



# The Chair Speaks

## Digitisation seems to be THE word.

Thinking about discussions, topics, articles, presentations we had the last few years, I truly believe that digitisation is what keeps us going. When you go to the archive of IFLA, preferably your own Section, it is so difficult to imagine how the work was done in the early years.

Yes, there was a telephone but long-distance calls were rare and very expensive. Snail mail as we call the paper post was really snail mail. It took days to get something delivered at the other end of the world. I really admire the librarians in those days and their hard work for IFLA!

Now we just click on an email group and send a message to a complete standing committee or all members of a section. Newsletters are delivered via the Internet and hardly any by hardcopy. In meetings, secretaries take their notes immediately on a laptop instead of using pen and paper. Presentations are delivered by USB-sticks (Thumbdrives), library pictures and promotion films are on YouTube and librarians are struggling with Web 2.0 and their connections with the young public.

In Quebec we discussed with IBBY and IRA on how to start a project: a webpage or wiki with international reading promotion projects available in different languages. This project is still going on.

This year, during Milan conference, our Libraries for Children and Young Adults Section will present a new Professional Report. Ivan Chew, our present Information Coordinator, is our mentor and motor to get and keep the digitisation fire burning. The brand new IFLA website gives us the possibility to start a blog or wiki. I really hope we can make a start with this before the Milan conference!

But we always need good buildings, collections and staff, so I really hope to meet many people during our session on Monday themed "*If I Was The Director...*".

Together with Library Building Section, we will offer you a great 4-hour session on topics regarding children's and young adults libraries. Presentations on the latest developments in children's participation, the influence of digitisation, decrease of lending figures and also the need of good collections. Without books we cannot develop readers!

So, please join us and think about: books or Wii in the library!

Come and join the discussion, feel welcome at the Libraries for Children and Young Adults Section. ✿

Countries featured in  
this issue:  
**France, Singapore**

| CONTENTS  |                |
|---|----------------|
| <i>The Chair Speaks</i>   | <b>1</b>       |
| <i>Editor's Note</i>  | <b>2</b>       |
| <i>Teens: "What I'd Like<br/>The World to Read:"</i>                                  | <b>3 - 4</b>   |
| <i>Relocation of the<br/>French National<br/>Centre for Children's<br/>Literature</i> | <b>5</b>       |
| <i>Announcement: Sister<br/>Libraries project</i>                                     | <b>6</b>       |
| <i>New literary prize:<br/>"Insula Europea"</i>                                       | <b>6</b>       |
| <i>Minutes: SC Mid-year<br/>meeting, March 2009</i>                                   | <b>7 - 9</b>   |
| <i>Read and Reap:<br/>Harvests of Reading</i>   | <b>10 - 11</b> |
| <i>Give a Bath of<br/>Reading to the babies!</i>                                      | <b>12</b>      |
| <i>Standing Committee<br/>Contacts</i>  | <b>13- 14</b>  |
| <i>Winner of the 2009<br/>Astrid Lindgren<br/>Memorial Award</i>                      | <b>15</b>      |



**Ms Ingrid Bon**  
Arnhem, The Netherlands  
**Chair of IFLA Section:**  
**CHILD**

[Ingrid's photo credit: Rinus van Schie/ Westervoort]

## Editor's Note

It is fitting that Ingrid started her column with her thoughts about digitisation and the pervasive use of IT and the Internet. I wish to tell you about an online initiative called **What I'd Like the World To Read**.

From August to December 2008, this initiative invited teens, ages 13 to 17, to spread their love for reading to their peers by doing the following:

1. Choose a book (yes, it has to be a book!)
2. Describe, in their own words, what the book is about and why others should read it
3. Submit as a video, audio or Powerpoint slide show (duration not exceeding 2 minutes)

You can read more about the programme on pages 3 and 4.

If you have followed the Minutes of meetings in SCL News, you would have read about the "Youth Expression" proposal (see issue 69, Dec 08, p8.) The idea was first mooted at our Standing Committee meeting at the 2007 Durban conference. At our 2008 meeting in Quebec, I brought it up again. I explained that it was essentially about three things:

- A project where libraries, libraries and youth volunteers can play a central role
- About Youth Expressions
- Global Connectedness (i.e. library to library, youths to youths -- on an international scale)

After my explanation, Ingrid asked the billion-dollar question (with a smile): "So what's next?"

