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International School Library Day: Messages From Around the World

Report from the IASL Web Site, School Libraries Online
Compiled by Dianne Oberg

International School Library Day Proclamation By IASL President, Dr. Blanche Woolls

As President of the International Association of School Librarianship, I am delighted to proclaim that Monday, October 18, 1999 will be the First International School Library Day and that every third Monday in October from this year on will be International School Library Day. Please join me and the members and friends of IASL around the world in inaugurating this First International School Library Day.

The theme for the 1999 International School Library Day will be "A day in the life ... " and it will focus on the many activities and issues that make up the daily life of school library personnel around the world. The day is being organized in conjunction with a special issue of *School Libraries Worldwide*, the professional journal of IASL. This special issue will also have the theme "A day in the life ... " and it will feature stories of their day, written by people involved in school library services in different countries.

"A Day in the Life ... " on the School Libraries Online Web Site

Anne Clyde, IASL Webmaster, invited school library personnel from around the world to post stories to the School Libraries Online Web site on International School Libraries Day. It provided a focus for sharing of experiences among colleagues in the field of school librarianship around the world. One of the aims was to show the richness and variety of school library services in different countries, and the contribution that they make to their schools and communities. Here are selections from those stories.

From Judy Ma'ilei

President, Tonga Library Association

Happy first birthday to International School Library Day! Our Library Association is small, but individual school libraries are organizing special library activities for their students to mark this special day in our small island

kingdom of about 98,000 people and 150 islands, only 36 of which are inhabited. Greetings to all from the place where time begins and the first to greet the new millennium!

*Mr. A. Camilleri, Teacher/Librarian
F.X. Attard Boys' Secondary School
Marsa, Malta*

I am sending this to inform you that on the 18th October, 1999 the first International School Library Day was celebrated. An event was therefore organized whereby the students, which number to 400 in all, donated some 100 books to the school library which their other mates can themselves borrow.

*Folke Dahlgvist, First School Librarian
Jonkoping, Sweden*

We want to tell you about our Web page so that librarians all over the world can inform themselves about our Library Caravan (otherwise known as Karlavagnen- The Wheeling School Library). We hope to see you in Malmo at the IASL conference in August 2000!

*From Georgia Phillips, Technology in Learning and Teaching (TILT)
Project Officer
Training and Development Directorate*

New South Wales, Department of Education and Training, Australia

What a terrific idea to promote school libraries globally! Now how do we get the local media to pick up the ball and run with it? Perhaps some template press releases for us all to send out to local papers and TV news bureaus?

For my own story, it seems that I have been increasingly rewired (!) from books to technology, as for the past 27 years I have gone from school library consultant to small country schools around New South Wales to technology trainer online. Still, back at the school screenface, we have managed at Kanahooka High School to promote books and reading with author visits and book Webs. The Illawarra School Librarian's Association has been organizing author and illustrator visits to excite children's love of books for 25 years. Now let us tell the world!

*From Margaret Baffour-Awuah, Principal Librarian
Natational Library, Botswana*

Hello IASLers. Best wishes from Botswana for the International School Library Day. I will be in Molepolole on the 18th October. I will be in a workshop for library attendants. These are the very basic support staff we have in our libraries. We are expecting about 35 participants. I will certainly tell them of the importance of the day for school librarianship. Those who will be having celebrations, all the best. I hope we can also celebrate properly next year. Something else to look forward to. I am Principal Librarian in

charge of Educational Libraries. This includes schools and colleges of education. It involves visiting, organizing workshops, and generally advising on professional matters.

*From Anne Whisken, Teacher Librarian
Brisbane, Queensland, Australia*

I have returned to school after a week away, which was the first week back for term 4, so I have quite a lot of catching up to do. I am involved in organizing a Conference for staff in libraries in Christian Brothers' Schools in Queensland, a biennial two-day conference that is open to library staff in other schools also. Our theme is "Multiple Literacies in School Libraries in the Third Millennium," with opening speaker Dr. Roy Lundin talking about "Feral Learning."

Monday evening will be a dinner open to all people in school libraries. We will celebrate International School Libraries Day, with performance poetry, and a storyteller demonstrating oral narrative construction, then taking the group through a joint impromptu story that follows "A day in the life of a school library." On Day 2, we will have a panel discussion: "It's reading sir, but not as you know it" -the shape of reading in the future. Day 2 workshops will cover information literacy, visual literacy, fiction, and Book Raps.

