



Montreuil Toy Library, France

Newsletter - November 2011

The beginning of a new era for the ITLA Newsletter

At the 12th International Toy Library Conference that took place in São Paulo, Brazil from 11 - 15 October, 2011 the members of ITLA, the link people and others called for the printed Newsletter to be replaced by an electronic version.

The main reasons for this were:

- it is easier to share an electronic Newsletter than it is to share a printed copy
- it is more cost-effective to share an electronic Newsletter
- it is more friendly to the environment - less paper.

This Newsletter is our first effort and we hope you like it. Comments will be much appreciated.

We are hoping to send out shorter Newsletters more often and we appeal to everyone to send us stories of your toy libraries with a photo; news from your national associations; toy and book reviews; references to useful and interesting web sites and articles; information about upcoming training courses and

conferences; reports about training courses and conferences that you have attended.

Plus anything else you think would be of interest to other toy librarians. There are toy libraries that do not have Internet facilities. It is our hope that especially the national associations will print out the Newsletter (even in black/white) and distribute it to those toy librarians.

Your contact person for the Newsletter and website - for sending information and for providing feedback is Maxine Fine - the ITLA Administrator.



The email address to use is info.itla@gmail.com

A NEW BOARD FOR ITLA

At the General Assembly of ITLA members which was held on the 14 October 2011, a new board of directors was elected. The new board met to elect its office bearers and ITLA is proud to announce that its new President is **Monica Juarez Soria** from Mexico.



Monica will be giving her first message and introducing the new board in our next Newsletter



A very Special Thank You!

Giorgio Bartolucci has been involved in the layout, printing and posting of the ITLA Newsletter for many, many years. He was supported by various board members (and in the last year mainly by Maxine Fine) who gathered the content for the Newsletters and who helped with the editing of the articles. It has then been up to Giorgio to put together the Newsletter that ITLA has been increasingly proud of.

Thanks Giorgio!

From now onwards, Giorgio will be helping ITLA in its efforts to promote toy libraries and the importance of play to many influential organisations throughout the world.



First National Toy Library Conference Marmara University, TURKEY



Official Opening - Dr Isik Kamaraj



The Faculty Dean with speakers at the end of the Conference

Theme of the Conference - *A Valuable Support in Society for Everyone: Toy Library*

The four major topics for the Conference were:

- The importance of toy libraries for society
- Games for development
- Children's right to play
- Applications in toy libraries in Turkey

Papers, included:

- The importance of toy libraries in society in terms of children's rights
- The important role of toy libraries in society
- Play: the development of brain movement and social sufficiency
- The importance and the role of play in child development
- Three papers considered specific toy libraries and models

The speakers were Prof. Dr. Ayla Oktay from Maltepe University; Prof. Dr. Müzeyyen Sevinc from Yeditepe University; Prof. Dr. Belma Tugrul, Hacettepe University; Prof. Dr. Basal Asude Handan, Uludag University; Dr. Bulent Madi, Marmara University; Sukran Evirgen, Education Specialist from the Directorate General of the Ministry of Education, Early Childhood and Dr. Isik Kamaraj, Marmara University.

An exhibition took place to introduce "Eyup Toys" (traditional Turkish toys).

The conference was attended by university academics, researchers, government representatives, toy librarians, UNICEF and UNESCO representatives, pre-school teachers, students and interested members of the public.



Sculpture of an Eyup Toy

Submitted by:
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New ITLA Website launched - www.itla-toylibraries.org

ITLA has just acquired a contemporary, inspiring new logo and has very recently launched its new website. Both reflect the vibrancy and relevance of the organisation. Today, more than ever in the past, the crucial role of toy libraries in providing play opportunities for a variety of community and family needs is very evident.

The website provides valuable information for toy librarians and for those who want to know more about toy libraries. There will soon be an interactive blog where questions will be answered. A few sections are only available to ITLA members. Please send your information and articles for the website and encourage all toy librarians to join ITLA so that the organisation can truly reflect toy libraries worldwide.



Dominique Dumeste from France, new ITLA board member, having fun in Brazil



Delegates at the Link Person's Meeting in São Paulo with puppets given as a gift by Heleen Johnson from South Africa

First photos from the 12th International Toy Library Conference, held in São Paulo, Brazil in October 2011

Sustainability of the Western Australian Association of Toy Libraries

The Western Australian Association of Toy Libraries (WAATL) is working currently for the future sustainability of our organisation. Whilst we are the peak body for toy libraries in this state with 90 member toy libraries we have no continuing income for support staff and are managed by a volunteer committee.