"Well, it's for us to discuss if we will do this, or maybe no."

We certainly had a robust discussion immediately. There were comments that the inclusion of ages 13 to 25 was too broad and had to be narrower. But others felt it was fine and that was how it would for their libraries.

One SC member questioned the philosophy of the proposal--whether a professional body like our Section should play a role in proposing a "direct service project" Vs. guidelines and policies. In response, a few other SC members felt that the proposal was a tangible showcase of the sort of work done by the Section. The role of the Section would be to convince other libraries to take up this initiative (Phew! I did not think I could have answered that one!).

Other comments were that the project scope needed to be refined and made more specific. One SC member asked if there were any specific examples of how this proposal could be implemented.

In the end, there was consensus that the proposal could be a framework. Or a "How To" manual and practical guide for librarians. For instance, how much time for a library to carry such a programme, the equipment needed, the typical costs, how to deal with time zone differences, the issue of language translation of works contributed by youths whose first language might not be English.

At the end of our final Standing Committee meeting at the Quebec 2008 conference, I was tasked to work, together with Linn (Norway) and Verena (Croatia), on a working model as an example.

Now, I'm happy to share the **What I'd Like The World To Read** initiative in SCL News—as an example of how the Youth Expression idea, raised two years ago, could be implemented in a tangible form.

It is with some regret that I am not able to personally present this to my Standing Committee colleagues at this year's WILC meeting. It is my last term in the committee and I am not sure when I will get to participate as an IFLA delegate. But I'm confident my SC colleagues will continue to discuss this in due course at subsequent Section meetings.

As Ingrid wrote, digitisation is the word. There is always the Section's mailing list. And I know my ex-SC colleagues are only an email away.

I certainly am. ❁



**Ivan Chew**  
Singapore  
Information Coordinator  
IFLA Section: CHILD



# For Teens, by Teens: "What I'd Like The World To Read"

Contributed by Heng Huey Bin

"What I'd Like The World To Read", or **WILTWTR** for short, was the Singapore Public Library's signature online initiative for young people, piloted from August to December 2008.

We invited teens, ages 13 to 17, to spread their love for reading to their peers by doing the following:

1. Choose a book (yes, it has to be a book!)
2. Describe, in their own words, what the book is about and why others should read it
3. Submit as a video, audio or powerpoint slide show (duration not exceeding 2 minutes)

Each work would be showcased on a digital platform, in this case, our teen blog—**Y.O!** <[blogs.nlb.gov.sg/yo](http://blogs.nlb.gov.sg/yo)>. Other teens could also share their views of the book by posting comments on individual blog posts.

This was no contest. No prizes or gifts were awarded.

They may choose to publish their submissions online (e.g. YouTube, SlideShare, or on their own blogs) and send a URL to the library. We encouraged teens to be creative. But we stressed that the focus was not on acting skills or production quality, but on their sharing of the book.

To get them started, our Youth Librarians published a few examples of our own:

- YouTube <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=HqYz7T79kbU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HqYz7T79kbU)>
- Google video <[video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-4368118905588227647](http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-4368118905588227647)>
- Podomatic <[mjun.podomatic.com/entry/eg/2008-06-17T02\\_34\\_14-07\\_00](http://mjun.podomatic.com/entry/eg/2008-06-17T02_34_14-07_00)>
- Slideshare <[www.slideshare.net/YPTSP08/what-id-like-the-world-to-readthe-giver](http://www.slideshare.net/YPTSP08/what-id-like-the-world-to-readthe-giver)>

We provided simple step-by-step instructions on our blog <[blogs.nlb.gov.sg/yo](http://blogs.nlb.gov.sg/yo)>. Our librarians contacted teachers and teens to take part.



## HOW TO START YOUR OWN WILTWTR PROGRAMME

1. First, you need a library email account for teens to email you their works.
2. Next, sign up for free accounts at various Social Media sites ([YouTube.com](http://YouTube.com), [www.4shared.com](http://www.4shared.com), [www.slideshare.net](http://www.slideshare.net), [Flickr.com](http://Flickr.com) etc.) With this, you can upload what your teens email you.
3. For that extra publicity, start a free blog for your library (e.g. [Blogger.com](http://Blogger.com), [Wordpress.com](http://Wordpress.com)). Embed and publish the teens submissions on the blog.
4. Or instead of a blog, try other social media services like [Facebook.com](http://Facebook.com), or [Twitter.com](http://Twitter.com), or start a free wiki.