Brisbane has given us a breath of summer with its glorious spring weather today-just a little warmer. As I look out from Nudgee College across neighboring suburbs, I can see a mauve, purple haze of jacaranda blossom. I work late tonight, until 8:00 p.m., giving students a chance to access the library facilities after hours.

*From Joan Elliott, Librarian/Manager
Stewart Resources Centre of the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada*

Although I do not work in a school library, as librarian/manager of the Stewart Resources Centre of the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation, I spend a good part of my work day supporting the efforts of teacher-librarians and resource-based learning consultants (as well as teachers and in-school administrators) throughout Saskatchewan by providing access to additional curriculum and professional resources available through the teachers' professional library. Yesterday, I celebrated Thanksgiving with members of my family here in Saskatoon, so today I am free to plan for the work week ahead. This includes creating a display to take to a teachers' convention in Prince Albert, revising our Centre's Disaster Recovery Plan, updating our Intranet and Internet Web sites and trying out a few new education research databases to fill reference requests from teachers taking graduate studies. IASL's theme "A Day in the Life ..." has given me an idea for the next column I will write for the Federation's newspaper which is due on Wednesday. I plan to highlight IASL's International School Library Day in the

column and then relate the theme to the work lives of staff in our resource centre.

From Ros Peters

Nudgee Junior College Library

Indooroopilly, Queensland, Australia

This year, I will be spending October 18 at a conference entitled "Multiple Literacies for Libraries in the Third Millennium." Along with approximately 100 other colleagues, I will be dealing with issues familiar to our colleagues the world over-resourcing the changing curriculum; integrating technology; enlivening children's literature; and so forth.

When I'm not attending conferences, my day is equally full in tending the needs of 300 plus boys aged 8-13 (and their teachers)! A typical day looks like this:

8.00 a.m. Arrive at school (I'm not a morning person!) and "turn on" the library, that is, seven library computers, 18 computers in the next-door lab, lights, fans, virtual fish, and open the doors, chat to teachers, and consume my first cup of coffee of the day.

8.30. School begins and the first classes arrive for borrowing (each class visits once a week to borrow recreational reading books).

9.30. First class arrives for lesson. This year I am also teaching computer literacy skills, so half a class (15) remains with the class teacher in the library for a research activity, and the rest stay with me in the computer lab for a computer activity.

10.30 Morning coffee break and assembly.

11:00-12.30 p.m. Another class to teach (hope it's not the feral year 7s).

12.45. Lunch duty in the library. My lunchtime visitors either use the computers; read; borrow; play chess; play Pokemon; play chasey! or just come for a chat. The break goes by quickly, and so does another coffee.

1.30. Afternoon class to teach.

3.00. School finishes, but not me-either a staff meeting, chess lessons or school magazines meetings follow-otherwise, I organize for the next day.

8.30 a.m. Having fed the family and caught the evening news, there are journals to scan, worksheets to prepare, novels to read, and so it goes on.

We all, I suspect, work extremely hard in our particular schools, as our role in providing a valuable service is becoming more important in an information-rich and technologically dependent society. We need and deserve the support of our fellow colleagues either through network meetings, conferences, or e-mail communications, and I am proud to be part of such a vibrant social group.

*From Dianne Oberg, Associate Professor
Faculty of Education, University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada*

A day in the life of the Editor of *School Libraries Worldwide*: Today, I am in my office, looking at submissions for the next issue of the journal. I will read them quickly, thinking about who might be the most appropriate reviewers from the Editorial Board for each article. The reviewers' thoughtful evaluations and suggestions are an essential part of the selection and editing of the papers that finally appear in *School Libraries Worldwide*. The reviewers are all busy and heavily committed professionals but they do this work as volunteers (as do I and the Associate Editors).

Today is a gorgeous autumn day in Edmonton. The leaves on the trees are yellow and orange and red, and the air is crisp and cool. Tomorrow will be Thanksgiving Day in Canada, a time for families to get together. There will be roast turkey and pumpkin pie at my family's celebration. After dinner we will all go for a walk, kicking our feet through the piles of fallen leaves along the sidewalk, and wondering how many days we will have before the snow falls to stay. (We had a snowstorm on October 1, but the snow soon melted away.) I am wondering what I am doing here-working at the office on a Sunday again, and on a holiday weekend at that. The answer must be that I love my work in librarianship and in education. Let's all celebrate the work we love on International School Library Day!

