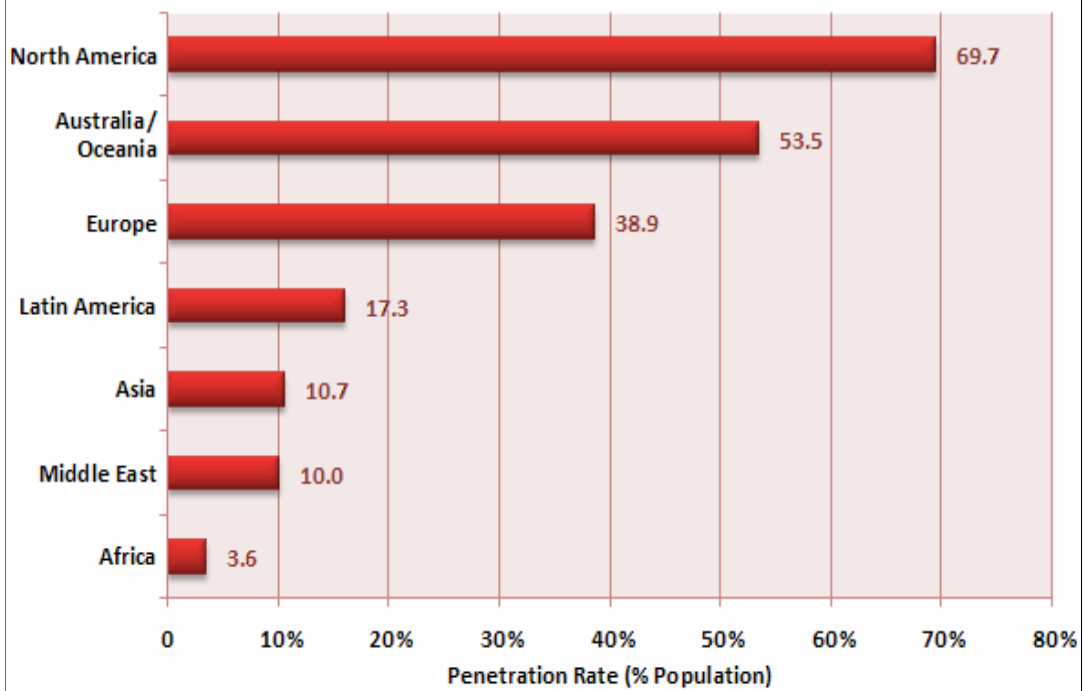


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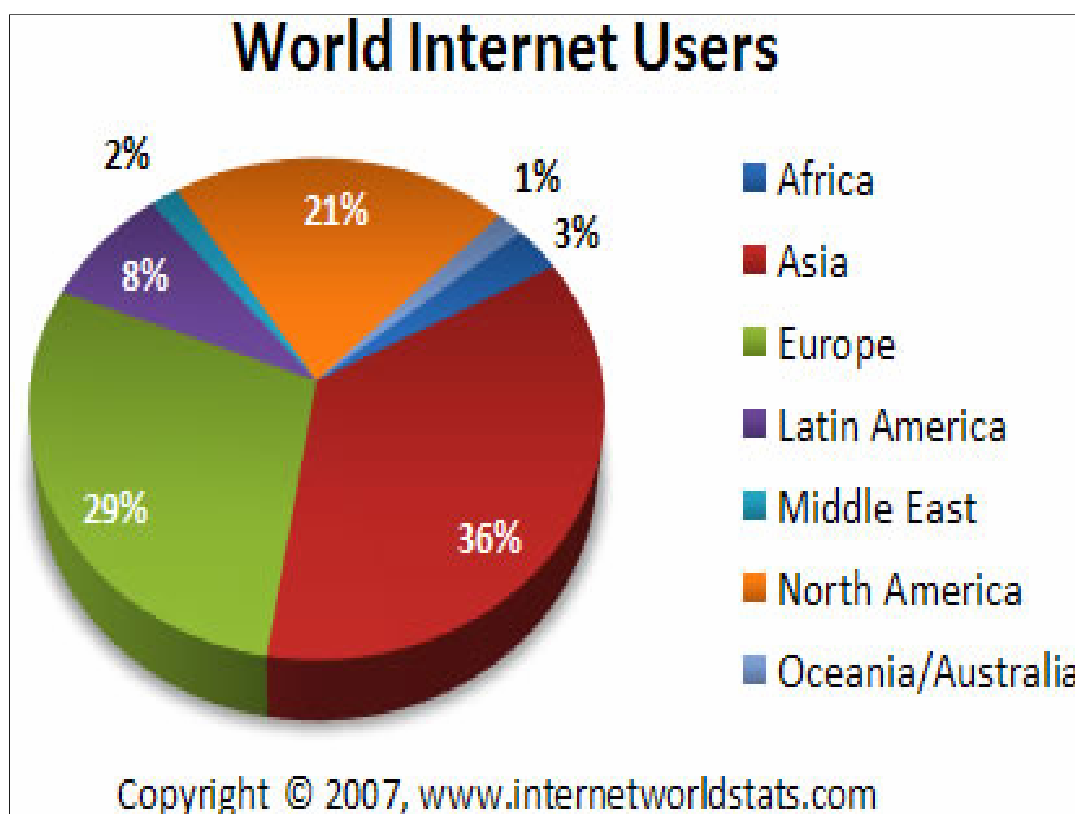
Top Ten Languages Used in the Web (Number of Internet Users by Language)					
TOP TEN LANGUAGES IN THE INTERNET	% of all Internet Users	Internet Users by Language	Internet Penetration by Language	Internet Growth for Language (2000 - 2007)	2007 Estimate World Population for the Language
<u>English</u>	29.5 %	328,666,386	28.7 %	139.6 %	1,143,218,916
<u>Chinese</u>	14.3 %	159,001,513	11.8 %	392.2 %	1,351,737,925
<u>Spanish</u>	8.0 %	89,077,232	17.4 %	260.8 %	512,036,778
<u>Japanese</u>	7.7 %	86,300,000	67.1 %	83.3 %	128,646,345
<u>German</u>	5.3 %	58,711,687	61.1 %	113.2 %	96,025,053
<u>French</u>	5.0 %	55,521,294	14.3 %	355.2 %	387,820,873