Using those Web 2.0 tools will get easier with practice. Alternatively, you can get your teen volunteers to help.

The best part is that you hardly need to spend any money to start an online Teens Reading Advocacy programme like this.

For more details, email to [ASK@nlb.gov.sg](mailto:ASK@nlb.gov.sg) and we would be happy to share more.

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**In one instance, the author of the book “The Secret Life of a Teenage Siren”, Wendy Toliver, left a comment on the blog to acknowledge the teen’s support for her book.**

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Our librarians also actively recruited teens to submit their works. Submissions were voluntary. By sharing what they would like the world to read, the teens were acting as Reading Advocates.

Not only do the book recommendations submitted by teens double up as teen resources for the library reading workshop, the library is also kept abreast of the teen’s favourite books and their reading trend.

As for the teens, they get to spread their love for reading and showcase their creative skills.

In one instance, the author of the book “The Secret Life of a Teenage Siren”, Wendy Toliver, left a comment on the blog to acknowledge the teen’s support for her book. See <<http://is.gd/1B6ol>>.

When we started the programme, we did not know what to expect. Would there be submissions? Especially when there were no prizes offered.

In the end, we were surprised to see teens responding. And we were delighted when we received such comments from teens, on the Y.O! blog:

***“I think that this book is worth our attention, and romance-book lovers would love it.” ~ Shermaine Soh on the suggested read titled “Romeo and Juliet” (Graphic Novel)***

***“Wow so many people like this book. It must be really good. I will read it as soon as I have time! =D” ~ newe on the suggested read titled “Twilight”***

***“This looks quite interesting, i might give it a try (:” ~ Samira Shah on the suggested read titled “Trumpet of the Swan”***

We felt that offering this programme allowed the library to play its role as a reading advocate for teens. More important, we had teens acting as reading advocates to their peers.

By using online tools, we are able to keep track of the level of participation (e.g. total number of submissions, views and comments).

In all, from Aug to Dec 08, we received 36 works from 45 teens. You can take a look at what some teens would like the world to read, at:

<[blogs.nlb.gov.sg/yo/index.php?s=WILTWTR](http://blogs.nlb.gov.sg/yo/index.php?s=WILTWTR)>



**Heng Huey Bin**  
 Librarian, Young People’s Services, Public Libraries  
 Singapore  
 Singapore

# News update: Relocation of the French National Centre for Children's Literature



The *Centre National de la Littérature pour la Jeunesse (CNLJ)– La Joie par les livres* joins the site *François-Mitterrand* of the Bibliothèque Nationale de France.

The French national centre for children's literature (centre national de la littérature pour la jeunesse – la joie par les livres) became a specialised service of the Bibliothèque Nationale de France, the National Library, on 1st Jan 08.

On 15 Jul 09, the CNLJ – La Joie par les livres will close the doors of its reading room in the 10th arrondissement of Paris. Its services and its collections will cross the River Seine to the Left Bank, to the François Mitterrand site.

This new location will reinforce the integration of the service into the Bibliothèque nationale de France while keeping its identity and its specific functions.

The centre will continue with its activities concerning documentation, training and publication at a national as well as on an international level.

On 22 Sep 09, the centre's new reading room will open in *Salle 1* of the *Haut-de-Jardin* library, the first stage of a reform which, 10 years after its inauguration, will re-examine its missions and reconsider its activities concerning its collections.

The arrival of CNLJ-La Joie par les Livres, historic participant in the world of children's literature, at the heart of Haut-de-Jardin, will offer an enhanced visibility and new possibilities as to the use of its collections, providing new potential for the Bibliothèque Nationale de France to acquire new readers. ✿



**Viviana Quiñones**  
Bibliothèque nationale de France  
Centre national de la littérature pour la jeunesse – La Joie par les livres  
PARIS, France

## Join the CHILD-YA Mailing List

**Libraries for Children and Young Adults Section Mailing List.** The purpose of this list is to support the work of the Libraries for Children and Young Adults Section. We aim to promote international cooperation in the fields of library services to children and young adults, and to encourage the exchange of experience, education and training and research in all aspects of this subject.

