



# International Association of School Librarianship

## PRESIDENTIAL POINTS

Time is an oddly malleable thing for an essential force of the universe, isn't it? At least we humans think so, as we try to manage it, control it, save it, spend it wisely, make the most of it, and tell others not to waste it.

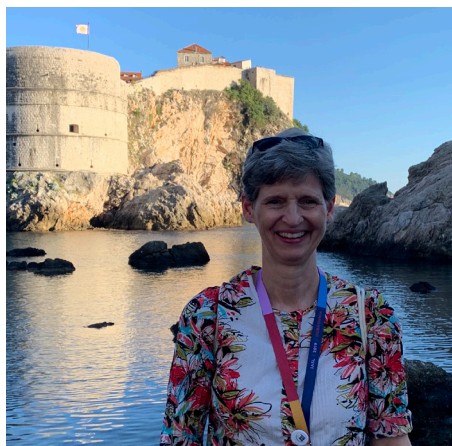
We all know that 60 seconds equals 60 seconds, but also know by experience that one minute can seem eternal while a different minute has gone by in an eyeblink.

These COVID-19 days, weeks, and months are no exception.

March 2020 began as usual, then sped up as your 2020 Conference Team consulted with the IASL Board and Executive Committee about how to proceed, ultimately deciding to postpone the entire conference to 2021.

In April, all of us watched news reports, read charts, and worried about friends near and far during the early days of the pandemic... how long some of those days were while we waited for good news from anyone.

Fast forward to August, when IASL announced that the 2021 Annual Conference will be virtual, allowing every IASL member the opportunity to spend time



Katy in Dubrovnik 2019

learning, sharing, and conversing together online next July at a budget-friendly cost. <https://iasl2021.unt.edu/registration-0>

And suddenly it's October, fewer than 90 days until the new year 2021...

During the immense changes in 'the way we do school' now, I pray that you have the time to recharge by enjoying nature, time to immerse yourself in a good book, time to connect with family and friends, time to reflect on your goals, and time to let me know how you're doing.

Someday, we will have time to gather together in person and perhaps time to learn a Texas line dance!

Yours in school librarianship,  
\*\*\*Katy Manck  
President, IASL  
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## CONTENTS

PAGE 2

Zoom in School Libraries

PAGE 3

Meet Eleanor Duggan

PAGE 4

St. James College Writes 50  
World Libraries Photo Gallery

PAGE 5

Updating of IASL Professional  
Development Library

PAGE 6

After March 13, 2020

PAGE 7

Reading Week Celebration

PAGE 8

"Publish Your Place" GigggleIT  
Impactful Community-Based Projects  
School Libraries Worldwide Now  
Accepting Rolling Submissions

PAGE 9

Online Education for Students with  
Disabilities  
Web-Based Advice Service for School  
Librarians Announced

PAGE 10

Migration - An International School  
Library Research Project  
2021 IASL Conference

PAGE 11

Pakistani School Libraries' Response to  
COVID-19

PAGE 12

Update from Australia School Library  
Association

Make Everyday Mandela Day!

# Zoom in School Libraries - International School Library Month Celebration in Hungary

BY MARIANNA PATAKI, TEACHER LIBRARIAN AT KÁROLYI MIHÁLY HUNGARIAN-SPANISH BILINGUAL HIGH SCHOOL



Logos and graphics designed by Author, Marianna Pataki



2020 was a challenge for the world, and the Association of Hungarian School Librarians wanted to respond to these challenges in a new way. The epidemic made it impossible to organize our annual spring and fall conferences, yet we considered very important to maintain professional communication, inspire each other, and share best practices.

Our idea was to organize a nationwide broadcast from school libraries during International School Library Month, so we asked adventurous school librarians to broadcast on a common YouTube channel during October. Our goal was to provide an opportunity from the smallest school libraries to the best equipped libraries to introduce themselves from different types of schools. With the work of school libraries, we can gain insight into the life and character of their school, therefore we were delighted by the various background or the applicants from primary schools, secondary schools, vocational schools, bilingual schools, and even private schools from the capital to small villages.

At the time of writing, we've been through five shows so far and we're still facing a lot of broadcasts, but

there are already some ideas we can share with the international audience:

The first broadcast of the bilingual high school shared best practices from the former International School Library Months. Various forms of creative writing were presented. The concept of chain readers has been introduced, luckily there are teenagers who can't stop reading!