*From Marilyn Richardson, Teacher-Librarian
School District No. 45
West Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada*

Like Dianne, I am in my office on a Sunday, wondering what it is that draws me here on such a beautiful fall day. I guess it is because, for me, a typical school day is so busy that coming in on the weekend gives me a chance to catch up on the things I need to do. Because I am new to this school, and this district, and I have so much to learn.

Like many teacher-librarians, I have other roles in the school, mainly in the area of technology. Today, I have updated the school's Web page, worked on my Personal Growth Plan, prepared a unit for the art teacher to tie in with Canadian Children's Book Week, caught up on voice mail and e-mail, registered for a provincial librarian's conference, and even carded some books (while anxiously awaiting the time when the automated system is up and running).

Later today I will go for a run on the seawall and think of all the things I am thankful for on this holiday weekend. And yes, high up on my list will be this great job.

From Marg Somers, Teacher-Librarian

Australia

MY HOLIDAY ASA T/L!

I went to my small school library on Thursday to allow the "experts" to revamp my library system. It would take only an hour, I was assured of this! I am moving from Molli single-user to Athena multiuser. The school has recently been networked and all classes linked. We have been having a great time with it and the Library was the last link.

Oh woe: My new computer wouldn't talk to the network.

Oh woe: The borrower file did not transfer.

Oh woe: It was now two hours later.

Oh woe: I had to go to lunch. Experts, I said, YOU fix it.

So I have heard nothing from them! When I go into work on Monday (still holidays) I hope it is working! I really would like to have a little experience on my new system before everyone else starts "playing 11 with it. The most amazing thing was that the Experts and others present really expected me to get CROSS. Do we have a reputation for losing our cool T/Ls? I think not; it must be that we have an aura of super confidence and that others feel they mustn't fail when around us!

From Barbara Dobson, Teacher Librarian

Howard Springs School

Northern Territory, Australia

We at Howard Springs School are celebrating International School Library Day with an open day. I am sending out a flier to let parents know which classes are working in the library that day, and inviting them to come along and see their child at work. In addition, in my one spare hour, I will run a brief Internet workshop for parents. I have also put into the newsletter this week a short article about the school library and how the children use it. I've put this onto the library page of our Web site: <http://www.topend.com.au/-howardsp/library>.

My school day begins around 7:30, as I arrive at school, switch on computers, and sort out all those little jobs that didn't quite get finished yesterday. Teachers pop in with "have you got," lido you know where," and all those little questions. Time to grab a cup of coffee and head back into the library as the bell rings. I have a 11 free 11 hour this morning. Good, I can go do some Web page maintenance at last. Don't forget to bookmark those Internet sites for year 4/5 to use and to check the e-mail to see if any of our e-pals have responded.

9:20 a.m. and year 1/2 are at the door, ready to access information about the country they are studying from a Web site the teacher has found. They're divided into two groups, and even with two of us helping the 10 children at computers, it's hectic! Internet access is new to most of them, so there are many skills to learn.

10:20 and a welcome coffee break. A quick chat with the Principal about a parent Internet workshop we're planning; a discussion about borrowing times for the upper primary classes this week; and it's back to work.

The 5/6/7 class arrives, eager to see if they have mail from their e-pals. Luckily, they have. We read the letters and the children work in groups to reply, some researching information about the size and population of the NT to tell their e-pals, others finding the e-pals' home town in the atlas.

Right now time is up, and the 3/4/5s are at the door. This time we're investigating the impact of feral animals in Australia. While half the class searches for appropriate books, the other half checks out some Web sites that were bookmarked earlier.

Lunch time. Grab my sandwich and head back to the library because it's my turn for duty. The library is busy today as the weather is getting unbearably hot outside. There's the usual group playing games, a handful who love the Magic School Bus CD, and several older girls who want to read stories to the younger ones. My helpers distribute games and help tidy up afterwards.

Now I just have to get through three 25-minute borrowing sessions with the younger classes. A relaxing story to calm them down after lunch, then time to exchange books.

2:40. The bell rings. Time to have a quick tidy up before heading off to a planning meeting.