Submissions: [CHILD-YA@infoserv.inist.fr](mailto:CHILD-YA@infoserv.inist.fr)

Webpage: <http://infoserv.inist.fr/wwwsympa.fcgi/info/child-ya>

## Sister Libraries Project: A new initiative of the IFLA Libraries for Children and Young Adults Section

Our Section will soon be launching a new project: a project to enable libraries from different countries to find a sister library, build partnerships, exchange views and experiences, and develop joint reading programs for children and young adults.

Any Children's Library will be able to participate. They need not be IFLA members.

The programme is to be launched in 2010. It will work through a sub-site on IFLAnet, in English, French, Spanish and Arabic. It will provide a database to match a partner library, as well as suggest activities and share news from other Sister Libraries.

If you are interested to participate in this project, please contact our SC member, Ms. Viviana Quiñones at <viviana.quinones@bnf.fr>. ✱

Do you have articles or stories to contribute in SCL News? Please contact our Section's Information Coordinator for enquiries. Or simply post to the CHILD-YA mailing list!

<[infoserv.inist.fr/wwwsympa.fcgi/info/child-ya](mailto:infoserv.inist.fr/wwwsympa.fcgi/info/child-ya)>

### New literary prize: "Insula Europea"

This is a new international literary prize sponsored by the: University of Perugia, Pro Loco Bastia Umbra Association. N.U.B.E. Cultural Association, Voci di Babele Cultural Association.

The "Insula Europea" prize is dedicated to writers:

- Ages 35 and below; and
- Who are citizens of the European Union; and
- Who have published a work in prose (yet unpublished in Italy) in a country of the European Union, written in one of the official languages of the Union.

The author of the winning work will receive a prize of €1,000.00.

For more information, please visit <[www.insulaeuropea.eu](http://www.insulaeuropea.eu)>. ✱

*[Information is correct, as of 15 Jul 09]*

# Minutes: Standing Committee Mid-year Meeting, Stockholm, Sweden. March 2009

For complete Minutes, please refer to "Minutes of Meetings" at <http://www.ifla.org/en/libraries-for-children-and-ya>

The Standing Committee held its mid-year meeting in Stockholm, Sweden this year, on March 13th and 14th. Five of us could attend: Olga Andreeva (Russia), Ingrid Bon (Netherlands), Linn Tonnessen (Norway), Kazuko Yoda (Japan) and myself, as well as Karen Usher (UK), Chair of IFLA Section School Libraries.

We were warmly welcomed on March 12th evening by our hosts, Ingrid Källström Nilsson, Children's Librarian at the Kulturhset in Stockholm, and Wiviann Wilhelmsson, Executive officer of the Swedish Library Association, at the Association beautiful all-white offices in the World Trade Center. Stockholm was also very beautiful and white, after a late-Winter snowfall.

## 1. The SC discussed the Section conferences for this year

The Pre-conference will be held in Rome: "Raising a Nation of Readers: Libraries as Partners in National Reading Projects and Programmes" <[www.comune.roma.it/biblioteche/IFLAsatellitemeeting](http://www.comune.roma.it/biblioteche/IFLAsatellitemeeting)>. It is co-organized with IFLA Literacy and Reading Section, together with Istituzione Biblioteche del Comune di Roma, Goethe Institut Italien and Associazione Italiana Biblioteche.

On August 15th the themes will be "Starting with the youngest" and "Management decisions and strategies", and the International Book Exhibition will open. The following day Ingrid Bon and Ivanka Stricevic will be the keynote speakers, on our Section and on Literacy and Reading section, then the theme will be "Good practices as building blocks". Papers will be delivered by colleagues from Italy Germany, Singapore, Spain, Japan, the Netherlands, the US, Canada, Brazil and Tunisia.

During the main conference in Milan, our session is co-organized with Section Library buildings and equipment. "*If I Was The Director...*" is its title, and it will take place on Monday August 24th, two sessions of 2 hours each. Keynote speakers will be Kirsten Drotner (Denmark) and Alistair Black (UK) and papers will be delivered by colleagues from Indonesia, Denmark, Turkey, the Netherlands, USA and Chile). The papers should be published in a book.