The next stream was a recently renovated private school library that offers ample opportunities for learning and relaxation. There is also a special feminist Reading Club.

The third broadcast stated that the role of contemporary literature is essential for children aged 10–15 to find role models of their current problems in age-appropriate contemporary readings. Thanks to the new database created by the Hungarian National Pedagogical Library and Museum, school libraries have the opportunity to promote the best contemporary literature.

The stream of a vocational school showed the transformative power of the school library through the career of a former gardener student who became a journalist thanks to her love of reading and writing, which was

supported by the school librarian.

We also learned a simple way to track students' reading experiences by asking them what books they read over a period of time, and later asking them to name the book they want to read again shows which book had a profound effect on them.

The streams provided a glimpse into the life of the school library. Teacher librarians usually invited other teachers to a joint lecture, as most school library events are organized in close collaboration with a group of teachers. Students also testified to their love of reading. The broadcasts were professionally inspiring, although technical errors occurred.

Participating school librarians have unanimously expressed that broadcasting is a challenge but a rewarding experience, so they are ready to do it again!

We can conclude that Innovation and creativity can overcome the difficulties of underfunding and neglect. Thanks to committed school librarians, we can inspire and support each other also in this pandemic times. We encourage school librarians around the world to go online because the show must go on!

# Meet the Board: Eleanor Duggan

BY ELEANOR DUGGAN, TEACHER-LIBRARIAN, IASL REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR EAST ASIA



Eleanor & Book Crafts in her Library during Literacy Week, Osaka in 2019



Students voting for our school Giggle Critters, Shanghai in 2017

I am Eleanor Duggan, many of you know me as Eleanor Chen before my recent wedding that took place in late September; I am a passionate children's book reader, a storytelling enchantress, an aspiring globetrotter, a part-time book crafter, and an impassioned foodie who, unfortunately, is a cooking disaster. I love exploring the world through both reading and travelling. I call Taiwan my fatherland where I grew up and how people recognise me, name Belgium my motherland which shapes who I am today, and am currently enjoying my new life in Japan with my daughter and my newlywed husband. Growing up in quite a multi-cultural family, I enjoy experiencing culture shocks and sharing funny stories.

As a professional, I am a certified English teacher, Teacher Librarian, IB educator, and IB Leadership. Before joining Osaka YMCA International School, I was a research assistant in the Ministry of Education in Taiwan, the Librarian in Taipei European School & Head/Teacher Librarian in Shanghai YK Pao School. I have

always considered myself fortunate to combine the career with my passion for children's literature and reading. I believe that school Libraries are important to all community members because Libraries connect everyone emotionally with books & reading, support teaching & learning within and beyond, and serve as a hub of lifelong learning. As the newly elected IASL Regional Director for East Asia, I expect myself to be your loyal partner and the magical organiser of events in IASL.

My first encounter with IASL began with the 2016 annual conference in Tokyo when a typhoon also decided to join the fun. Later, I introduced the GiggleIT Project and the International Bookmark Exchange Program to my schools. It was a process full of creativity, reflection and connection. Having more than 10 years of teaching experience in international education settings, mostly in East Asia, it is not uncommon for me to work with people from various cultural backgrounds. However, the sparkles kindled during the exchange of

conversation are always the highlight of my IASL experience.

When I am not juggling between family life and super Librarian duties, I fill up my time with various formal and informal teaching and learning opportunities. As a lifelong inquirer, I enjoy familiarising myself with new educational trends and skills by attending Webinar, workshops, and online courses from well-known universities or professional organizations. Recently, I was awarded with the IB Educator Certificate, IB Leadership Certificate and my second master degree (in Executive Master of Arts in International Educational Leadership and Change). Other times, I am an active participant and speaker at Library conferences and networking events.

I am honoured to have this opportunity to serve IASL and I look forward to connecting with you either in person or via our Facebook group: [www.facebook.com/IASL2020](https://www.facebook.com/IASL2020) (IASL East Asia Region).



# St James College Writes 50 – A Virtual Book Week 2020

BY MADELEINE JANE VINER, LIBRARY LEADER, ST JAMES COLLEGE

In these unusual times of COVID Stage 4 Lockdown and remote learning, our school celebrated “Book Week” virtually. Students and staff participated in a daily online literary quiz with questions written by our Student Library Leaders as the daily Quizmaster. Winners received a book voucher posted to their home address for an online purchase from our local bookstore. Our school theme for 2020 was “St James College Writes 50”. Poems were invited about positivity and celebration – a peaceful place, a favourite activity, food, pets, friendship, school, or family fun. Poems varied from one to four paragraphs in length. Thank you to the students and staff for their contributions to the St James College Writes 50. The compilation of these poems will be published on the school library website during our Term 4, 2020.