4 o'clock. Back to the library. There's a pile of mail on my desk, the remains of a cold cup of tea, and a whole lot of "to do's" not ticked off in my diary. I'll be here for a while yet.

5:00 p.m. My desk looks a little better, but maybe that's just because I've combined some of the piles. I wish I was a more efficient organizer! Just time to check my e-mail to see what on the OZTL_NET today.

5.30 and I really must go home. A look over my shoulder as I turn the lights out. Oh, I really did mean to get that done today. Oh well, it's another little job that can wait until tomorrow.

From Sophia Fourie

Skoolbiblioteek/School library

Hoerskool Vredendal/Vredendal High School

Western Cape, South Africa

Our school library is the hub of most of the happenings in our school. I make use of a team of student volunteers to help me run the library. This time of the year, we are grateful for all the learning opportunities and excellent work done in the school and library. The library volunteers are responsible for a display of all the assignments and project work done during the year. These students combine assignments, posters, books, and other sources in the library to create this display for the closing ceremony of the school year. Parents, teachers, and fellow students visit the library to admire the display.

We also create a sound slide projection as part of the Principal's report for the year. Slides of the main events in the school are taken throughout the year. The big event took place on October 12 this year. But the library must now return to normal procedure! Today, the display must be taken down. This effort is often part of my day in our school library. On such a day, I especially value the voluntary work done by the group of reliable library volunteers.

*From Sue Lacey, Teacher-Librarian
Barrack Heights PS, New South Wales*

[Sue is an advisor and co-coordinator (with Leanne Cameron) of NSWTL, a listserv in New South Wales supporting TLs with the OASIS library automation system, currently involving an upgrade of the server.]

Murphy's Law: If anything is going to go wrong it surely will! Murphy had all his brothers, sisters, and cousins on the job today! That about sums up today. It will be several large red wines tonight, I can assure you all! Migration due to start at 9:30 a.m. So ...

8:30 a.m. Security bar installers arrived unannounced to barricade the library all around. No notice and need to use the library power supply! Negotiated with them to buzz off during migration. They were not pleased, but agreed. Said there would be heaps of noise all day!

9:00 a.m. Classes to organize and brief for casual TL.

9:25 a.m. Blackout! throughout the whole area.

9:30 a.m. Technicians arrived; left gear and mobile number, ring when power comes back on.

10:00 a.m. Power back on. Rang technicians. They will wait one hour to make sure that it is not going to go off again.

10:10 a.m. Lots of requests to reboot the school server after blackout. Reboot all the library computer network.

11:00 a.m. Technicians arrive. Cabling perfect, straight into it. »»» ZILLIONS of error messages, new server clanking! Nothing happening! Thirty minutes onto Tech Support with technicians. Try again. This time an ear-piercing scream from the server. Tech Support says, "Turn it off quick." Try again to start, appeared to be going OK, but then the server's hard disk died completely. So we came to a screaming halt.

12:20 p.m. New server to be reconfigured in Sydney, hopefully overnight, but probably by Friday.

12:30 p.m. Round table meeting-Principal, SSA, technicians, me-Do we restart OASIS for one to two days and then redo the pre-migration tasks? Or do we suffer the ire of the staff and leave it all off until at least Monday? Boss made the decision after we hashed around the alternatives-we're off until Monday and HE's telling the staff tomorrow morning.

1:00 p.m. Dog comes into the library at lunchtime, the kids chasing it to put it out of the school.

2:30 p.m. Major grumble and canceling of Scholastic Book Fair for term 4 after poor selection of materials sent last term.

3:00 p.m. The drilling has finally stopped and the bars are all in place now!

So ... I cannot tell you about the migration today; what I can say is that there is a very slim possibility that it may be done tomorrow, but more likely Friday. Murphy has really won today.

*From Peter Genco, School Librarian
Fairview High School
Fairview, PA, USA*

I have worked at Fairview High School since 1993. I was hired as the school librarian, but my role extends way beyond the traditional one. Because my school is fairly small (525 students in grades 9-12 with 45 professional staff), it is expected that one wears many hats. Along with the traditional role of School Librarian, I am also the AV Coordinator, Technology Team Leader, District Web site Advisor, and Instructional Television Coordinator. We have five computer labs in the building, including the one in the library. There are 165 computers throughout the building, all accessing the school's network, software, and the Internet.