As to the Standing Committee meetings, it was decided that the SC will hold a 2nd meeting, during (not after) Milan conference. There will not be a 2nd Coordinating Board meeting, but a Forum on the new divisions.

The composition of our Standing Committee will change in Milan. Some of the members are staying, some will leave, some new ones are joining it.

Ivan Chew (Singapore), Ute Hachmann (Germany), Tae Suk Hwang (Korea), Letizia Tarantello (Italy), Linn Tonnessen (Norway), Patricia Muller (USA) and Naoko Sato (Japan) will be leaving the committee after Milan.

The new members are: Naoko Kobayashi (Japan), Carmen Barvo (Colombia), Veronica Abud (Chile), Kerstin Keller (Germany), Ingrid Källström (Sweden), Ian Yap (Singapore), Maha Alwan (Lebanon), Adrian Guerra (Cuba) and Olimpia Bartolucci (Italy). Ingrid welcomed them by e-mail on March 20th.

## 2. We then discussed the Section Projects

### 2.1. Status and future plans (Ingrid)

The Section has funds left for 2009. We can use them for material about the section, to be distributed in Milan:

- The publication of new leaflets on the Section is reported to 2010, when IFLAnet will have reached fuller development; minimal updating will be made for leaflets this year
- Section bookmarks can be designed and printed; they could give brief information about new projects.

*Continues on Page 8*

Continued from Page 7

## 2.2. Youth expression project (Ivan and Linn)

Linn shared an example (from Ivan) of what can be done by libraries joining the project. The programme is called "What I'd Like the World To Read", <http://blogs.nlb.gov.sg/yo/what-i-want-the-world-to-read/>

Basically, it's for teens to recommend a book to the world by making their recommendations available on YouTube or their blogs etc. More examples submitted by teens in Singapore <http://blogs.nlb.gov.sg/yo/index.php?s=WILTWTR>

Do you see this as something that can be easily adapted for your own libraries? The only issue may be language. So my suggestion is that your teens can submit in their own language, and any book they prefer. The librarian will take a look to check that they do not get themselves into trouble 😊

Provide a simple explanation in English, i.e. not a full translation but just simple words to say what the book/ video/ powerpoint is about, who submitted it. We can feature them in the Singapore blog if you or your library does not have one. It would be useful to have a manual (in different languages) for libraries on how to do it.

## 2.3. IBBY, IRA, IFLA website on reading promotion

A group is working on this, with Ingrid and Ivan representing IFLA.

## 2.4. Sister libraries for children's reading (Viviana)

We have discussed the 2nd working document, including Ivan's suggestions by e-mail. Viviana will write a 3rd working document taking these remarks into account and send it to everybody for comments before Milan. It will be discussed in SC meetings in Milan, and funds for the beginning of the project will be asked from IFLA after Milan.

We will start introducing the project in Milan: the bookmark with a contact, forms for pre-registration of libraries will be circulated (Viviana will prepare forms)

## 2.5. Others

Translations of Guidelines: Kazuko informs that the Japanese version of Guidelines for Babies and Toddlers is almost finished (at editing and proofreading stage)

All these projects will be included in the Milan agenda, to be discussed by the whole SC.

## 3. Future conferences: 2010

Karen Usher, Chair of School Libraries Section, attended the SC meeting. She reported on the greater interaction and mutual support existing now in the UK between school libraries and public libraries. Our two sections will organise a joint session for Brisbane conference. The keynote paper could explore the differences and the common points between the two types of libraries. Another interesting subject: how school libraries work with children's literature.

Shall we have traditional presentations, or else round tables? We must work on this in Milan (and attend School Libraries SC meeting!). A working group will include Randy Lundvall (future Chair of School Libraries section), also Viviana and Ingrid as chair and secretary of our section, and probably another member of School Libraries section will join too.

## 4. ALMA

The meeting with representatives of ALMA team was an important reason for choosing the city where the SC would meet. We held a meeting with three members of ALMA Jury, ALMA Director Erik Titusson and Desk officer, Jenny Löffström, at the beautiful premises of the Swedish Art Council.