Two Year 7 student poems gives us all a sense of Spring, as a beautiful season to embrace, the warm sunshine and new buds on the trees. Our fourth term of the school year begins in October, the middle month of Spring

in the southern hemisphere, and runs through to December when we break up for summer holidays. Writing this article will see us return to school with Year 7 in the second week of Term 4. I look forward to teaching students in our physical library once again. Stay safe and may this newsletter find you enjoying some more “normal” times.

## Spring

by Blake Year 7 2020

*Spring, the blossoming flowers that make me sneeze*

*The pine trees, infested with bees*

*The sunsets make me feel calm,*

*On days like these, I lay down underneath a tree palm.*

*Sitting outside, underneath the sun,*

*Going out with friends and having fun.*

*Some days cold, some days hot,*

*Sitting by a heater, looking outside at a flowerpot.*

## Spring

by Ronny Year 7 2020

*I smell the flowers*

*And feel the power*

*Seeing the bird's flow*

*And feeling the wind blow*

*Feeling happy inside*

*And feel my pride*

*Going to the park*

*And seeing the dog's bark*

*Going to have fun*

*And starting to do a run*

*Viewing the ducks*

*And drinking out of my cup*

*Can't wait for tomorrow*

*To see the spring game show*

*Spring is here.*

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## Best Practices from World Libraries Photo Gallery

BY KATY MANCK, IASL PRESIDENT

Every year, the American Library Association's International Connections Committee gathers photos from libraries around the world, representing programs and projects centered on an annual theme.

The 2019-2020 theme of The Value of Libraries in Promoting Social Justice and Inclusion is featured in the IRC's newest photo gallery here: <https://sites.google.com/view/icc-programs/2020-photo-gallery>.

Grace Liu, ALA/IRRT IRC Co-Chair ([irrt.icc@gmail.com](mailto:irrt.icc@gmail.com)), invites us to view these photos and project descriptions as inspiration to develop programs in our school libraries which foster inclusion and social justice.

# Updating of IASL Professional Development Library

BY ELIZABETH GREEF

**H**ello IASL friends and colleagues,

The IASL Professional Development Library - <https://iasl-online.org/Professional-Development-Library> - was established in 2015 in response to an international survey conducted in 2011 through the International Development SIG. It is now time to revisit the links and information to ensure our PD Library has up-to-date links, ideas and useful information for our members. There are five ways members can help with this process:

1. Check the links of a topic below and add new more current information
2. Send me outstanding resources for any of the topics on the webpage
3. Contribute to one of the new unfinished topics by sending me content: Global Education Topics, Promoting Your Library, Reading and Student Motivation
4. Create a new topic which you think would be of value to add to the PD Library for other teacher librarians, perhaps COVID-related or any other
5. Create a PowerPoint or Youtube or other clip about using any of these topics for PD.

I am happy to coordinate the process of updating our PD Library and will undertake some

of the topics. Some have already been checked. The topics below are available for volunteers to check the links and upgrade the information. If you feel there is an area in which you have expertise or interest and would like to do this, please email me, Elizabeth Greef at [greef@optusnet.com.au](mailto:greef@optusnet.com.au)

- Designing a School Library Website
- Digital Citizenship
- Education-Related Publications
- Free Resources (see links on webpage)
- Getting started: Ideas and Procedures for Starting a School Library Association
- Information Literacy Resources
- Library Design/Learning Spaces
- Library-Related Publications (same as Periodicals link)
- Maker Spaces
- Mentoring
- Online Access to Professional Development Programs
- Open Educational Resources (OER)
- Past Papers from IASL Conferences
- Recent School Library Research (by IASL Research SIG)
- Rubrics
- Technology Integration in Schools
- Translation Services Online
- Working with Your Administration

## Process

Please let me know which topic you would like to undertake. Check the links from the website <https://iasl-online.org/Professional-Development-Library> Copy the topic from the website into Word. See if it needs updating with more current information or new research. When you have finished, please send to me in Word and I shall incorporate any extra suggestions received and forward to the IASL Secretariat for updating on the website.