<u>Portuguese</u>	3.6 %	40,216,760	17.2 %	430.8 %	234,099,347
<u>Korean</u>	3.1 %	34,120,000	45.6 %	79.2 %	74,811,368
<u>Italian</u>	2.8 %	30,763,940	51.7 %	133.1 %	59,546,696
<u>Arabic</u>	2.6 %	28,540,700	8.4 %	931.8 %	340,548,157
TOP TEN LANGUAGES	81.8 %	910,919,512	21.0 %	181.5 %	4,328,491,457
Rest of World Languages	18.2 %	203,354,914	9.1 %	444.2 %	2,246,174,960
<u>WORLD TOTAL</u>	100.0 %	1,114,274,426	16.9 %	208.7 %	6,574,666,417

(*) NOTES: (1) Internet Top Ten Languages Usage Stats were updated on Mar. 10, 2007. (2) Internet Penetration is the ratio between the sum of Internet users

Internet Penetration by World Region



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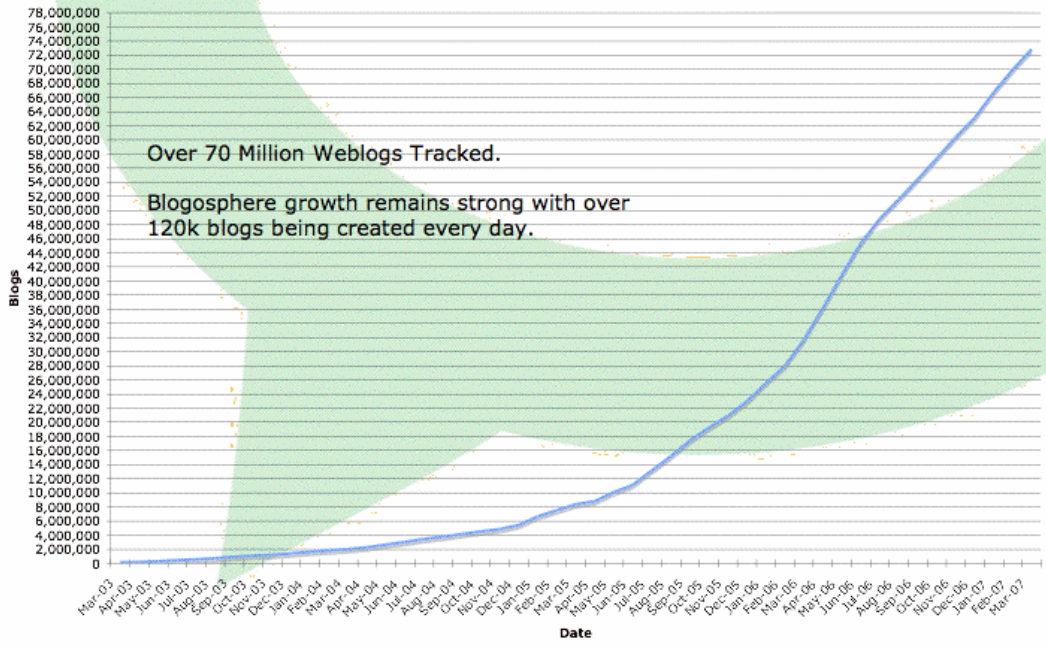