Ingrid did a brief presentation of IFLA, our section and our projects: IBBY/IFLA database (Ingrid), Youth expression (Linn), sister libraries (Viviana). Larry Lempert, President of ALMA Jury and Erik Titusson presented ALMA (everyone was given printed information), gave us more detailed information on the organisation and functioning of the Award, and suggested new ways of collaboration between ALMA and ourselves.

## 5. Other business

5.1 Highlights from the coming Bologna International Childrens Book Fair and the JES meeting (Ingrid). It will take place on Wednesday 25th of March, at 10h00 in room Sala Suite, and will feature a presentation

Continues on Page 9

*Continued from Page 8*

by president/ member of H.C. Andersen Jury, another on Nati per leggere, Book and Reading Promotion for the very young, by Giovanna Malgoroli and Barbara Frinolli (Italy). There will be poster presentations and informal discussion groups on current issues, like Literature and Reading programmes for boys, Models for National reading campaigns, How to include non-readers in society, Cultural education through children's book illustrations, New literacies and the ooold book, an international framework to improve quality services to children.

### **5.2. Reading manifesto**

Danielle Mincio, member of the Governing Board, has invited different Sections to make part of a working group to write a Manifesto for access to reading. Our Section accepts. This will be discussed in Milan.

### **5.3. Parental signature**

Karen Usher: Karen Newton from Sunderland Public Libraries in the UK raises the question of the need of parental signature to use internet in the library. Must this be standardised, so that everybody does the same thing? And what happens with children with no parents? We will discuss this later on in Milan.

### **5.4. Appendix to YA Guidelines**

"Appendix B: 40 developmental assets" is controversial. A colleague reacted against it after the presentation in Québec, the Director of the Book in France has written to Claudia Lux regarding two sentences in the Appendix: "Young person spends one hour or more per week in a religious institution" and "Young person believes it is important not to be sexually active".

Some members claim it is just the result of a survey; others think the survey has no place in the guidelines, that this survey is only representative of a certain group in a certain country, and that the fact of including the survey leads to think that we think its conclusions are valid everywhere. What to do? Better explain what the appendix is, and add surveys about young people in other countries? Remove the appendix? This must be discussed in a full SC meeting, in Milan.

## **6. Thanks**

Warm thanks to our hosts Ingrid who organised our visits and Wiviann and the Swedish Librarian Association who offered their premises for the meeting, and invited us to dinner at a most charming, "literary" restaurant (the restaurant of the Swedish Authors Association). Also, thanks to Karen Usher for her participation in the meeting.

## **7. Visits**

### **7.1. Visit of the Rum för Barn <[www.kulturhuset.stockholm.se](http://www.kulturhuset.stockholm.se)>**

This "room for children" (it is not called "library") occupies the 4th floor of this Cultural Centre (art & design) in a very central part of Stockholm. It was re-designed thanks to the sponsorship of a department store. The furniture was created by a set designer, children participated in the decoration. There are 3 sections: toddlers, pre-school, older children up to 11 years old. The library has huge success as a meeting point for young children and their parents. Entrance must now be limited (long queue of prams at the entrance!). Media are arranged according to children's demands. The library has an art studio, develops programs (like dancing, once a week) and shows exhibitions. There is an area with tables to have a drink and a snack, for readers. There are games (but not computer games). Librarians wear special, very nice skirts with many pockets.

### **7.2. Visit of The International Library, Stockholm Public Library**

It opened in 2000, has 220 000 books in 130 languages. It is mostly used by residents of foreign origin. Staff speak 27 different languages. There is special area for periodicals, where a lot of newspapers and magazines in different languages are displayed. Children's literature has its own place in every language collection. The library organizes programmes for children in different languages (reported by Olga Andreeva).

### **7.3. Visit of Lidingö Public Library**

The library serves the population of the island Lidingö, one of the wealthy districts of Stockholm, and it is very popular. It has two floors. Children's and young adults' area is nicely designed On Saturdays there are animation programmes (reported by Olga Andreeva). ❁



**Viviana Quiñones**  
Paris, France  
Secretary of IFLA Section: CHILD



# Singapore: "Read and Reap":

## Harvests of reading

Contributed by Ian Yap

If you see the phrases "When the Going Gets Tough, the Tough Bluff It", "You lost your hair!", "I am done with being loved" & "A man changes with time", it may be from the National Library Board Singapore's newly launched programme called *Read and Reap*.