Many thanks in anticipation of your contributions for our international school library community,

Elizabeth Greef  
E: [greef@optusnet.com.au](mailto:greef@optusnet.com.au)



# After March 13, 2020

BY KAY HONES, NBCT LIBRARIAN

Friday is always a busy day in the library. Another teacher & I had been working as a team, visiting classes with mini lessons on oral interview techniques. Students were interviewing family or community members about favorite recipes to be submitted to Students ReBuild Hunger Challenge. <https://www.studentsrebuild.org/challenges/hunger>

Also this Friday students baked delicious apple pie to celebrate Pi Day (using a library cookbook of course!)

Several students had researched & written a grant for mini gym equipment. The funders asked for a phone meeting so three teens gathered around the library desk to talk on speaker phone.

At a brief staff meeting we were told that all schools would be closed the following week. As the news became increasingly grim, California went on lockdown. Schools were closed through the end of the year.

Our staff had several online meetings to help plan for the rest of the semester. As I met with teachers from each class I noted specific topics to research for them & I also created a Covid-19 blog with helpful links. <http://emeraldenergyeducation.pbworks.com/w/page/28266715/FrontPage>

Several teachers asked about getting some specific items for students so I began to write Donors Choose grants. <https://www.donorschoose.org>  
The first grants were for hot spots since many of our students did not have wifi connections for online classes.

Some grants were for “stress busters” (books, small wooden puzzles, zentangles, peace cards, nature journals & art supplies).

Our school serves students in grades 7 through 12. All are at-risk students, with habitual truancy, behavior issues and histories of suspension, expulsion and probation. Several students live in group homes, foster care and some are homeless. 78% of the students are identified as special education.

During the school year students had gone on bike field trips, exploring parts of San Francisco, including the Golden Gate Bridge, Muir Woods & National Parks. Most of our students had never even been across the Golden Gate Bridge! Some teens wrote grants to get bikes after these excursions. As the lockdown continues, I got requests for more bikes to provide a safe way for teens to get outside & deal with stress.

During the last three months of the semester, several staff members delivered lessons, snacks & other resources to students. They related many requests to me. Many students were essential workers. Several were taking care of younger siblings. We have several teen families, so I wrote a grant for picture books, so young parents can read aloud to little ones. One teen in a group home emailed me requesting a book. After I sent it to her, another teen from the group home asked for several titles! (We have donated books that are being sent to the group homes this fall).



Golden Gate Bridge, San Francisco, CA 2020

I wrote grants for hygiene kits & healthy snacks. Because our students loved to cook (and EAT) I wrote “Teen Cooking During Covid-19” grants for mini blenders & crockpots.

After March 13, 2020 everything changed. Our students worked hard to attend classes online. With 18 grants I was able to support students with books and much more. Often when staff delivered items to teens, they texted photos to me, showing wide smiles & waves.

*“My two favorite things in life are libraries and bicycles. They both move people forward without wasting anything.” – Peter Golkin*

# Reading Week Celebration on the Occasion of International Literacy Day

BY DR. SARWESH PAREEK, LIBRARIAN, BHARATIYA VIDYA BHAVAN VIDYASHRAM PRATAPNAGAR, JAIPUR RAJASTHAN

Recognizing the importance of reading and to mark the occasion of International Literacy Day, BVB Vidyashram Pratapnagar, Jaipur celebrated Reading Week from 8th September to 14th September 2020. The following activities were conducted virtually during the week.

**“Identify and Draw a Cartoon Character Activity”** was conducted for classes I and II. In this activity students had to draw their favorite cartoon character, click the photograph with their drawing and submit it. Participation for this activity was very good. 94 students participated in the activity. Students had showed their creativity through this activity.

**“Cover page on my favorite book”** was initiated for the students of Classes III-IV. Around 68 students participated in the activity. They were asked to design the book cover for their favorite book. Few of the book covers designed by them were of Cinderella, Diary of Wimpy kid, Tintin, Thumbelina, etc. The participating students were awarded with e certificates to encourage them. The students were also asked to upload short video of one

