

Translation as Resistance

Supporting Ukrainian Books in Translation
in U.S. Public Libraries — A Practical Guide

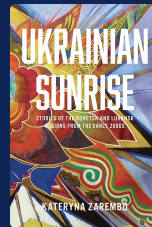


NOW AVAILABLE

War from the Rear: A Ukrainian Aid Volunteer's Story

Andrii Lyubka · Translated by Kate Tsurkan

academicstudiespress.com →



NOW AVAILABLE

Ukrainian Sunrise: Stories of the Donetsk and Luhansk Regions

Kateryna Zaremba · Translated by Tanya Savchynska

academicstudiespress.com →

Exclusive Discount for Event Attendees



2026UNWLA

25% off hardcover & paperback editions of both books — valid through June 30, 2026.

Also applies to preorders of [History of Slovo House](#) by Olga Bertelsen and the [Handbook of Ukrainian Literature](#), both releasing later this year.

COMING LATER THIS YEAR FROM ACADEMIC STUDIES PRESS

☐ [History of Slovo House](#) — Olga Bertelsen

☐ [Handbook of Ukrainian Literature](#)

Getting Ukrainian Books into U.S. Libraries

WHY PUBLIC LIBRARIES?

- Ukraine is seen as home to a rich culture — not only as a war-torn country.
- Ukrainian authors speak for themselves.
- Readers discover Ukraine beyond the news headlines.
- When those books are missing, Ukraine's story is told by others. Adding them is often easier than you think.

1

Start with a Conversation

Reach out as a community member, an avid reader, a diaspora leader, or an activist. Ask how their acquisition process works and what budget they'd be willing to allocate for Ukrainian titles.

- "I'd love to see more Ukrainian literature in translation at our library."
- "Would it be helpful if I shared a short list of quality English translations?"

Avoid pressure and framing your request as a political demand. English translations are still rare, so procurement can happen as little as twice a year — make each ask count.

2

Make It Easy for Librarians

Librarians are busy. When suggesting books, include:

- Title, author, and ISBN
- Publisher and distribution source (Ingram is the most common library vendor)
- Professional reviews — highly persuasive for acquisition decisions
- A 1–2 sentence description and a read-alike title

Read-alike example: *If you like Susan Sontag's *Regarding the Pain of Others*, you might enjoy Victoria Amelina's *Looking at Women Looking at War*.*

Browse ready-made curated lists at chapterukraine.com — an interactive platform launched in 2025 showcasing Ukrainian books in English translation, with filters by genre and theme.

Visit <https://unwla.org/projects/ukraine-decolonization-month/> to download a set of printable read-alike posters.

3

Expect Questions • and Have Answers

- **Will it circulate?** • Yes • especially if you help generate interest. Use read-alike comparisons to well-known authors.
- **Is there an audience?** • Invite friends to request the books. Organize a book discussion or author talk.
- **We don't know much about Ukrainian literature.** • Offer your expertise. Share resources. Connect them with speakers, publishers, or academics.

Keep Books Visible & Use Community Power

4

Once the Book Is There — Keep It Visible

Getting a book purchased is step one. Making sure it's read is step two.

- Suggest a small display and help a library set it up
- Organize a book discussion or offer a short cultural talk
- Partner with the library during **National Library Week**
- Highlight Ukrainian titles during **Holodomor Remembrance Month** and **Ukraine Independence Day**
- Engage **Women in Translation Month** (August, #WITMonth) and **National Translation Month** (September)

In July, approach your library's programming coordinator with a ready-made display concept: a curated list, shelf-talkers, and event ideas. Libraries are far more likely to feature translated literature if someone does the curation work for them.

5

Use Community Power

You don't have to do this alone. Work with local Ukrainian organizations, book clubs, colleges, churches, cultural centers, and local influencers.

- Submit a "Suggest a Purchase" request via your library's website (under Services or My Account) — include the ISBN, publisher, and a one-sentence case for the collection
- For academic libraries, tie requests to a relevant course or department
- For digital collections, use OverDrive/Libby's "Suggest a Title" feature
- If you can — buy two copies: one for yourself, one to donate to your local library

A donated copy with a note explaining why the book matters — and that it's available through Ingram for reorder — is far more likely to be shelved than an anonymous drop-off.

*A book that is **translated** can travel.*

*A book that is **cataloged** can be found.*

*A book that is **on the shelf** can change someone's understanding.*

Translation resists erasure. Libraries make that resistance public.

And you can help make it happen.

KEY RESOURCES

Chapter Ukraine

Interactive platform mapping Ukrainian books available in English translation — filter by genre, create curated lists, share with libraries

chapterukraine.com

Ukraine Decolonization Month — UNWLA

The initiative behind this event — resources, programming, and community organizing

unwla.org/projects/ukraine-decolonization-month/

Academic Studies Press — Ukrainian Studies

Publisher of both featured books and many other Ukrainian titles in English translation

academicstudiespress.com

Global Literature in Libraries Initiative (GLLI)

Pan-publisher book lists by theme, designed specifically for librarians making acquisition decisions

glli-us.org

PEN America — Women in Translation

Women in Translation Month (#WITMonth, August) reading series and resources

pen.org