The official school day runs from 7:20 a.m. until 2:50 p.m. Students attend a 12-minute homeroom, have a 23-minute tutorial period, a half-hour lunch and four 80-minute classes. We have just started the block scheduling this school year and are still adapting to the changes. I am usually there by 7:00 a.m. to open up the library, get computers booted, check e-mail, and check the daily AV requests. My full-time secretary begins at 7:20. As I coordinate the delivery of equipment for the day, she begins the Channel 1 broadcast, the daily national student news show. Three students help out during the home room period to move the equipment, run errands, and maintain the tropical fish tank. We also hand out passes for the tutorial period and for lunch.

Because each period is 80 minutes, I have divided each in half for the Library schedule. I work with teachers to determine what will best fit their students' needs in terms of time, materials, and online services. Lab location is sometimes also a factor, as certain lessons need a closed lab environment, which the library does not provide. Many times we have two, and sometimes three, classes in the library at the same time. Space is not the problem, but it does become boggling at times.

Needless to say, there is never a dull moment in my day. But having it any other way would be absolutely boring!

From Joyce McMahon, Library Helper

The International School

Mahe, Republic of Seychelles

Greetings from the Republic of Seychelles, in the Indian Ocean. We are an international school on the island of Mahe. We have about 270 pupils (this fluctuates with the expatriate population) from kindergarten to year 13. At present, our library is sandwiched in the hallway that links four classrooms. Our bookcases are arranged in a rectangle to form the "walls" of the library. When each period is over and students change classes, our library is often rearranged! The noise is similar to that of a herd of elephants. Our previous library and assembly hall were demolished during the long July-September holidays, and work has now begun on a new building that will house the library, the hall, early childhood section, four secondary classrooms, and study rooms for the 6th form, which are at present all in one old building. Our library is run by volunteer parents and is open for borrowing during school hours. At the moment, we work on the old pre-computer system but we hope to be updated in the next Millennium!

A typical day in the life of our library would start off with children from early childhood coming up to the library for us to hear them read and also for them to change their library books. Due to lack of space, they come up in small groups. During morning break and lunch students of all ages drop in to choose a book or just to say hello. In the afternoon, junior school classes come up to borrow, and these sessions can get hectic, especially when they all want the same book. Books are very hard to come by here and we rely heavily on donations of previously loved books from school families and friends. We cannot order from overseas, as foreign exchange is just as hard to get. Enid Blyton is still our most popular author with the juniors, but *Goosebumps* and *Point Horror* are coming a close second with the secondary, also *Christopher Pike*, but we only have two! Puzzle books and *Horrible Histories* and *True UFO Stories* are also some of the most borrowed books. Some children come every day to ask if we have been given any new books!

Isabelle Goosen, Librarian

Suiderhof Primary School

Windhoek, Namibia

Do other librarians in other countries too contract library blues as we do? When the hopelessness of it all seems to take over? When I feel as if we school librarians are an endangered species in this beautiful desert land of ours? I've just heard that a friend's library is basically closed down as she has been given another teacher's subjects to teach, which leaves no time for her to open her library-one of the few school libraries left. At the same time, a warm, creative, innovative librarian is lost to her school and community.

In a panel meeting a few weeks earlier where representatives of school libraries from all over the country met to plan and discuss our needs, a

dignified senior librarian from our northern rural areas told us that he was approached by some of the principals to hear whether they could use the *creaners* in the library (Oshiwambo-speaking people often confuse the *r* and *l* in the English language.) We were first speechless, then helpless with laughter (hysterics /panic?) and then realized it was no laughing matter. As Laha Shingenge, who's battling to get libraries going in another northern region, said, "If I can use the cleaners in the library, at least I can teach them to stamp books and have a library that's open!" The debate was closed by Mr. Makaba who said that if we ever allow this, we'll never get the authorities to give us any credit and respect again.

Today the cloud has lifted. I feel intense satisfaction when experiencing the results of the reading project we have done with a very enthusiastic grade 6 group at the head. With the help of the grade 6s, bolstered by a session on advertising techniques, we bullied, enticed, and even threatened the whole school in a huge effort to get them reading. It was wonderfully satisfying-when you get a grade 5 boy who's never read a book in his whole life before starting this project through his third book! When kids tell you whenever you meet them, "I've read five pages in the Afrikaans class!" "I read 30 pages last night."