This initiative encourages the seeds of ideas to grow from reading a single literary extract and from there, spark a whole new reading and sharing experience. This is in line with the board's aim to make libraries social learning spaces and in future create self-sustaining learning communities.

The extracts may be motivational, thought provoking or inspirational. But mainly they are very interesting passages in bite-sizes as the whole idea is to capture the readers' attention fast and hook them to want to read the book.

A reflective question further enhances the flavour of the piece and allows you to have common conversations with others. The quirky phrases you see above are captions used to draw the attention of the reader. And like what all good librarians do, there are similar recommended reads to expand the reading appetite of the readers.

In the initial phases, the reach is to school-going children and teens via beautifully designed posters (see the next page) but the programme benefits adults too!

These posters act like mini-booktalks that hopefully engage readers who are bombarded with so many messages in the real world - So short and simple is the key to the whole programme. For teachers, there are simple activities and bookclub-like questions for them to facilitate further dialogue with their students.

Besides posters, a blog <ReadandReap.sg> is available so that classes of students or members of the public can leave their comments on the provocative questions, and get to read more interesting extracts. At the same time, one can always sign up for the alerts that provide you with fresh extracts monthly. We have 2,000 people in our mailing list already.

Here's where to check out the Read and Reap blog for interesting extracts and comments <ReadandReap.sg>

The team welcomes you to give your comments and also join in the act. This blog even gets visits from people all the way from Poland!

So **Read and Reap** today! ✿

**Ian Yap**  
 Manager, Children's Services  
 Public Libraries  
 Singapore



Comments about the programme from the public:

*"I think it's great, I saw the extract just now but didn't have time to pen down my thoughts yet. But the effort's really great, non-conventional method, very refreshing and I'm sure it will be engaging..."*

*"I like your project. It delves deeper (into a person's mind) than any other projects that I've seen so far."*

Continued from Page 10

A Read & Reap poster  
<ReadAndReap.sg>

## A Man Changes with Time

'And now I want to paint you, sir,' Flash told the old, old man. 'Naturally I saved the last picture for the most important person: the Village Elder.' He relished the idea of capturing those deeply wrinkled cheeks, those milky blue eyes, the white stubble of that loose-skinned jaw. The Village Elder looked like some biblical prophet or legendary king.

But to his surprise, the old, old man rocked his heavy head to and fro between his bony shoulders. 'No. I have no wish for such a painting.'

Flash felt almost offended. 'Why?'

The Elder waved a large, slow, maimed hand in front of his face, disturbing the flies. 'A man changes with time,' he said. 'He grows up. He grows wiser. He grows older. Sometimes old age is

a big price to buy wisdom. Once I was a young man – like those foolish warriors you paint. Once I was strong and fit. And handsome – hard to believe, I know! The young women then, they breathe deeper when I pass by. Glad to slip a hand into mine ...' He studied the lopped, crooked hands that lay spread in his lap. 'When I die, the people will look back. Then the years of my old age will be no more seen than the years of my youth, the years of my manhood. My short temper, my lame leg, my no-teeth smile: soon all these will be forgotten, and I will be a man of all ages and no age. I will be all the good parts. I will be my name and my deeds and not this face-in-ruins. But, Mr Flash, if you paint my picture with your camera, I will be for ever an old man. If you picture me, I am for ever old.'

Extract from the book *Smile!*  
By Geraldine McCaughrean  
All Rights Reserved.  
Oxford University Press 2004  
Call Number: J English MAC



If you could choose 3 things you would want people to remember about you, what would they be?

### Recommended Reads

Available at NLB

**Title: Thief of Time**  
By Terry Pratchett  
Call Number: English PRA

**Title: The Thief Lord**  
By Cornelia Funke  
Call Number: J English FUN

**Title: Hexwood**  
By Diana Wynne Jones  
Call Number: Y English JON

For more great reads from Read & Reap, visit <http://ReadandReap.sg>. Thoughts and rambles welcomed!



[www.pl.sg](http://www.pl.sg)

Knowledge • Imagination • Possibility



## France: Give a Bath of Reading to the babies!

*Contributed by Soizik Jouin*



In the public libraries of Paris, the babies and toddlers can take a Bath of Reading.

