

International School Library Month – October 2010



DIVERSITY CHALLENGE RESILIENCE – school libraries have it all

This year, IASL, the International Association of School Librarianship (<http://www.iasl-online.org/>), again calls out to celebrate and promote school libraries.

In Slovenia, the project will be carried out by the **Section for School Library of the Slovenian Library Association** in cooperation with the Association of Slovenian School Librarians. The message of this year's theme - DIVERSITY CHALLENGE RESILIENCE – is that school libraries can be the centre of change, that school libraries are again and again able to accept and face the challenges of teaching, reading, artistic expression and socializing.

In 1999, librarians started to celebrate their own **international day**, which is on the fourth Monday in October. **In Slovenia, the international day was first celebrated on 22 October 2007**. Because more and more countries decided to join the celebration, the IASL Board decided in 2008 to adjust it to the local environment. James Henri, IASL President, stated: *»International School Library Day just got a whole lot bigger. In fact, it has grown into International School Library Month. This means you can choose the day or the week or indeed fill up the whole month in dedication of your school library and what it means to the school community.«* International School Library Month will allow those in charge of school libraries around the world to choose a day in October that best fits their specific situation in order to celebrate the importance of school libraries.

Therefore, Slovenian school librarians are kindly invited to join the project and celebrate together with the library visitors. Some of you will be joining us for the first time, others have been celebrating for quite some time already.

How? Although we are sure that you have many ideas yourselves, you can also choose some from the selection below. Previous themes might be helpful as well ("Learning – powered by your school library" in 2007, "Literacy and learning at your school library" in 2008 and "School libraries - the big picture" in 2009).

When? In Slovenia, the celebration of the International School Library Month can be linked with events organized during Child Week in the first week of October, in remembrance of Slovenian writer Kristina Brenk's birthday on 22 October or on the fourth Monday in October (25 October this year) as it used to be... it depends what you and your library users choose.

By celebrating this day, it is our aim to remind the general public of the importance of school libraries and emphasize their significance in educating and schooling of pupils and students. Being the coordinator of this project, I personally invite you to join us. **Please fill the application form and send it to Mrs. Ivanka Učakar**, President of the Section for School Libraries, to her e-mail address (ucakari@gmail.com) **by 17 September 2010 at the latest**. Important dates: The

activities should be concluded by 25 October. Please send your reports by October 31, 2010 at the latest. Information about the project will be published in various media.

School Library Month 2010 Project



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Application form

School (full name of school) _____

will join the celebration with _____ (activity)

on _____ (date or period).

The events will be organized by _____ (name and surname of coordinator, organizer).

The event will be published _____
(on school's or library's website ... write down all locations).

Place and date of application _____

Signature of person in charge:

Please send the application form by e-mail to ucakari@gmail.com or by post to Ivanka Učakar, Šolska 5, 1241 Kamnik by Friday, September 17, 2010 at the latest.

What can you do on International School Library Day?

(taken from IASL's web site, compiled by Alja Bratuša in 2007, complemented by the members of the Initiative Board, Section for School Libraries in 2010)

1. If your school library has a Web site, create a special page to publicize International School Library Day.
2. Tell people in your school community about International School Library Day and the importance of school libraries in teaching and learning.
3. Find different ways to encourage reading:
 - Have your students prepare a storytelling event – a creative workshop with stories and handcrafts for young readers and other locals.
 - Organize a workshop for parents, advising them how to motivate their children to read.
 - Organize a discussion about what we have read – a tea party for teachers and parents.
 - Have your students compile a list of five Slovenian books that they think school students in other countries should read. Send the list to IASL-LINK where it will be published.
 - Prepare a representation of research/project assignments whose authors used resources from the school library and learned how to use them in that same library as well.
 - Arrange a book fair with an international theme, which might include highlighting books about other countries, books by authors from other countries or books in other languages.
4. Ask your students to design posters, leaflets, mousepads and other products to represent the importance of school libraries. "Ideas" can be used for Christmas and New Year's gifts.
5. Ask students to design bookmarks promoting their school library and/or International School Library Day.
6. Organize an Open Day in your school library and invite parents and other members of the local community.
7. Use the weekend to organize a "literary" stroll through your town and talk about the school library while you walk.
8. Invite an important guest and talk to them about the importance of school libraries, have your students show them what they have achieved through the school library etc.
9. Publish events and ideas in the web classroom for librarians at <http://skupnost.sio.si/login/index.php>, on Slovenian Library Association's website http://www.zbds-zveza.si/solske_novosti.asp and on IASL's website <http://www.iasl-online.org/isld.htm>.
10. Send a press release to your local newspaper with information about International School Library Day activities.
11. If your school has a newsletter, write a short article about International School Library Day or ask students to write about the importance of the school library.
12. Link up with the local public library and organize a common event.
13. Contact a school library in another country and cooperate using email or the Web.
14. Help a school library in a developing country by raising money to enable them to buy books.
15. Organize a visit to another school library.
16. Take primary school students to visit a secondary school library.
17. Interview (with your students) parents and others in the school community to find out what school libraries were like when they were at school. Publish your findings.
18. Ask your students to browse through websites of various school libraries and identify the differences.
19. Join together with other local school librarians, librarians, and people who support school libraries, to celebrate International School Library Day!

Organize contests:

- **Literary contest**
 - Write a poem or a short story on the topic of "libraries".
 - Write book reviews.
 - Introduce a writer or a poet.

- **Art contest**

- Draw protagonists from books.
- Recreate the cover of a famous book.
- What does the school library of your dreams look like?
- What will the library be like in 2050?

- **Design contest**

- Design a library mousepad.
- Design badges and T-shirts for students-librarians.
- Design the library's mascot.
- Teachers and their favourite books.

- **Photo contest**

- A day at the school library.
- People who read.