

ITLA'S NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2023 | ISSUE 1 : EUROPE

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SAVE THE DATE

28TH AUGUST - WEBINAR : GENDER PERSPECTIVE IN PLAYFUL DEVICES, JUEGOTECAS BARRIALES, ARGENTINA (SPANISH)

27TH SEPTEMBER - WEBINAR : UX (USER EXPERIENCE) DESIGN IN A TOY LIBRARY, CÉIRE HOPLEY, NEW ZEALAND (ENGLISH)

MORE DETAILS PAGE 3 & 4



European Group at the 16th ITLA conference in Melbourne.

EDITORIAL MESSAGE

Dear Toy Librarians,

ITLA intends to publish a bi-monthly newsletter that will include information from our members world wide.

In this issue, first, we share information collected from Europe and its members represented by the European Toy Libraries (ETL) group. After several years of struggling to meet in person because of the pandemic, the ETL group met in April in Graz, Austria. There, our European link person, Yaël Vergara had the pleasure to meet highly motivated toy librarians and his feedback from ITLA was well received by ETL members.

We wish the best for the European community of toy libraries that will be lead by Ana Laurenço from Portugal. She was elected as the new coordinator of the ETL group and will continue the great job by Renate Fuchs (see page 2).

In a second part, we share some of the activities developed by toy librarians around the world to celebrate World Play Day.

Hope you'll have pleasure reading the good news from our members.



Yaël VERGARA ALVAREZ
European Link and newsletter editor.



EUROPEAN TOY LIBRARIES

After a break of three years, due to Covid 19, the 24th meeting of the Group of European Toy Libraries (ETL) took place the 28th and 29th April 2023 in Graz, Austria. 15 representatives from 9 European countries were present : Austria, Belgium - French and Flemish part, France, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, and Switzerland.

During this 2 days of meetings, the group explored several subjects such as the future of the group and toy libraries in Europe. The group created beautiful new memories with fellow toy librarians, after having to wait several years to renew this moment of exchanges in person. Several reports of different countries were shared. The diversity showcased the different circumstances that European toy libraries live in, and how their work is important in their countries.

ETL is an informal group and this is well appreciated by its members because it allows them to communicate and work together without too many regulations and constraints such as General Assemblies or dealing with annual membership fees and budgets. The group decided to continue to collaborate in that manner.

The group will organise a virtual meeting six monthly and a physical meeting each year in an European country. The next meeting will take place in Tenerife from April 19th – 20th, 2024. ETL is confident that attendance at the upcoming meeting in Tenerife will be as good as this year.

The group is deeply thankful to Arno Hofer from Austria and his colleagues for hosting such a rich meeting and for all the hospitality.

Finally, Ana Lourenço from Portugal will assume the role of coordinator of the group. She was elected unanimously for the group to continue the great work done by Renate Fuchs.

Renate Fuchs from Switzerland was the coordinator of the group since 1996. She ensured the cohesion and work of the group.

ETL members, along with toy librarians across the globe, are thank deeply to Renate Fuchs, who closed her last meeting after 28 years of work for ETL.

Many thanks to Renate for fulfilling this job for so long and with so much dedication!



At the top, Renate Fuchs make the handover of the ETL coordination to Ana Laurenço. **At the bottom,** participants of the 24th ETL meeting at Graz, Austria. They are accompanied by a representative of the townhall of Graz



NEW QUALITY STANDARDS FOR FRENCH TOY LIBRARIES

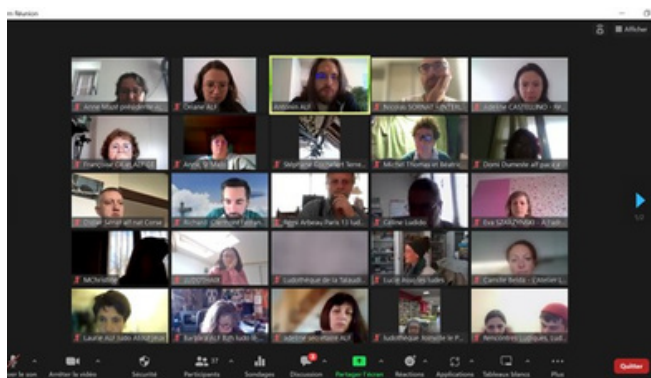
The French Toy Libraries Association (ALF) is a non-profit organization. Their mission is to enhance the quality of Play, leading and delivering value to its members through advocacy, training, and networking (with a monthly newsletter, an annual toy librarians meeting, yearly awards, and the coordination of World Play Day in France).

ALF also creates tools for toy librarians, like ludic literature and documentation by feeding the Wikiludo database which increases information about toys and boardgames. ALF also provides consultation to toy librarians or project leaders.