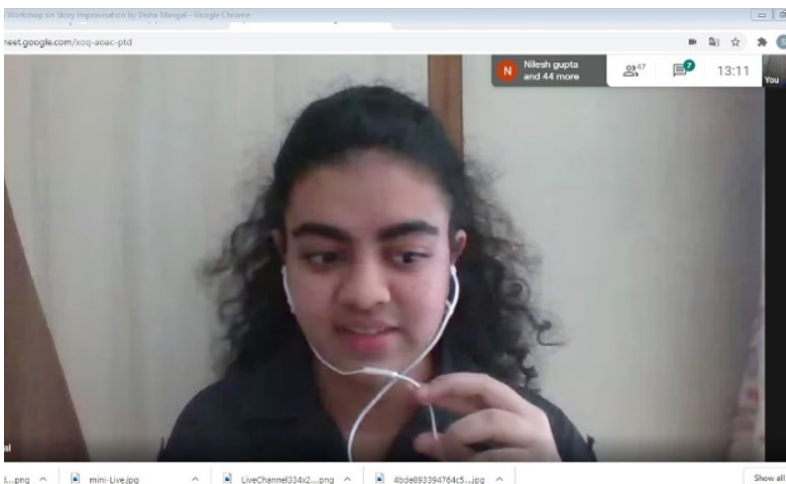
minute in which they expressed why they enjoy reading this book.

An online **“Making a Comic Strip”** activity was organized for the students of classes V and VI on 11.09.20 from 12:30 to 1:30 pm. Around 53 students participated in the activity enthusiastically. The students outpoured their imagination, feelings and creativity through comic strips including comic incidents, adventures, mysteries and a lot more. **“Read -a -Thon”** activity was conducted for classes VII and VIII through online mode on 14 September 2020. It was a new platform which was provided them to enhance reading proficiency, use critical thinking and integrate the background knowledge. Students found the activity interesting as reading time was recorded and the performance was shown to them on the spot. They were guided to use Readworks.org for future use and enhancing reading and comprehending skills.

**“Digital Diary Writing activity”** for the students of classes IX and X virtually on 15 September 2020. Under the activity students had to record an account of

their daily life, during the COVID-19 pandemic in the form of a Digital Diary. Students participated enthusiastically in the activity and poured out experiences of Lockdown days in really interesting and attention grabbing ways. Around 25 students participated in the activity. All the students were given a certificate which was further a source of motivation for them.

The young talented minds bloomed with amazing ideas during the **Story Improvisation Workshop** conducted on 15th September 2020 by DISHA MANGAL (ALUMNUS, BVBVPN) an award winning story writer, and novelist. The energizing imaginative thoughts poured in by students of Class VI-VIII revealed that young minds whenever ignited could fill everything with their power of creativity. The session aimed to teach students write stories and make characters come alive on paper. They enjoyed every bit of the workshop and the over whelming response proved their interest in honing this skill. In the workshop nearly 83 students are participated.



Speaker Disha Mangal: Presenting her topic in "Creative Writing workshop on Story Improvisation

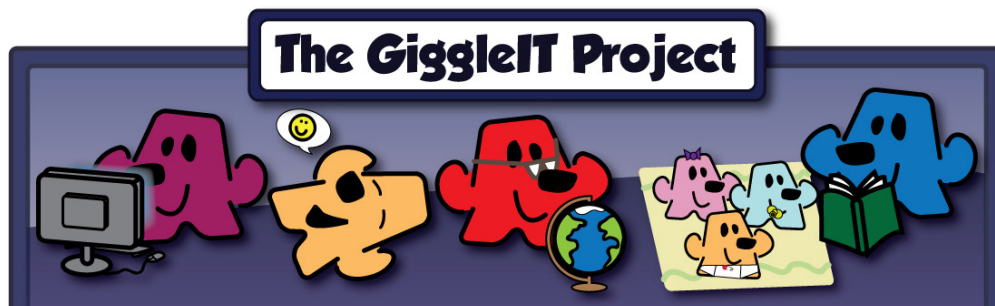


Students Participated in Cartoon Character Activity



# “Publish at Your Place” with GiggleIT Project

BY CHILDREN’S & YOUNG ADULT LITERATURE SIG



With free lesson plans and writing prompts, the GiggleIT Project for global student writing is now ready for your students to “publish at your place” sharing their creative works with school, family, and community: <https://iasl-online.org/advocacy/giggleit>.

Enhance a curriculum subject or connect with your students’ personal interests using a Spotlight Project from one of GiggleIT’s five themes:

- Animal Antics
- Festivals, Food & Fun
- Lucky Me, Lucky You
- Through My Window: Colors of My World
- Trickster Tales

Be sure to check out student works from GiggleIT’s first decade in the regional eBook collection here: <https://iasl-online.org/GiggleIT-eBooks>

For more information or to share what your students publish on your school library website, contact the GiggleIT Project Team at IASL. [GiggleIT@gmail.com](mailto:GiggleIT@gmail.com).

