

Summary



Pros and Cons: Should Libraries Open on Sundays? (Brigitte Behrendt, Guido Weyer / Iris Kräutl)

(pp. 100 – 101)

Few topics have caused such heated debates as whether to allow (public) libraries to open on Sundays. In Germany the two opposing camps are quite irreconcilable. Brigitte Behrendt and Guido Weyer of the City Library of Mönchengladbach argue that libraries are contemporary institutions which ought to open their doors on Sundays: »Public libraries – ranking ahead of museums – are the most highly frequented cultural institutions. Hence, they must be allowed to be open on Sundays – like museums. In Mönchengladbach all kinds of community organizations – from the communal employee council to the political parties, to the churches – all support Sunday openings.«

Iris Kräutl from Stuttgart takes the opposite point of view and calls for the protection of employee rights. She is convinced that Sundays are a day of rest and should be dedicated to family life. Her justification is that »Sunday is the day of rest and family time, and this is a very important and fixed time to relax and to spend at one's own discretion. At the public library our readers have the advantage of being able to borrow nearly anything from the collection. And the constantly growing supply of online materials is available at any time of day all week long. Even on Saturday, with limited staffing, it is not possible to offer all library services. If Sundays are added to the schedule, one must ask what reductions will necessarily follow for the rest of the week.«

»Reading Promotion Must Begin with the Parents.« In BuB Interview Writer Kirsten Boie Describes How to Interest Children in Books in the Age of Internet – Early Exposure is Important

(pp. 124 – 128)

When a young child discovers how much fun a book can be, he or she will enjoy reading all their life. This is the position Kirsten Boie takes in an interview with BuB editor Bernd Schleh. Ultimately, the primary conditions are having parents who read aloud regularly and also a well-stocked library. Asked to describe good reading promotion, the prize-winning author replied, »the longer I think about this topic, the stronger my belief is that a very very early contact with books, preferably before all other media, is important. Very small children experience the excitement of books from their parents and in their child-care settings. Films, computer games, and all the possibilities of electronic media are so powerful that children are often completely satisfied if they haven't already experienced through listening just how exciting stories can be. If children get to know their first books only when they first learn the highly complicated and arduous skill of reading, it is often too late. Reading for pleasure must, therefore, begin with the parents.«

And libraries, according to Boie, have a special role to play. »It is really great that libraries are opening themselves up more and more, providing different types of media and becoming attractive to new user groups, who in the end may take a book home once in a while. It is also great to have electronic lending, cooperation between libraries and schools and day-care centers such as provision of media sets and classroom libraries, as well as a wide range of different program events.«

»eduroam« – Internet Access for the Travelling Scholar / What Does This Mobile Network Mean for Libraries and Their Licensing Contracts? (Andreas Bohne-Lang)

(pp. 146 – 149)

»eduroam« stands for education roaming and is a world-wide mobile network that has the same name and configuration everywhere. It is becoming available at many academic institutions. It enables scholars, students and employees of an organization to log in to any available eduroam network with their own ID from their home institution. In Germany it is a part of the science network administered by the Association of German Research Networks (DFN) and participating computer centers. The academic institutions provide the network with the infrastructure, and the association implements the DFN roaming in a way that allows users to login anywhere in Germany. Since DFN roaming applies European standards, roaming is available throughout Europe and in 69 countries around the world.

This has become highly popular because a traveler can use his or her home institution's login details at any other participating institution rather than acquiring a new login at the local site. This is a convenient solution for guest lecturers, travelling researchers, or students studying abroad to be able to access their email accounts or do research in the Internet. This single-sign-on system is made possible technically through a hierarchical system of servers which merely provide an authentication service.

Translated by Martha Baker