I felt intense satisfaction when I watched Martha trying and enjoying a variety of both Afrikaans and English books. Martha, now in grade 7, came to us a few years ago from the rural areas. She was so far behind that she had to repeat grade 6. Now she's devouring this amazing variety of books. Erin is from Taiwan and had to adapt not only to a new country and school, but a different culture as well. She tried everything from *Little Women* to the Hardy Boys. She came and told me how she cried when she read *Night John* by G. Paulsen.

An Afrikaans girl who has always been a reader really threw herself heart and soul into this reading project-so much so that her father wrote me a letter to please stop this reading project so they could have their daughter back! She went on endlessly about *Anne of Green Gables* until her father wanted to know, "Now who's this new girl in your class you're forever talking about?"

I was so excited about all of this, but there aren't many people you can share this with, people who know children's books, and moreover people who know what we have to battle against. When I received the notice of the day in the life of a school librarian, I thought this was my chance to share a bit more than a day!

Rosemary Donnelly, Librarian
Micklefield School
Cape Town, South Africa

I have been away on two three-day field trips recently. Who can assist the class teacher? Ah, the librarian, she has plenty of time to break away from her

duties! What does she do all day cloistered among her books? On these outings, she does benefit from witnessing the girls' social skills-not always good with the roller coaster moods of the pre-teens-and she does get to know the girls in a relaxed atmosphere-not that our library is very regimented. Sharing the outdoors with them in our wonderful country is an added bonus. Only other librarians, who run small libraries on their own, can imagine the piles of books greeting the exhausted homecomer! With girlish squeals still ringing in her ears, she gets down to work and would not have it any other way.

*James Herring, Head of Department
Department of Information Management
Queen Margaret University College
Edinburgh, Scotland, UK*

I will give you two half-days in the life of James Herring, one at work and one at leisure.

WORK. My day starts by switching on my PC, getting the snail mail from my pigeonhole, checking for messages on my answerphone, and then checking my e-mail. I do this if I'm not teaching first thing (oops, should have said that I am a university teacher and some of my students become school librarians). On a typical morning, I'll do some teaching-in a classroom or in my room for one-to-one tutorials with students. I'll also do some administration-signing claim forms for staff, writing memos to other administrators. I'll also do some reading-a book, a journal article, a Web site, for example, to prepare for a lecture. I don't normally have time for research on work days apart from Friday, which is my research day and I TRY to stick to that.

LEISURE. A typical half-day in terms of leisure will be sitting in front of the TV watching football (soccer) and drinking beer-only joking! I do sometimes watch sport on TV and enjoy it. What I do like doing is walking, and the area where I live has some beautiful walks, especially along the shore and the sandy beaches. It's now autumn here, and it's getting colder but we have lovely clear days and you can walk for miles without seeing anyone else.

I hope that lots of people have enjoyed this Day, and that it keeps going over the years. School librarians are key educators in our systems, and if you are a school librarian (or teacher-librarian or media specialist or media teacher), then you really are contributing greatly to your pupils' or students' education.

*Ken Vesey, Director of Library Services
Lovett School
Atlanta, Georgia, USA*

Returning after 10 years in Europe, I'm gradually adjusting to my new position as Director of Library Services at the Lovett School in Atlanta,

Georgia, a school of 1500 students in grades pre-K-12. It should be no surprise to find out that turnaround is faster than what I had become accustomed to in Europe-orders arrive sometimes within 48 hours (and there's no customs tie-up and no sales tax to schools), and it's easy to communicate with vendors during the business day (even many west coast offices pick up their phones at 9 o'clock Eastern Standard Time). One thing that is frustratingly slower is the Internet-we don't benefit from the six-hour jump we had in Belgium on peak Internet usage in the US, and when all of California is at its computers, response time can be excruciatingly slow.

The upper school library where I work is a 25-year-old facility that is showing its age. Although the staff is wonderful and the collection strong, shelves are sagging, the carpet is unraveling in places, and when it rains hard outside (not often in Atlanta, thankfully) water rushes in on one side of the library and soaks the floor. I took the job partly because of the challenge it presented, and want to make sure that the school prioritizes the library in its new capital improvements plan. A new facility is in the cards, and I look forward to overseeing that project.

In the short term, I will try to make the library into a more inviting place, one that attracts students not only for study, but one that entices them to explore information resources and read for pleasure. I hope to inject a note of internationalism into this library and push the American notion of multiculturalism beyond our continental borders. There are many projects to tackle, and the challenge is exciting.

