

Summary



Transatlantic Relations Being Strengthened / BII Project »Partner Country USA 2016 – 2019« Starts in Leipzig – Numerous Lectures and Discussion Rounds (Guido Jansen, Susanne Riedel)

(pp. 92 – 95)

The »Library & Information International« (BII) will kick-off its three-year project »Partner Country USA 2016 – 2019« at the German Library Congress in Leipzig in March 2016. Having enjoyed positive experiences with the previous partner country, Turkey, the library umbrella organization BID (»Library and Information Germany«) and the BII hope to expand and solidify this project format. Not only new projects and encounters are being planned, but existing cooperation agreements also will become further linked and publicized.

The already numerous contacts in existence between German librarians and individual colleagues and institutions in the U.S. led to the selection of the U.S. as partner country for 2016-2019. As the oldest library association in the world, the American Library Association (ALA) is, moreover, an attractive partner which has numerous points of contact with Germany.

The partner project will be officially launched at the library congress in Leipzig. Along with the ALA president, Sari Feldman, it has also been possible to arrange for the current president of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), Donna Scheeder – who happens to be an American – to attend the congress as an honorary guest. Thanks to well-placed advertising, there have also been many responses to the Call for Papers from U.S. professionals; as a result the U.S. will be in evidence at the congress with about 20 lectures, presentations and discussion rounds. At the ALA stand there will be further opportunities for gathering information and arranging cooperative endeavors.

A Library Becomes Experiential / Connecting Physical and Virtual Media in the new Central Library of Duisburg (Jan-Pieter Barbian)

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Public Libraries are facing two major challenges which will be decisive for their futures. First of all they must follow the permanent expansion of digital media. And, secondly, as a consequence of the first trend, libraries must be prepared for changing patterns of use among their heterogeneous clientele. The Central Library of Duisburg has taken up an idea which combines physical and virtual media into an experiential realm.

The library has re-designed a complete floor, with 1000 square meters, for children and young adults. Comfortable seating in various arrangements encourages both children and parents to make themselves at home. Creativity workshops, picture book cinema, and children's films are available in a separate room. Furthermore, there are two other special areas: the international children's library with more than 6000 volumes in 18 languages, and the media library »Parent and Child« with 3000 items aiming to help families deal with the larger and smaller problems of everyday life.

Alongside this children's and young adult library, there is also a school media center (SMZ) which deserves mention. It is housed in an area of 400 square meters, allowing generous space to display its extensive collection of 11,300 items. Included therein is the theme collection »Early Learning« which is developed and maintained in cooperation with the Learning Workshop »SchnEP« at the Duisburg Department of Education, and includes 721 items for the continuing education of professionals in day-care units and primary schools.

The library has laptops and DVD players to lend out. Wireless internet access is available throughout the entire facility, so that visitors can use both their own devices as well as library-owned laptops to surf the internet.

Which Direction? Young People Tell Their Stories in Animated Films / Multicultural Refugee Projects: The Frankfurt am Main City Library Conducts Successful Animation Workshop (Tanja Schmidt, Silke Schumann)

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»Which Direction?« That is the title of the animation workshop which was initiated by the City Library of Frankfurt am Main for young adults whose family background and experience includes flight or migration. The project's content, as developed by its coordinator, Tanja Schmidt, was focussed from the beginning around teenagers who fled their home countries on their own, without adult family members.

To start off the five-day animation workshop, the library pedagogue chose the graphic novel by Marc-Antoine Mathieu, called »The Direction« (Orig. French, »Le sens«, 2014). After discussing the book together, the youth were asked to tell their own stories and transform them into short animated audio-visual sequences. Their work was planned to be process-oriented and at beginner's level.

In the workshop's first morning session at the central library there were 15 young people from Afghanistan, Eritrea, and Pakistan, between 15 and 17 years of age. Although not mandatory, all of them told the story of their flight in their animation clips.

Over the next four days the teens worked on their clips in the morning at the library, while in the afternoon the audio and visual elements were developed on green screen backgrounds at the Youth Center on Heideplatz. Tablets and tripods were employed at the library to create an animation studio in miniature.

To avoid revealing the identity of the young filmmakers – for security and data protection reasons – it was necessary to be especially creative. Their figures needed to be disguised on the green screen.

Translated by Martha Baker