

Spanish-English Legal Dictionary Recommendations
Listserv question from 02/2006

Summary of comments and recommendations. Many thanks to Mike Beard, Will Geeslin, Karen Moss, Ana Milagros-Rodríguez, Janice Milliken, Karen Byrd, and Bianna Ine.

1) Laura, If you google "beaird spanish dictionaries" you will get a hit that leads to a string of emails on lawlib from June 2001. I suggest the posting I made at the time is still relevant, I think there's only one new dictionary in the market and it has maybe 40 or 50k entries (versus 150k for the one I recommended). I've got someone in my office and have to break off now... [Note by Laura: Mike's "beaird ..." search leads to the excellent Butterworth's Sp-Eng Leg dictionary recommendation (still on sale through Lexis at \$105), and Mike's full posting is also well worth reading]

2) People at my agency seem to dig this:

Call Number: KF 9617 .B46 1991

Title: Bilingual dictionary of criminal justice terms (English/Spanish) /

Author: Benmaman, Virginia.

Publisher: Longwood, FL.: Gould Publications,

Publication Date: c1991.

Physical Description: lvi, 216 p. : ill. ; 21 cm.

3) This one too is well used:

Title: Dictionary of legal terms: Spanish - English and English - Spanish

Author: Robb, Louis Adams

Publisher: Mexico Limusa

Publication Date: 1998

Physical Description: x, 228 p. ; 23 cm.

4) The Satellite Library of the First Circuit in Puerto Rico has several holdings in this subject matter. If the phrases/concepts/words are within the context of the Puerto Rico legal system I would go to the Diccionario Jurídico Español Inglés (2v.) by Guillermo Cabanellas and Eleano C. Hoague, Butterworth Legal Publishers. We bought them in 1992 for \$70 (ISBN 0-40925-669-2).

But I have seen our court interpreters use Robb's Diccionario de términos legales (Español - Inglés). I have one from 1995 (ISBN 968-18-2798-8). The legal research book La Investigación Jurídica, 3rd ed, 2000 by Luis Muñoz-Arguelles recommends Robb as a useful tool. I guess there must be a newer edition. There are other holdings : among them Kaplan (Wiley), Bossini (McGraw-Hill), Benmaman (English-Spanish Criminal Justice terms).

5) We use (rather infrequently) the 2 volume set "Butterworths Spanish/English Legal Dictionary"

6) At the Clark County Law Library ... we use Apsen's English-Spanish, Spanish-English legal dictionary 2nd ed., ISBN 0735512965. The staff has found this helpful with the patrons here.

7) I bought a Spanish/English Legal Dictionary a while back for our Spanish speaking pro ses. The court interpreter insists that Butterworth's Spanish/English Legal Dictionary published by Lexis is the best.

Contributed by:

Laura Orr

Law Librarian

Washington County Law Library

111 NE Lincoln Street

Hillsboro, OR 97124