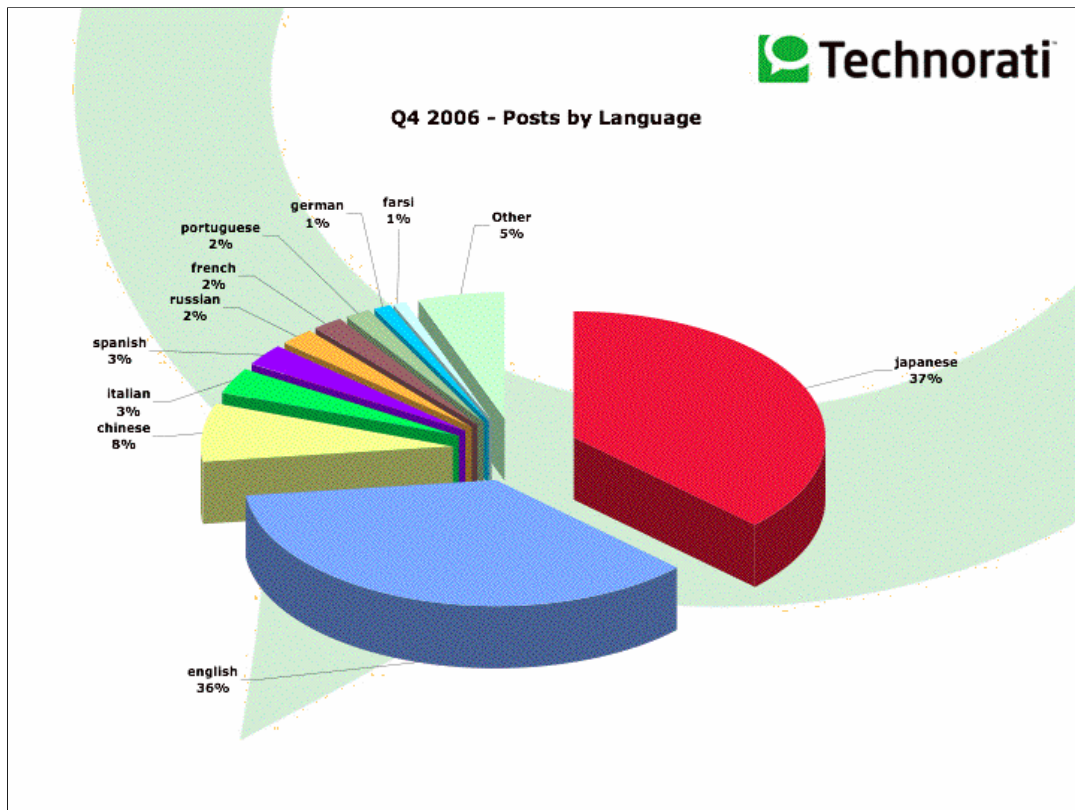
THE NEW LINGUISTIC WORLD ORDER

There exist over 6,000 languages in the world today. Sadly, most are spoken only by very few people and are dwindling towards extinction. Some linguists estimate that we are losing languages at the rate of 2-3 per month and that in a few generations we will have only a few hundred left. But the spread of English is not the major cause of this language loss: in terms of native speaker numbers English is itself in decline in comparison with other major languages (see *Figure 1*) and ranks only in 3rd or 4th place in the global league table (see Table).

In terms of global demographics, the 'old languages' of Europe - French, German, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian - remain in that elite club with over 50 million speakers and they will play a major role in the development of world cultures and economies for a long time to come. But there is no doubt that English is becoming more important in Europe, as elsewhere in the world. According to the Economist, over 92% of secondary-school students in the EU's non-English-speaking countries are studying English. Even the French - staunch defenders of their language and culture - had to come to terms with the fact that a book in English managed to top the best seller list this summer. It was the latest Harry Potter novel.