*From the Students and Staff
Regents Park Campus of Trinity Catholic College
Auburn, Sydney, Australia.*

We are 500 students in years 7 and 8, and most of us are 12, 13, or 14 years old. Our teacher-librarian talked to everyone in year 8 today about INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL LIBRARY DAY, and we have heard that there are schools that do not have all the facilities and access to resources that we have. We would like to wish everyone a happy day today.

Sabina Kim, Carol Luu, Emre Ilhan, Tony Esbar, Kadir Nedjat, Peta, Chantel, Annie Esporlas, Romina Nasrallah, Piyare Serf, Joan Caballero, Mellisa Minocus, Naumsin Temmuz, Sylvana Mourad, Hilal Menji, and Anthony Makari who came to read and borrow or return books. Catherine Magee, Petrina Larkin, Angela Johns, Tanya Depac, Daniel Thomson, Brenda Forrester, Roger Tran, Wilhelm Bulathsinhala, Grant, BillyTupac who came to do school work. Andrew Miller-Steele, Chris McDermid, Roger Tran, Kenny Lo, Mate Barbir, Kadir Nedjat, Jason Ng, and Tony Ta who played chess in the library today. Isobel Jessenby, Kathlen Jones, Maryanne Daher, Mate Barbir, Rochelle Lobo, Natalie Kuka, Tremayne Caton, Raymond Chung, Joanne Taranto, Alison Chung, Elaine Chantery, Annie Esporlas, Romina Nasrallah, Patrick Lloyd, and Kenneth Chow who came to the library spe-

cially to sign this greeting. Also Mrs. Radford (our teacher librarian), Mrs. Conant, and Mrs. Heyes.

*Elizabeth Garloch, Master's Student
Clarion University of Pennsylvania
Clarion, Pennsylvania, USA*

[Elizabeth is presently completing her course work in Library Science at Clarion University of PA and performing her internship requirement with Peter Genco at Fairview High School.]

As a graduate student completing my degree course work, my daily routine varies throughout the week. Every day brings a different challenge. The combination of being a full-time graduate student at Clarion University, student intern, and a part-time employee at a local retailer keep me busy.

A day in my life begins with arriving at Fairview High School, where Peter Genco is my supervising librarian, to begin my day at 7:00 a.m. The two of us prepare for the day by making sure the library is ready for staff and students as they arrive. This includes monitoring the distribution of the AV materials, distributing tutorial passes, and checking in and out materials. The day continues with classes using the library and adjacent computer lab throughout the day. During this time, I instruct students on the use of the online services provided by the library and assist with questions concerning online services and print resources. The school day ends at 3:00 p.m. after a final wrap-up of the day and preparation for the next.

My day continues with a two-hour drive to Clarion, PA for my first of two classes of the week. During the two-and-a-half-hour class, I become the student as we discuss issues relating to library services and the school curriculum using a distance learning connection with Dixon Center in Harrisburg, PA. The class is a combination of graduate and undergraduate students with various backgrounds. Class ends at 8:30 p.m. and the two-hour journey home begins. Arriving at home between 10:30 and 11 p.m., I have the opportunity to catch up on the day's events with my family. The day ends with a quick check of my e-mail and assignments for the next day.

*Lyubov V. Shkapar, School Librarian
School 7
Krasnoyarsk, Siberia, Russia*

Lyubov V. Shkapar is a school librarian in the city of Krasnoyarsk in south-eastern Siberia, Russia. This is an area characterized by long and inclement winters and short and hot summers. Trained as a librarian, in 1981 Lyuba came to work at School 7, one of the city's best as well as largest, with a curriculum emphasis on mathematics and science. It has 1,400 pupils (grades 1-11) and 98 teachers. Like the vast majority of ordinary secondary schools in Russia, Lyuba's school has only the phone for communication.

Lyuba's story is titled "Don't Fence Me Around with the Chinese Wall," or "There Are War and Peace's Enough for All!" Lyrical and Ironical Notes on a Russian School Librarian's Workday.