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## Impactful Community-Based Literacy Projects

BY DR. LESLEY S. J. FARMER, LIBRARY INFORMATION SIG CHAIR

Library Education SIG chair Dr. Lesley Farmer's newest book *Impactful Community-Based Literacy Projects* has been published by the American Library Association. Details are found at <https://www.alastore.ala.org/impactliteracy>

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## School Libraries Worldwide Now Accepting Rolling Submissions

BY DR. NANCY EVERHART, PROFESSOR, FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

School Libraries Worldwide, the official research journal of IASL, will begin to accept submissions to the journal on a rolling basis beginning this month. This means that we will be releasing articles as they have been received and reviewed, not just two times per year. We feel that this will enable our members to stay abreast of new research much

more efficiently. Articles published during the calendar year will make up the issue for that year.

So please consider submitting your original research to our journal. Guidelines for contributors can be found at: <https://iasl-online.wildapricot.org/publications/slwc/contributors.html>

All submissions undergo double-blind review. We are also seeking reviewers – particularly those outside the U.S., Canada, and Australia. If you are interested email either Nancy Everhart ([everhart@fsu.edu](mailto:everhart@fsu.edu)) or Marcia Mardis ([mmardis@fsu.edu](mailto:mmardis@fsu.edu)).



# Online Education for Students with Disabilities

BY DR. LESLEY FARMER, CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY LONG BEACH, IASL LIBRARY EDUCATION SIG

Teacher librarians and teacher librarian educators increasingly provide services online. One of the most vulnerable populations are students with disabilities. Not all resources are accessible for learners with physical impairments, but some students need to use assistive technology that might be hard to access remotely – or too expensive to acquire.

Here are some resources to provide accommodations for these populations.

- *Resources & tools: COVID-19.* (2020). National Center for Learning Disabilities. <https://nclld.org/covid19>
- *COVID-19 resources.* (2020). NCCSD. <https://www.nccsdclearinghouse.org/covid-19-resources.html>
- COVID-19 resources for the education of students with disabilities. (2020). Council of Chief State School Officials.

<https://www.sde.idaho.gov/coronavirus/sped/SPED-COVID-19-Resources-for-the-Education-of-SWDs.pdf>

- Barker, E. (2020, Apr. 7). 6 ways to support students with disabilities during COVID-19 school closures. NWEA. <https://www.nwea.org/blog/2020/6-ways-to-support-students-with-disabilities/>
- Duffy, K., & Holdren, J. (2020). Disability support services resources for COVID-19 online learning. Arcadia University. <https://www.arcadia.edu/academics/academic-support/disability-support-services/resources-covid-19-online-learning>
- *Coronavirus-COVID-19.* (2020). AHEAD. <https://www.ahead.org/professional-resources/coronavirus-resources>.
- *COVID-19 and education of students with disabilities resources.*

(2020). National Disabilities Rights Network. <https://www.ndrn.org/resource/covid-19-and-education-of-students-with-disabilities-resources/>

- *Learning for students with disabilities in the time of COVID-19.* (2020). American Bar Association. [https://www.americanbar.org/groups/crsj/events\\_cle/program-archive/covid-students-with-disabilities/](https://www.americanbar.org/groups/crsj/events_cle/program-archive/covid-students-with-disabilities/)
- *COVID-19 resources for the disability community.* (2020). Access Living. <https://www.accessliving.org/our-services/covid-19-resources-for-the-disability-community/>
- Terras, K., Leggio, J., & Phillips, M. (2015). Disability accommodations in online courses: The graduate student experience. *Journal of Postsecondary Education and Equality*, 28(3), 329-340. <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/EJ1083812.pdf>

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## Web-Based Advice Service for School Librarians Announced

BY BLANCHE WOOLLS, SCHOOL LIBRARY LEADERS OF AASL

A group of fourteen past-presidents of the American Association of School Librarians have come together to pool their expertise and experience to assist school librarians with strategies and resources helpful in addressing pandemic-exacerbated challenges.

The members of School Library Leaders (SLL), are pleased to announce a web-based service <https://www.digitalequity.us/about/key-partners/school-library-leaders/> where school librarians are welcome

to pose questions or problems they have encountered.

These will be reviewed by the team and answered as quickly as possible. In some instances, possible solutions may be suggested from a variety of perspectives given the team's widely varying backgrounds in school librarianship.

