



I AM A SLOVENIAN LIBRARIAN

Zdenka Ižanc is a primary school librarian and teacher of Slovene at Il. Oš Rogaška Slatina, Slovenia, where she has worked for 26 years. Like her Aussie colleagues, she loves her library. Zdenka wrote to inCite to tell us about her library and we are featuring her contribution here as a taste of what's to come when ALIA members share your experiences in libraries around the world – as visitors or as employees – in our library tourism feature in the August issue. (That's a hint! – Ed.)



Zdenka in her library

I also encourage our students to take part in the Library-Museum MEGA quiz which requires students to use various information sources like libraries, museums, and galleries. And I organise book clubs for our readers to exchange opinions on books they have read. I have found book clubs to be the best way of promoting reading.

I strongly wish our students to approach reading as something enjoyable – and not painful! I want them to be able to find a piece of information in the shortest possible time, and I expect that they become functionally literate.

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We have 534 students in our school and around 50 of them visit the library every day, where I work with one assistant. We lend about 15,000 materials every school year, most of them before the holidays. Our library has more than 14,000 books.

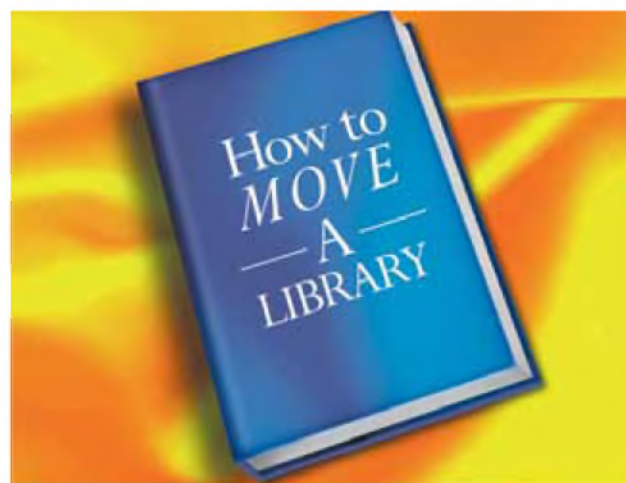
The school library is an essential resource at our school and is intended to be used by pupils, teachers and other workers from our school. Academic resources can be borrowed from 11am to 2pm every day from Monday to Friday. Students have access to computers and the internet and are encouraged to use both as it relates to their academic studies.

In order to develop and improve the reading habits and reading culture of our pupils our school joined The Reading Badge Project in 1985. I have found it to be an excellent opportunity to make important books more popular. At the same time, students are directed to technical literature and shown how to use dictionaries, encyclopedias and various handbooks. Thus the slogan 'With Books into the World' is definitely appropriate. Each student who reads at least five books in a school year and talks to his/her mentor about them, gets a reading badge certificate at the end of the school year. If they read for all nine years of their primary schooling, they can be awarded with a Golden Reader certificate and a book.

The main goal of our school library is to encourage reading and expand the reading habits of all library users. This has been done in several ways. Firstly, I organise book exhibitions of both fiction and non-fiction. Pupils can look at them together with their teachers, within their lessons or by themselves on their own. We also arrange exhibitions for newly released books.

Secondly, teachers can schedule library time when library skills and materials are needed as part of the classroom learning experience. We prepare the lessons together. Teachers teach according to their curriculum and I develop and implement curriculum related to information literacy and inquiry.

Thirdly, I prepare a book puzzle that is related to recent cultural events once a month. Last February, for example, the topic was culture and Slovenia's greatest poet, France Prešeren, was our focus as we celebrated a national holiday on the day of his death.



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