Last April, ALF approved a document that states quality standards for French Toy Libraries. ALF believes that these standards will increase the value of toy libraries in the respective communities. The current state of the art of games and the multiplication of entertainment activities (escape rooms, boardgames coffee-bars, adventure playgrounds, etc.) urgently required ALF to create such a document to preserve the identity of Toy Libraries. Moreover, Toy Libraries' members and funders were asking for this, so they know exactly how they can improve quality and respond to their users' needs.

ALF's document defines Play and highlights the importance of play being free and meaningful in itself as an activity (versus all kind of utilitarianism like gamification, serious games or learning experiences). The standards specifies the desired skills for professionals and desired training, the need for all kind of games and toys (based on the ESAR classification system), the desired Playing surface, defines the roles of users and its investment and other criteria to be adhered to in order to be recognized as a Toy Library.

The next step for ALF will be to implement quality standards as a certification hallmark for French Toy Libraries. If you want to consult the document, it is freely accessible (in French) by [clicking here](#).



Virtual meeting for approval of the ALF quality standards.

TERRE LUDIQUE BRINGS PLAY TO LOW INCOME NEIGHBORHOODS

Since its creation, **Terre Ludique** has sought to favor Play and leisure in low income populations because toys and games are facilitators of social interaction and positively contributes to the development of communities.

Since 2019 we have looked for aligning our action to institutional policies, sustainable goals and global community sharing. Each year we have launched "thematics games" that tackled one or various of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). This year we focused on Good Health and Well Being. In one hand because it encompass the benefits of Play and games, and in the other hand because the Olympics Games will take place in France during the summer of 2024.

The Olympics Games Trucks (OGT) is an original creation of Terre Ludique. OGT comprises a set of game experiences, adaptation of traditional games and tailor-made games produced in our FabLab. Some examples are the adaptation of the Draughts game to the Olympic Game of Rugby, the creation of a physical scenario in which we adapted sport-balance board to create the Olympic Game of Surf or the adaptation of the "grinding wheel" game to the Olympic Game of Swimming.

Examples cited above form part of more than 20 games created for use during 2023-2024 for the Neighborhoods of Summer ou Quartiers d'été which are supported by the Government, the Prefecture of Bouches-du-Rhône Prefecture, the City of Marseille and social landlords. Thanks to their contribution we have already reached more than 5k people.



Children Surfing in a low income neighborhood in Marseille.

AMI-E-S DE LUDOS SUR ROUES

Ami.e.s de Ludos sur Roues is a non-profit organization and a proud member of ITLA. Every two years a big meeting is organised for volunteers, employees and their families. This unique meeting reunites French, English, Spanish and Italian speakers!

The 10th edition is taking place this year from the 21st to the 25th August 2023 in the Drôme Provençale, a paradise in the South of France. You're invited ! Complete your registration as soon as possible [here](#)!

The program includes moments of discussions and considerations about the practices of mobile toy libraries and Play, moments of Play, and informal meetings to network and meet other toy librarians. Moreover, we will install a "Giant Ludo" in the recreation center located in the town of Buis-les-Baronnies on Wednesday August 23. It will be accessible and free for the public from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

We invite you to bring your games! We have also created a special Family program which is [accessible here](#)! For more information, please contact: amisludosuroues@gmail.com



At the top, logo of Ami-e-s des Ludos sur Roues. **At the bottom**, one of the mobile toy libraries at the last Ami-e-s ludos sur Roues edition.



ITLA WEBINARS

ITLA is committed to bring value to its members. Since last July we launched webinars. We are expecting to provide you with a first series of 10 webinars over the next year. This webinar will bring you highlights from the 16th International Toy Library Conference held in Melbourne in March.

All webinars are FREE for ITLA members and €5 for non-members. If you are an ITLA association member, your members are also able to access the training for free.

The sessions will be held on Zoom across a variety of time zones, however, everyone registered will receive a recording of the webinar and copies of any presentations via email if they are unable to attend the session in person.

For the first session, we used Zoom's translation feature which automatically translated speech in real-time into captions in 28 languages. Feedback was good that we are self confident that you'll enjoy the next webinars in your own language. Register for the webinar [here](#) and join our global community of toy librarians.



Gender perspective in playful devices.

Proposed by: Juegotecas Barriales Program Team, Argentina.

Date and time: Thursday 24 August, 14:00 UTC

Abstract: The gender perspective has become an approach that cannot be ignored in public policy areas and particularly in relation to childhood. This imperative has been assumed by Programa Juegotecas Barriales in understanding that all construction around gender starts from a young age, even before birth, from expectations and projections of the adult world, and is consolidated and reproduced in the different spaces where children pass through.

Thus, toy libraries are understood as part of this framework where representations are built in relation to childhood and gender, and as a privileged place to deploy questions about the constructs.