SLL includes the following contributors: Susan D. Ballard; Cassandra G. Barnett; Dr. Audrey P. Church; Sharon Coatney; Dr. Gail K.

Dickinson; Carl A. Harvey II; Dr. M. Ellen Jay; Sara Kelly Johns; Kathryn Roots Lewis; Ann M. Martin; Leslie B. Preddy; Harriet S. Selverstone; Dr. Barbara Stripling; and Dr. E. Blanche Woolls.

The National Collaborative for Digital Equity (NCDE) <https://www.digitalequity.us/> is honored to host the group and will be collaborating with them on a number of other initiatives to build the capacity of school librarians to become local systemic digital inclusion leaders.

# Migration – An International School Library Research project.

BY HELEN BOELENS PHD, INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL LIBRARY RESEARCHER AND ADVISOR, THE NETHERLANDS

**A**t the end of September 2020 a young Australian teacher librarian, working together with teachers at her school, asked for help in collecting films and documentaries for a special research project which was designed for Australian children in Year 6 (for children aged between 11 and 12 years). This special research project is part of the Australian National Curriculum, so a great number of students will be carrying out research on the same subject.

Hundreds of thousands of people migrated to Australia in the 1950's. People from many different countries throughout Europe, and also from other parts of the world, arrived in Australia on special ships which sailed to Australia for a minimal cost - something like Euro's 10 per person-- for the complete trip. This project asks students to find out more about what happened to these migrants, for example, why did people decided to immigrate, what were their expectations, and their experiences? What happened when they actually arrived in Australia? What specific problems did they have? How have

these people survived over the years? What is happening to these people now (many of them who arrived as children are now elderly people)? What did they miss (for example, their relatives at home, different types of food, etc..)? After leaving for Australia, some people never saw their mother or father, grandma or grandpa again. How did they feel? Perhaps this project is also relevant to the mass migration which is happening throughout the world at the moment? Are the experiences of migrants and reasons for immigration similar to those which happened during the 1950's?

I sent a request to the IASL listserv and to other school library groups, asking for help for our young colleague. Friends and colleagues throughout the world were asked to help to find films, documentaries or family films (preferably in English, or with English subtitles) about people from their own country who went to Australia as migrants during the 1950's.

The response has been amazing and heartwarming. It is wonderful to see how school librarians and

teacher librarians throughout the world have worked together to help each other. I have received information from Australia, Brazil and from all over Europe: Italy, Greece, Portugal, the Netherlands, the UK, Republic of Ireland and Germany. Suggestions are still coming in. School librarians and teachers librarians throughout the world have co-operated with each other in a wonderful way. Since this project is part of the Australian National Curriculum, the information which has been received can be passed on to many different teachers and students throughout Australia.

Thank you all!

I wonder whether or not it would be possible to organize a special international school library research project each year, as part of International School Library Month, as an example of how school librarians can work together to help each other at international level? Suitable subject involving us all, could be selected.

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## 2021 IASL Annual Conference

BY JILL HANCOCK, IASL SECRETARIAT

The 49th Annual Conference and 24th Annual International Forum on Research in School Librarianship is scheduled for July 12-16th, 2021. The theme for the 2021 conference is "A Rich Tapestry of Practice and Research around the World."

Due to the ongoing concerns regarding COVID-19, the IASL

Board of Directors and Executive Committee, in partnership with the IASL 2021 Conference Committee, have decided IASL's Annual 2021 Conference will be held VIRTUALLY.

Registration begins January 1, 2021. Learn more about the upcoming conference on the conference website <https://iasl2021.unt.edu/>.



# Pakistani School Libraries' Response to COVID-19

BY ABID HUSSAIN, LIBRARY OFFICER, INSTITUTE OF STRATEGIC STUDIES ISLAMABAD (ISSI)



Abid Hussain



Dawn News, <https://www.dawn.com/news/1573944/sops-for-educational-institutions-issued>

In Pakistan, the first case of COVID-19 occurred on February 26, 2020. Due to COVID-19, the government of Pakistan imposed social distancing, shutdown, curfews, quarantine, cancellation, and other precautionary measurements to control the outbreak and its expansion from further destruction.

As of October 5, 2020, Pakistan had recorded 314,616 cases and 6,513 deaths (<https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/country/pakistan/>), with a second wave threatening and is increasing in the second layer.