The immediate issue for our committee is funding. WAATL has undertaken an organisation development process and will publish a Business Plan. This project has been facilitated using an external contractor, Peter Kenyon of Bank of Ideas, who has a great understanding and appreciation of community led projects. www.bankofideas.com.au.

The goals set for the short term future are to procure a grant (through Lotterywest) for Development Officers. The grant will enable employment of staff

to undertake the implementation of broadening our income base and commence programs in communities as an outcome of the increased income.

One of the identified impediments to income being raised through charitable donation is that toy libraries do not have a clear legal definition. This matter was raised at a conference in 2004. However WAATL is unaware if the outcome was published.

In Australia, to attain charitable status, there are narrow criteria: "Charity" in its legal sense comprises four principal divisions: trusts for the relief of poverty; trusts for the advancement of education; trusts for the advancement of religion; and trusts for other purposes beneficial to the community, not falling under any of the preceding heads."

If any organisation has already tackled this issue and has a definition published from which we may work, WAATL would be a grateful recipient.

Please send it to president@toylibrary.asn.au

WAATL welcomes all ideas, information or business plans other organisations and toy libraries have undertaken and encourage sharing ideas within the ITLA community.

Submitted by:
Julie Oliver
President, Western Australia Association of Toy Libraries
www.toylibrary.asn.au
'providing tools for playful learning'

The opening & one year celebration of Forrestfield Toy Library, Perth, Western Australia

In the photo are children, Susan Kreemer Pickford (President FTL), Andrew Waddell MP (Forrestfield) and Julie Oliver (President WAATL).



Party Game Tournament in Croatia

The *First Party Games Tournament* in Croatia was organised by the Association Mensemedio from Split and was held in 2009 in the Split's Public Library Marko Marulić.

The public libraries of Buzet, Novigrad and Pazin joined the Tournament. Interested children, aged up to 15, about 50 from each library, competed in games such as Scrabble Upwords, Guess Who? and Monopoly. The winner in each of these games, accompanied by a librarian, travelled to Split to the national competition. The Istrian teams proved to be quite successful. The Pazin team won two gold medals in the games Guess Who? and Monopoly, the Buzet team won a gold medal in the game Upword and a bronze medal in the game Guess Who?, while the Novigrad team won a silver medal in the game Guess Who?. The qualifications in these three games saw the participation of 1,500 children throughout Croatia, and the best 36 of them played each other during a four-day competition in Split.

The winner in Split organised the tournament in their town. The libraries of Buzet, Novigrad and Pazin jointly organised the competition. Unfortunately, the support of the Association Mensemedio failed and the tournament had a regional character. The *Second Party Games Tournament* saw children from Pula, Novigrad, Buzet and Pazin. The best qualified, twelve of them, had the opportunity to play Scrabble, Upwords, Guess Who? and Monopoly in the Pazin's Writers' House. The Buzet team proved to be the most successful as they won first positions in all three games. After the competition, the teams were taken on an organized tour of the educational walking path through the Pazin Gorge.

Being the most successful in 2010, the Buzet team was given the "obligation" to organize the 2011 tournament, naturally, assisted by the employees of the libraries of Novigrad and Buzet. Qualifications were held in libraries during May and June and the best qualified from the libraries played in Buzet at the beginning of July. The novelty of the *Third Party Games Tournament* is that the teams compete in the games Ludo, Bingo 4 and Pictionary.

Submitted by:
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The Public Library of Pazin



Game in progress during a Party Games Tournament in Croatia

Website reference

Systems Change in Personnel Preparation (SCPP), at the University of North Carolina (UNC) FPG Child Development Institute, "is a cluster of projects that have studied and continue to explore and support improvements in the preparation of personnel who work with young children (0-9) and their families, especially with disabilities."
<http://www.fpg.unc.edu/~scpp/index.cfm>

One of these projects, The Natural Resources Archive lists pages of topics in Early Childhood Development (ECD) each of which gives resources for studying the topic further. A link to Natural Resources is found on the above site. The Natural Resource of the week is described and there is a link to previous resources.

The entire site is well worth exploring for up to date research and information in ECD.

Submitted by:
Dr Kerstin Aman (Sweden)
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JANUARY NEWSLETTER

Besides information about the new ITLA board, our next Newsletter will feature:

- A study on Toy Libraries from New Zealand
- A report on a Toy Library Conference in the USA
- The 17th Toy Library Summer School in France
- An article on the Increasing Role of Electronic Toys
- A Toy Review done by Toyhouse Toy Libraries, London and more