It is very simple: in a little swimming pool, instead of water, we put "soft books" made of plastic or fabric.

The babies can paddle and swim among the books. The librarians are around the "Reading Pool" to read books and sing songs.

This event is very successful. Parents are very happy to find an animation for the very young children.

This summer, the Parisian librarians will go to the parks and gardens in Paris to tell stories and present books. Of course, they will bring the "Reading Pool with them! ❁"

**Soizik Jouin**  
Bibliothèques de la Ville de Paris  
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*[Below] Our SC member, Soizik Jouin, in the Reading Pool.*



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*Continues on Page 14*

Continued from Page 13

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## About the Libraries for Children and Young Adults Section

The Section's major purpose is to support the provision of the library service and reading promotion to children and young adults throughout the world.

Its main objectives are to promote international cooperation in the fields of library services to children and young adults, and to encourage the exchange of experience, education and training and research in all aspects of this subject.

The Section's concerns include the provision of library services to all children and young adults in different cultures and traditions in cooperation with appropriate organisations and to adults interacting with children and young adults.

More information at:  
[www.ifla.org/VII/s10/index.htm](http://www.ifla.org/VII/s10/index.htm)

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## 2009 Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award: Tamer Institute for Community Education

The 2009 Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award has been awarded to the reading promotion organisation the Tamer Institute for Community Education, which works in the West Bank and Gaza.

The Tamer Institute for Community Education in Ramallah is an independent organisation that has carried out reading promotion work for children and young people in West Bank and Gaza since 1989. The Tamer Institute was founded to give children access to books and alternative learning as children's and young people's schooling, leisure time and lives suffered from the troubles in the area. The Tamer Institute also hands out reading passports. Holders get a stamp for every book they have read. This is a clear symbol of the fact that there are no borders for those who can read books. As Astrid Lindgren said: "Good children's literature gives the child a place in the world and the world a place in the child".

The Tamer Institute is the hub of a network that works with writing workshops, storytelling, drama and literary discussion for children and young people. They supply libraries with children's books and they train librarians and parents. A national reading campaign is organised every year, culminating with National Reading Week. In 2008, the campaign reached 52,000 children in refugee camps and remote villages and communities, who took part in literary discussion, drama and drawing and writing workshops.

The Tamer Institute also carries out youth activities. The young people, who have often participated in Tamer's work since they were children, publish their own newspaper, Yara'at, among other things. They use it to publish their thoughts, poems and stories. When the Tamer Institute was founded, there were virtually no Palestinian children's books. The organisation has now published more than 130 titles and several of the children who attended the Tamer Institute's writing workshops have started to write their own books as adults.

Despite difficult circumstances, the Tamer Institute works tirelessly on many levels to create a better situation for Palestinian children and young people via literature. Their conviction that words can tear down walls has resulted in innovative reading promotion activities of an unusual breadth, for which reason the Tamer Institute has been awarded the 2009 Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award. The jury's reasons are:

*"With perseverance, audacity and resourcefulness, the Tamer Institute has, for two decades, stimulated Palestinian children's and young adults' love of reading – and their creativity. Under difficult circumstances, the Institute carries out reading promotion of an unusual breadth and versatility. In the spirit of Astrid Lindgren, the Tamer Institute acknowledges the power of words and the strength of books, stories and imagination as important keys to self-esteem, tolerance and the courage to face life."*

[www.tamerinst.org](http://www.tamerinst.org), [www.alma.se](http://www.alma.se)

From:

The Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award website  
<[www.alma.se/en/Award-winners/tamer-english](http://www.alma.se/en/Award-winners/tamer-english)> (Last accessed 20 Jun 09)



Image from the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Website  
<[www.alma.se/en/Award-winners/tamer-english](http://www.alma.se/en/Award-winners/tamer-english)>

The Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award (ALMA) is the world's largest prize for children's and young people's literature. The prize totals SEK 5 million, approx 480 000 EURO, and is awarded annually to a single recipient or to several. Authors, illustrators, storytellers and those active in reading promotion may be rewarded. The prize aims to strengthen and increase interest in children's and young people's literature globally. The award is designed to strengthen children's rights at global level. An expert jury names prize-winners who are nominated by institutions and organisations worldwide. The Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award is administered by the Swedish Arts Council.  
[www.alma.se](http://www.alma.se)