At the school level, the library practitioners in Pakistan have devised numerous policy plans to tackle health crisis.

Schools, colleges, and universities were shut down in March 2020. Many remote study programs were initiated at academic institutions via Zoom and other applications.

People in urban areas were

educated to access online material via the internet. Digital Libraries were set up for online access to study material.

The Ministry of Education launched a TV Channel for kids in urban and suburban areas to engage children in learning during the pandemic.

Schools were opened in mid of September 2020, and the government formulated Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for all schools and academic institutions to follow. Failing to use them will lead to school being closed again.

Academics at college, school, and university level are using preventive and protective measures to avoid further spreading of COVID-19 - wearing masks, using sanitizer, washing hands, and social distancing are necessary.

Per the UNESCO report of 2010, there are more than 1, 63, 000 public primary schools in Pakistan and the total number of school

libraries is 7000 (IFLA world report, 2010). <https://readpakistan.org.pk/100000-school-libraries/>

Many schools at the government level are deprived of libraries; nevertheless, some urban schools have developed few libraries. Each school has a room for library and reading purposes, but none has spent even a small amount for library causes; they have always ignored the finding of literally decades of research that shows why school libraries and qualified teacher-librarians are an essential component in the academic programming of any school.

COVID-19 is spreading like waves, and controlling it is challenging. However, if the above precautionary measurements were adopted at schools and college libraries, it may control disease and prevent our children from further catastrophe. School libraries are an essential part of the intellectual growth of our children who may suffer from having no adequate reading resources in any pandemic.



# Update from the Australian School Library Association

BYMARGO PICKWORTH, PRESIDENT, AUSTRALIAN SCHOOL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION



<https://asla.org.au/conference-2021>

The Australian School Library Association is proud to announce that our Patron, Dr Margaret Merga, in partnership with ASLA has been successful in obtaining funding from BUPA to undergo a ground-breaking research project entitled: School libraries promoting wellbeing in Australian primary and secondary schools: An exploratory study.

This study will provide research-based evidence for the important role that school libraries and school library staff play in promoting positive mental health in schools across Australia. ASLA thanks Dr Merga for her initiative and looks forward to working together on this very worthwhile research project.

Dr Merga has recently released two open access research papers that are

highly relevant to school libraries and IASL readership is invited.

- Merga, M.K. (2020). How can school libraries support student wellbeing? Evidence and implications for further research. *Journal of Library Administration*, Read it [here](#).
- Merga, M.K. (2020). School Librarians as Literacy Educators Within a Complex Role, *Journal of Library Administration*, Read it [here](#).

The Australian School Library Association continues to provide high quality professional development and as a result of COVID can now open this learning to the world.

Our Virtual National Conference 2021 will be held on 12-13 April, 2021,

in partnership with SLASA (South Australian Association of School Libraries). View our Conference homepage [here](#).

The theme selected for the conference is Keys to Learning and confirmed keynote speakers include Dr Kay Oddone, Head of Libraries Singapore, with interests in education and librarianship and the connection between learning and post digital perspectives and Steve Francis, leading Australian educator assisting to develop a positive, optimistic and energetic attitude to change.

The Conference committee is now calling for high quality presentation proposals that address one or more conference themes. The Call for Presenters link is available [here](#) and proposals are due Friday 23rd October, 2020.

ASLA are also holding a national Literacy Research Summit, online on 21st November. For further information and registration, the link is [here](#). The Summit will highlight Dr Margaret Merga as our Keynote Speaker, presenting her latest research into literacy in schools, and bring together experienced School Library Practitioners, School Leaders and Literary Experts from across Australia. Further information and registration available [here](#).

## Make Everyday Mandela Day!

BY MAMTA MAGGU, BAL BHARATI PUBLIC SCHOOL, NOIDA, INDIA

To mark the birth anniversary of Nelson Mandela various activities were planned and executed on 18 July 2020, Saturday by the students of Bal Bharati Public School Noida, India to pay a tribute to Madiba.

Every student came forth to do their bit to make the world a better place for everyone to live in. As Nelson Mandela says- "Sometimes it falls upon a generation to be great, you can be that generation..."

So the following activities were done by the students of Bal Bharati Public School, Noida, India.

- Made "care kits", including items such as a comb, toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, face cloth, etc. for patients of government hospitals and sent them through agencies helping people.
- Made masks for poor and needy.

- Helped the stray animals and offered food and water to them and the birds.
- Narrated stories of Madiba to other children to motivate

