

DESCRIPTION OF SUCCESSFUL READING PROGRAMME PROGRAMME TITLE: Wissenswelten (Worlds of Knowledge) PROGRAMME ORGANISER(S): The Institute for Children’s Literature and the Austrian National Library	
Description Created by LiRe Partner Institution: The Institute for Children’s Literature	
Time & Place	Target Group(s)
School Year 2009/2010 – ongoing	Some 100 schools from Vienna and the provinces of Lower Austria and Burgenland per year; Some 5000 pupils per year, primary and secondary school children; Children with special needs; (ages: 6-14 years old)
Short Description (Max. 200 words)	
<p>In the context of the "Worlds of Knowledge" programme, school children have the opportunity to visit the five museums within the Austrian National Library and to learn in a lively and interactive way more about their collections. They can also get acquainted with the oldest books in the Library and learn under what conditions books are best preserved. One-hour guided tours are offered on 10 different topics in the Papyrus Museum, the Globe Museum, the Esperanto Museum, and the Splendid Hall or the Book Repository. During the tours children acquire new knowledge through the museum exhibits and through different stories and interactive activities. Each guided tour focuses on a specific topic. Fiction book excerpts or pieces of poetry, relevant to the topics, are read to children. In an indirect way, through visiting the National Library and stimulating interest in knowledge, this Programme promotes books and reading.</p>	
Objectives (General & Specific)	
<p>General Objective: To promote a love for books and reading.</p> <p>Specific objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To promote in an indirect way respect for books and knowledge, and an interest in reading not only scientific books but also fiction and poetry. 2. To make children discover the Austrian National Library and its treasures; 3. To encourage children to feel comfortable in the library; 4. To give children access to knowledge in the field of old scripts, geography, and Esperanto, get them acquainted with the oldest books in the Library, etc. 5. To show children under what conditions books are best preserved. 	
Scheme of Reading Promotion Actions & Activities	

- The programme started with developing the idea and the concept of the guided tours through the five Museums.
- Interesting topics were selected.
- The topics have been developed in order to suite the different age groups.
- Activities for children have been developed in order to make the guided tours interactive.
- Books relevant to the topics have been selected, including excerpts of fiction or pieces of poetry to be read to children during the tours.
- Schedules for each term are published in folders and online. The folders are sent to schools.
- Teachers apply for the tours.
- The Institute organises the guided-tours in communication with the guides, museums, etc.

Here are some examples of what the programme offers:

1. The Papyrus Museum:

6-9 years old can discover what papyrus is and how children learned to write and read 2000 years ago in ancient Egypt;

-10-11 year-olds learn about the hieroglyphs and how to read some of them;

-12-14 year-olds learn how the papyrus was invented and produced, and how much knowledge is collected on the papyruses.

2. The Globe Museum provides virtual trips in time and space.

3. In the Splendid Hall, children learn about the importance of libraries in history and how splendidly the libraries of the past were decorated.

4. The Esperanto Museum shows how an artificial language can be invented.

5. The Book Repository teaches children all about the medium of the book. Poetry and fiction excerpts are read aloud to stimulate fascination in the library.

Results / Indicators of Success

The programme has entered its fourth year. During this time the programme has been enriched with many new topics. The number of classes wanting to participate in the National Library guided tours is constantly increasing. Having visited the museum once, the children want to visit again, and classes often make repeated visits to the same museum; evidence

for the success of the programme.

Another indicator of its success is the fact that children participate with enthusiasm in the activities and express willingness to read more on the presented topics.

CONCLUSIONS

(WHAT WORKED WELL AND WHY)

This programme promotes reading in an indirect way, by organising visits to the Austrian National Library museums. The young visitors are acquainted with exciting excerpts from books and their interest in reading grows together with a greater knowledge about the Library collections themselves.

The poetry and fiction excerpts create increased fascination in the library and encourage children to look for more information in books, as well as to experience more pleasure in reading.

After visiting one museum in the National Library, the school classes are then keen to visit the other museums and to extend their knowledge of new fields.

REFERENCES

Folders with the programme for each term of the school year (to be sent to schools), 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012.

LINKS TO FURTHER MATERIAL

<http://www.jugendliteratur.net/wissenswelten.html>