

Memo

To: Fulfillment Task Force Members
From: Darlene Staffeldt, State Librarian
Date: November 8, 2007
Re: Courier definition(s)

According to Wikipedia a Courier is:

A **courier** is a [person](#) or [company](#) employed to deliver [messages](#), [packages](#) and [mail](#). Couriers are distinguished from ordinary [mail](#) services by features such as speed, security, tracking, signature, specialization and individualization of services, and committed delivery times, which are optional for most everyday mail services. As a premium service, couriers are usually more expensive than usual mail services, and their use is typically restricted to packages where one or more of these features are considered important enough to warrant the cost.

Different courier services operate on all scales, from within specific towns or cities, to regional, national and global services. The world's largest courier companies are [DHL](#), [FedEx](#) and [UPS](#), the last two being based in the [United States](#) and the former now owned by [Deutsche Post](#), a [German](#) company, and offer services worldwide, typically via a [hub and spoke](#) model.

According to Webster's Dictionary a Courier is:

1: [messenger](#) : as a: a member of a diplomatic service entrusted with bearing messages b (1): an espionage agent transferring secret information (2): a runner of contraband c: a member of the armed services whose duties include carrying mail, information, or supplies

According to the Cambridge Dictionary a Courier is:

a person who carries important messages or documents for someone else

Possible definition according to the Montana Fulfillment Task Force:

A courier service is a person or company used to deliver physical items (messages, packages, etc.) from one library to another. This definition would allow us to be inclusive of all types of physical delivery systems including but not limited to U.S.P.S, DHL, FedEx, Bus lines, bread trucks, etc.