

Summary



Refugees as Co-Workers and Colleagues / Prospects for Trainees in the City Library of Bremen (Britta Schmedemann)

(pp. 675 – 679)

For many years public libraries in Germany have been offering intercultural services and holding events for users who come from a wide number of backgrounds and cultures. Now there is also a growing awareness that a diversity of cultural backgrounds within a library team has considerable positive potential. Nonetheless it remains a challenge to motivate individuals with an immigrant background to a consider training in the library field when these professions are often unfamiliar even to Germans. The Bremen City Library is participating in a city-wide project that enables refugees to seek job training or enroll in academic studies and hopes thereby to draw their attention to the library as a place of work.

Bremen's project »Job Training Offers a Future« was started in 2015. It is aimed at encouraging individuals who have been granted refugee status to take up job training or attend college and university. To facilitate entry into a job training position the project offers a preparatory qualifying course: a one-year pre-training program that introduces participants to the job skills that will be needed. After a year it is usually possible to transfer into a three-year on-the-job trainee position. In order to reduce language barriers, participants also attend German classes on Saturdays. German courses will continue to be offered throughout the duration of the project. The Bremen City Library has had very good experience with this project.

»We Call It LibraryPlus« / The Hanover City Library Implements »Open Library« (Ulrich Kandolf)

(pp. 702 – 705)

The Hanover City Library has endowed one of its largest branch libraries with BibliothekPlus (»LibraryPlus«). Also designated »Open Library« in the library world, the opening hours of the city's List Branch Library, which also houses the city's youth library, were extended by 16 hours per week beginning September 1, 2017.

»LibraryPlus« was begun without extensive advertisement so that the effects of these changes could be carefully watched and to learn whether existing reservations might be confirmed. Despite good experiences in recent years in neighboring countries and also in Hamburg – albeit at a relatively small branch library – there were fears of possible theft and vandalism.

Despite this somewhat »secret« implementation, visitors have been making use of the additional opening hours since the very first day. In the first month (September 2017) 270 users borrowed over 3 000 items; in the first half of October, 220 users had already been counted and the number of media borrowed (1 800 items) had already exceeded the half-way mark for the previous month. This increase alone in the first six weeks showed that users like the service and are increasing their usage. The number of visitors is especially high on Wednesdays, when the library would otherwise be closed, and on those afternoons when the library is no longer staffed: Fridays after 2 p.m. and Saturdays after 1 p.m.

The School Library in the Course of a Year / Relevant Not Only at Exam Time: School Libraries Offer Many Services Throughout the Year (Hanke Sühl)

(pp. 706 – 709)

Spring, summer, autumn and winter: the four seasons divide the year into periods which are characterized by changes in nature and their specific holidays and celebrations. Hence every three months a new season begins when – if properly recognized – can give new impetus and variety to the work in a school library and also positively influence the public's perception of the school library. The City Library of Frankfurt am Main (Hessia) considers its school libraries an indispensable foundation for solid educational endeavors, for equal opportunity and for the future of all children and young adults. At present there are 108 school libraries associated with Frankfurt's Schulbibliothekarische Arbeitsstelle/sba (School Library Advisory Agency).

Whether library tours, wishing weeks, or author visits, the sba helps organize a wide number of services and programs to promote reading pleasure as well as information and media competency. To this end the sba offers carefully tailored programs which take into account the different talents, levels of competency and interests of young people in order to create appropriate settings for reading and to encourage and motivate students to use all kinds of media in a conscious and critical manner. This includes addressing students both at the rational and the emotional level. In order for students to profit from what the library offers, it is important that individualized stimuli and motivating tasks are not confined only to the beginning of the year or examination times, but rather are provided continuously throughout the year. A highly diversified and sustained education in media usage ensures equal opportunity, improves educational perspectives and opens up chances for individual development.

Translated by Martha Baker