But the wave of English which is washing over Europe, from the north to the south, is not creating a uniform anglophone culture. Far from it - English has in the last ten years or so transformed a continent which took hundreds of years to build national monolingual cultures into a vibrant, fluid, multilingual area. The result is a new concept of the European citizen who is not just bilingual, but increasingly trilingual. (See *Figure 2*)

Weblogs Cumulative: March 2003 - March 2007



70 million exist. Will double in a year

Japanese 37%

English 36%

Chinese 8%

Italian 3%

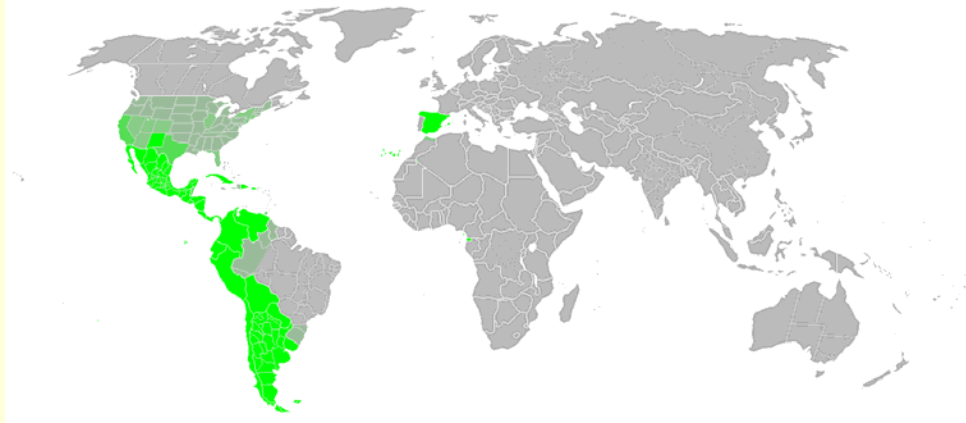
Spanish 3%

Farsi tenth place 1%

University of Arizona Language Policy Research Unit

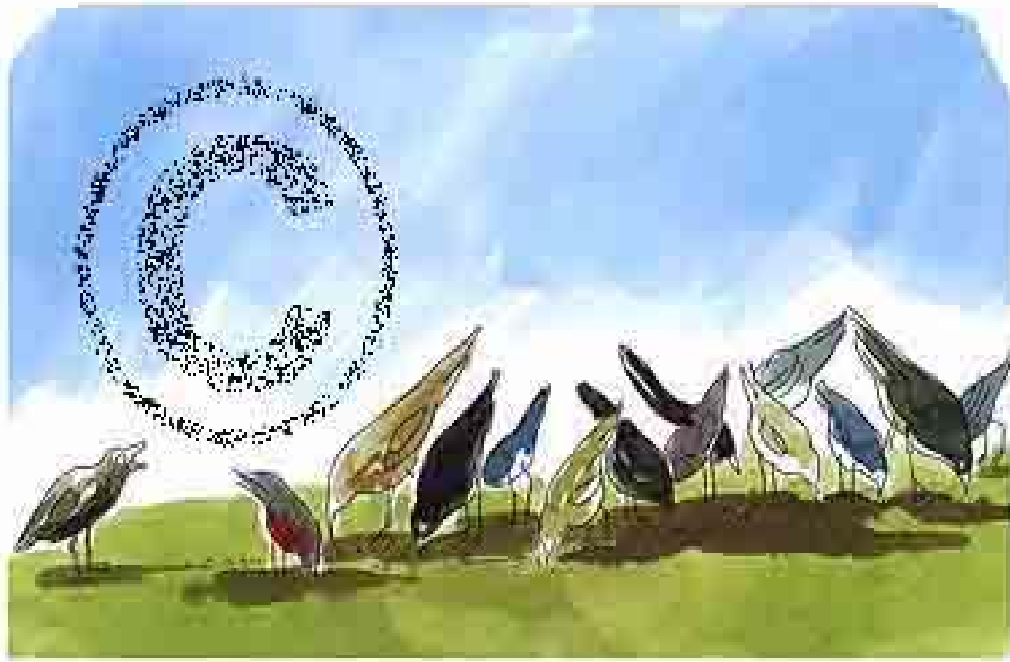
- Forty-seven million U.S. residents—nearly one in five—speak a language other than English at home, according to the 2000 census. This group more than doubled over the past two decades, while the population that speaks only English expanded by just a fraction). At current rates of growth, a majority of Americans will be minority language speakers by 2044. Quite a sea change in a country renowned for its monolingualism. The implications for a national language policy, or lack thereof, are enormous.

Spanish Language Distribution



Manolo Valdes: Libros IV





"...er...excuse me...does anybody here speak Sparrow?"