This webinar will be presented in Spanish. Book at www.trybooking.com/CKGRC

UX design in a toy library.

Proposed by: Céire Hopley, New Zealand.

Date and time: Wednesday 27 September, 8:30 UTC.

Abstract: This webinar will demonstrate how UX (user experience) research can be used to discover users' frustrations, challenges and irritations, and to implement fast and inexpensive solutions to improve the user experience in a toy library. The workshop will feature hands-on research methods that are easy and fun.

This webinar will be presented in English. Book at www.trybooking.com/CKGRV

WORLD PLAY DAY 2023

ARGENTINA

The **Programa de Juegotecas Barriales** (PJB) or Neighborhood Toy Libraries Program has integrated the World Play Day into the schedule of activities for the Development of Children and Adolescents Program in order to continue promoting and making Play visible as a right for Children.

As most of ITLA members, we choose to celebrate it the May 28th because the main purpose is to make visible the right to Play for children as stated in the 31st article of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child : "*children have the right to rest, leisure, games and recreational activities appropriate to their age, as well as to participate freely and actively in cultural life and in the arts*".

During the 29th and 30th May, the PJB exhibited *Hacer Jugar (Make Play)* at the Ministry of Human Development and Housing. During those days, workers of the Ministry participated in different activities that highlight the value of Play in the different stages of life. Moreover, by opening the Ministry to the community, we could interact and give visibility to the PJB toy libraries whilst advocating for the right to Play for boys and girls of our city.



Images from the WPD organized by the Programa de Juegotecas Barriales which was hosted by the Ministry of Human Development and Housing.

EL SALVADOR

Niñez Primero Foundation celebrated the World Play Day with activities that our toy libraries programs developed in rural towns and national hospitals of our country.

The games aimed to promote the Sustainable Development Goals and the right to recreation of our children in El Salvador and the World. The games they played with were mostly made with recycled materials that can easily be found in our homes so that it can be easier to share them at home.

As Foundation we work in important areas of child development such as cognitive, sensory, physical, and emotional development, as well as the increase of motor skills.



Images from the WPD organized by Niñez Primero in El Salvador.

PUERTO RICO

Since 2014, the **College of Social Work Professionals of Puerto Rico** (CPTSPR) has commemorated International World Play Day. Through the efforts of the Permanent Commission for the Defense of Human Rights of the CPTSPR during the year 2023, "the Socio-educational Guide: Play, Have Fun and Learn" was revised and expanded. [Click here for consulting the document](#) (in Spanish).

This guide is a didactic resource accessible to the community. It contains the historical context, the importance of the play and specific examples. Also, a poster was prepared for dissemination of the celebration. This material was promoted through the social networks of the collectivity (Facebook and Instagram).

Information about the celebration was also disseminated through radio, interviews, and the country's written press (Primera Hora Newspaper and [El Nuevo Día Newspaper](#)).

This professional group -CPTSPR- offered training to people interested in carrying out recreational activities in their organizations or communities. Government and non-governmental organizations in various municipalities of the country disseminated information or carried out gaming activities aimed at the populations they serve (infants, youth, adults and older adults).

MEXICO

In Mexico, the WPD activities are coordinated by Monica Juarez from **Fundación México Juega AC**. The activities of our members were very nourished and bring out the Sustainable Development Goals. We promoted alliances to advocate and promote the right to play around 8 of the SDGs. Different strategies were set up: a Webinar on the topic of "Playing and Toy Libraries for Sustainability", creating and diffusion of infographics (see below).

In addition, we created a document on the ITLA's WPD booklet to inform toy libraries and toy librarians about the theme of World Game Day 2023. We also provide some ideas and guidelines for making games and toys.



Images of infographics created by Mexico Juega for the WPD in Mexico.

Mexico Juega organized the WPD in all the country and we received beautiful videos and photos of all events. Examples of that are this beautiful feed back from the city of Tijuana ([click here](#) to see the video). According to Lilibeth Padilla from **Vamos a Jugar** (our link person in the north of Mexico) the WPD was a success and included activities of Play, art, role play, leisure, science, among others.



At the top, photos of WPD in Tijuana. At the bottom, photos of the WPD organized at the National Library of Mexico.



In the National Library of Mexico, the WPD had place from 10am to 4pm with superhero-themed activities. We played chess, carried out reading activities and played bingo games with books. We welcomed more than 1k persons of which 60% were children.

From its part, Gabriela Fontaine from hospital toy libraries, **Escondite de Ringo** reported that more than 2,3k participated at the WPD in different states of the country. People played board games, traditional games, children's rounds, video games, made craft workshop, etc.

We carry out beautiful collaborative work together with the Volunteers of PEMEX and the toy library the **Amikoo and its World**.