It is morning. The time of great expectations and grand plans, when you feel as if you can move mountains. As usual, I am hurrying off to school to open my library. What is the most important thing I have today? The 7th graders are holding a conference-cum-reflection, Alexander Grin: Dreams and Reality. I must look through the questions and get into the right mood. Hey, what do these kids mean by being up so early? It's not yet 8 and they are already hanging around the library. Why, it's grade 6G. Their first lesson has been called off, but instead of grabbing some sleep, they will come to the library with the express purpose of reading journals and sharing information. There are my darlings! I am not going to grudge them an early admittance. My, what a crowd! Moreover, this is not all-the whole grade 2B is about to come rushing in. And every one of them wants *Maruska the Cat*. Children! Silence please, PLEASE! We shall find something for everyone, and your teacher will be happy. The sound of tramping feet again. Where do you come from? Another lesson has been cancelled; their teacher is ill. That's it. For one whole hour, the library looks and sounds like a beehive, the kids rummaging through journals and encyclopedias, and looking into every corner. I may just as well forget about having some quiet or thinking over questions for the coming Grin conference.

Well, the conference went off quite well, the dreams winning over the reality. Running feet again! Oh, but this is an altogether different weight category. Isn't it Pushkin you want? No, you do not want Pushkin, and the teacher was quite clear about it: stories by the late author Belkin. This misunderstanding keeps recurring year after year. Well, Pushkin wins this time. I succeed in convincing the boy that Pushkin is the author of *Stories by the Late Ivan P. Belkin*. Don't fence me about with the Chinese wall-there are enough copies of *War and Peace* for all! Why do you look so unhappy? You remember *War and Peace* as not so thick and having a red cover? It must have been *War of the Worlds* by H.G. Wells. You are mixing up your books, poor thing.

Somebody is running in again. It's the phone. Who might it be? I am sure I've distributed all the textbooks among the schools, having myself nothing else to order. And I have collected all the material for my library from the District Education Department. Oh, it's the methodologist asking me to come down and get the textbooks in a hurry. I guess I've got to go. But what about the transportation? The school can offer no other vehicle to carry textbooks than the Full Day Group pupils. Centipedes, my colleagues call them. Well, come to my rescue, kids!

Ooh! It's over at last. The textbooks go to the stacks, and I am in the library. Children! Pick your books, rummage in the card index, and read all you like. In the meantime, I'll try to catch my breath.

It seems everybody is gone. What time is it now? Three. Grade 2A is about to come. How bright they are, how many interesting things they know! They will be leafing through every journal and explaining to me about the tokamac, and the different kinds of chips. Also about the most faithful dogs and the most poisonous plants. No, whatever you may say, life is interesting when you have someone to share your joy with. Wasn't it Rabindranath Tagore who said that what makes a library big is not the size of its stock but its friendliness?

The day is over. How much could I do? Not much. But tomorrow will be another day-then shall I finish it all. What do you think?

*Judy Davies, Resource-Based Learning Consultant
PEI Department of Education
Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada*

I live and work in Canada's smallest province, Prince Edward Island. After many years as a teacher-librarian at the elementary level, I am working as a resource-based learning consultant for the PEI Department of Education. We have a VERY active school library community in this province; PEITLA has around 50 members (and there are only 65 schools in the entire province).

This year I am co-teaching a distance education course with my colleague, . Dr. Ray Doiron (Faculty of Education, University of Prince Edward Island). This is the introductory course in our Diploma Program in School Librarianship. We are delighted to have 20 (very keen) people participating in this course.

We are also in the midst of "repackaging" all our support for PEI school libraries. This includes an imminent "Minister's Directive and Standards" (replacing our earlier provincial policy and guidelines) and an online curriculum support document called "Building Information Literacy." The documents will be distributed within a great new PEI School Library Handbook, beginning a six-week system-wide consultation period before everything becomes official. We have a wonderful (provincial) standing committee, and the members have been working hard to make all of this possible. Yes, we are having a very busy time here in Prince Edward Island, but we feel we are keeping school libraries on "the front burner!" Good luck to all of you in your own projects and initiatives!

*Anne Clyde, IASL Webmaster
Midnight, Monday 18 October 1999
Reykjavik, Iceland*

Greetings to all from the Webmaster, at the end of our first ever International School Library Day! Thank you to the contributors of " A Day in the Life ... " stories. Greetings to those school library associations now holding celebrations in countries where the evening is a little younger than it is here. And if you think International School Library Day is a Good Thing, then start thinking about what could be done to celebrate the day in 2000!