In hospitals, children wrote letters where they expressed their feelings about Play, as well as their favorite games and toys. These letters were exchanged between patients from the Amikoo and Ringo toy libraries.

We are very grateful to the toy librarian Florencia Ramos, Coordinator of the **Pemex toy libraries**, for making this possible. Without a doubt, these activities strengthen the links between hospital toy libraries, defending together the right to play.



¡DÍA INTERNACIONAL DEL JUEGO!

Photos from different toy libraries coordinated by Mexico Juega and El Escondite de Ringo.

FRANCE

The 28th May **Terre Ludique** celebrated the WPD at his headquarters located at Good Kids St. in Marseille.

We organized an event that had two purposes, in one hand to celebrate the WPD for promoting children right to Play and in the other to develop the project "Rue aux Enfants, rue pour Tous" (Street for Kids, street for All). This is a label in France awarded to organizations engage themselves with a project that will propose original activities, restrict traffic at the street and create green zones for one day.

The event welcomed more than 200 people, 4 times more than last year! Families from different parts of the city came to our toy library to play indoor and at the street. Different activities were proposed : escape rooms, board games, traditional games and drawing activities by our a volunteer partner Voir et Dessiner (non-profit organization) The day was very vibrant and we honor the name of our street, we played like Good Kids!

Terre Ludique thanks this engagement of the 9 volunteers and its employees that participate at the WPD, as well as the support of the town hall of the 6th & 8th district and the City Hall of Marseille.



At the top, children playing at Good Kids St. **At the bottom**, Stéphane COCHEFERT (director of Terre Ludique) offers closing words for the WPD participants.



In France other activities were carried out by different toy libraries and **the Association de Ludothèques Françaises - ALF** is getting precise information about the WPD from all the country to share with ITLA members.

We invite you to share your stories as other countries, maybe another inspirational story from the public toy library **Au temps du jeu**, which is a member of ALF and a small suburb of Paris could encourage you to send us our WPD story. [Click here to watch it!](#)

CONGRATULATIONS!

Centro Lúdico was born as a training center for institutions and organizations that work with children. It was conceived by the Juegotecas Barriales Program as a space for improving Play practices, for research in Play, childhood and for innovating in the field. Moreover, it was planned as a permanent offer for institutions and organizations to encounter with girls and boys.

Its creation and implementation was a qualitative leap in the conception of the Juegotecas Barriales Program, positioning itself as a reference in the theme of play and childhood.

To this date, more than 14,8k people have benefit of our training with different themes and modalities. As well as 1,325 institutions that attended with more than 25k boys and girls who came to play with our proposals for institutional visits. 5 open exhibitions of games and toys were held starting in February 2020 in its summer and winter editions. We participated in different national and international conferences presenting the experience of our work as part of the Juegotecas Barriales program.

For all this shared journey, we carried out a special celebration from July 17 to 21, 2023. Thanks to all people that made this possible!



CALL TO CONTRIBUTIONS

Be part of this world wide community of Play! Share your upcoming events, publications, and success stories with ITLA's members.

The newsletter will be published on the first week of June, August, October, December, February and April.

Deadline for receiving contributions from members will be 15 days before the publication date.

Send you information in English, French or Spanish to our e-mail address: info@itla-toylibraries.org.

Join us at



Play!

CONTACT

- Membership queries: members@itla-toylibraries.org
- Newsletter contribution and general info: info@itla-toylibraries.org
- Website: itla-toylibraries.org
- Facebook: [International Toy Library Association](https://www.facebook.com/InternationalToyLibraryAssociation)

HOW TO JOIN US ?

ITLA invites Toy libraries, national toy library associations, toy librarians, play professionals, and organizations and individuals interested in Play to join us. You can do it by [clicking on this link](#). Complete the form and pay the membership via EFT or PayPal.

You'll join an international active community that helps you to build relationships with experienced persons in the toy library and play world.

By joining us, you'll have access to knowledge about toy libraries, toy librarianship, the opportunity to learn more about best Play practices, learn about quality in toy libraries, enrich your global network and personal understanding of toy libraries, etc.

Join the biggest international network of toy libraries in the world!

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS AND RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIPS

We would like to thank you for your membership. You're contributing to the development of our community in which everybody will benefits of Play.

Lidia Beatriz Arrausi
Yaël Vergara Alvarez
Poai Wong

Terre Ludique

Virginia Guardia

Audrey Pabs-Garnon

Jaroslava Kreskociova

Bárbara Pena

Finger Lakes Toy Library

Toy Libraries Australia

Institute Apoio Crianca

Carrick Macross Toy Library

Laura van Laethem

Toy Library Association of Kenya (TLA-KE)

Toyhouse

USA Toy Library Association