

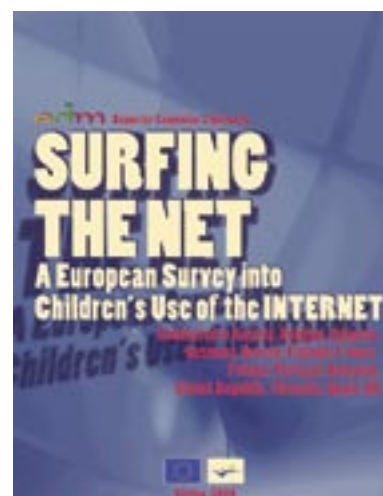
### EDM Reporter Publication

*Surfing the Net* is the title of a Survey, published by the EDM Reporter Comenius 3 Network. The Survey was organised in 2006/2007 by partners from the 14 countries in the Network: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Germany, Greece, Finland, France, Poland, Portugal, Romania, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain and the UK. Four questionnaires were developed: one for adults (teachers, librarians, teacher trainers, students) working with children, and three for three age groups of children (8-10, 10-12, 12-14). The survey included schools in large cities, small towns and even smaller villages. About 3500 children and 700

adults working with children were interviewed. Empirical research in schools, libraries, teacher training institutions and universities was carried out for the following reasons:

- ▶ to discover whether and how teachers, librarians and children use the internet for intercultural education and reading promotion;
- ▶ to determine criteria for evaluating websites for children and adults working with children;
- ▶ to establish lists of the most user-friendly and most frequently visited websites for children/adults working with children;
- ▶ to gather additional general information about the use of internet in each country.

The results obtained give a general overview of contemporary trends in internet use. They also outline the problems that are common to most of the countries where the interviews took place.



**EDM Reporter** Comenius 3 Network organises an international conference each year for teachers and librarians.

CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND THE INTERNET is the title of the third **EDM Reporter** Comenius 3 Network Conference, to take place on May 15-16 2008, at the National Library in Warsaw, Poland.

We would like to invite teachers, teacher-trainers, educators, librarians, parents, and all those interested in education to take part in the Conference and to share their experience in working with the Internet at school for the promotion of reading, intercultural education and foreign language teaching.



The National Library in Warsaw, Poland

We present our Polish partner:  
**The W. J. Grabski  
 Public Library**  
 in the Ursus District of the City  
 of Warsaw/Poland

*The information management strategy places libraries in a central position in the information societies and encourages their connection to information networks, enabling them to be information access points for everyone and to promote network literacy and life-long learning.*

### Partner in Education

By Piotr Jankowski,  
 Director, the W. J. Grabski Public  
 Library in the Ursus District of the  
 City of Warsaw / Poland

The W. J. Grabski Public Library  
 in the Ursus\* District of the City  
 of Warsaw is a cultural institution.  
 Its main aims are:

- to satisfy the reading and educational needs of the local community;
- to disseminate knowledge and to support the development of education and culture.

The Library has been active for  
 over 60 years.

The library consists of 4 departments (a Science Reading Room, two Lending Rooms and Library for Children and Young People). The premises of the library cover 724 square meters. The library's catalogue contains more than 80 thousand books; 100 CD-ROMs (encyclopaedias, dictionaries and special education and law programmes) as well as 500 volumes of books in foreign languages.

The readers can use 14 modern computer posts with internet connection.

The four departments of the W. J. Grabski Public Library are linked through the internet into one electronic librarian service system – SOWA (OWL). The entire catalogue is available on the internet

\* The Ursus district of Warsaw has about 50 000 inhabitants.

through an ON-LINE catalogue. The main tasks of the educational and cultural activities of the library are:

- lifelong learning;
- intercultural education;
- after school educational activities for children and young people.

### The Library For Children And Young People No 64

The Library for Children consists of a lending room and a reading room with a club for children.

The Catalogue of books contains 15 000 volumes and consists of non fiction books, school reading books, dictionaries, albums and magazines for children, as well as video cassettes with popular films and educational programmes.



There are 4 internet posts for the young readers.

The Library for Children is open from Monday to Friday from 10.00-19.00.

It has almost 12 500 visits every year.

The library for children and young people co-operates directly with: 4 primary schools and 3 secondary schools.

### The Educational Partnership

It is considered that children who come to the library from the age 3-6 usually keep in touch with the library all their lives.

- that is why we organise so many activities for this age group;
- that is why some of the readers

call our library kindergarten or preschool;  
 ➤ that is why there are a great deal of toy books, or just toys in our library.

For the same reason the library cooperates very closely with local secondary and primary schools. It organises special workshops and classes almost every week for them; not only about the library, the catalogues and the services but also about history, culture, the media, and our city. The children learn how to use electronic and traditional media in order to prepare their own presentations and to find useful information.

### Other Activities

The staff of the Library for Children consists of young, enthusiastic, well educated and creative librarians who develop many innovative activities for children and young people.

One of those activities takes place within the framework of the club for children. Its programme is based on the modern and attractive pedagogical methods of Klanza - an organisation which disseminates creative workshops for children.

The creative meetings with books (Klanza) involve activities which use books indirectly.



These meetings are dedicated to: playing games, telling stories and organizing art competitions.

By playing didactic games children gain knowledge about the world and develop different skills, such as how to express themselves or how to work together in a group.

They learn a lot and at the same time have great fun.

The most popular games among children are:

**1. “Continents”**, where children learn not only about the continents but also about poverty in many countries and about the key role of the United Nations Organization.

**2. “Ocean”** - a game with a shawl where children learn how to work together in a team and gain knowledge about themselves.

- A librarian puts a ball on the shawl and children try to make it fall down through the hole.

- A librarian calls for children who like Harry Potter, or who like eating fish, or who like the colour red etc., and the selected children have to change places around the shawl.



**3. Playing cards** - one after the other children pull out cards with pictures and try to describe what they see on the pictures. In this way they create a common story.

### “I read, I know, I create”

This is the title of the project coordinated by the Swedish Embassy and the Municipality of the city of Warsaw. Within the framework of this project, the Library for Children organised meetings with the Swedish literature.

The project was not only about reading books but also about recognizing, identifying and getting to know other cultures.

Children admire Pippi Longstocking mostly for her independence and for having freedom without limits. At one of the meetings the cultural attaché from the Swedish Embassy

in Warsaw, Ms Mika Larsson, drew the children’s attention to what the independence of Pippi means. She suggested that Pippi has to manage with every problem alone, to only count on herself and never complain about anything.

Ms M. Larsson underlined the fact that, being independent, Pippi is always ready to help the other children and adults, particularly those who are weak or small.



The most important event during the project was the Swedish Festival.

It was not only about reading but also about eating.

Besides visiting a book fair, which included the works of Astrid Lindgren, and taking part in an art competition called “The characters of Astrid Lindgren’s books”, children could also try delicious Swedish traditional meals and learn about Christmas in Sweden.

### Intercultural Methods in Reading Books

Another part of the Library’s activities is work with the books from the BARFIE (Books and Reading For Intercultural Education) Collection.

They encourage reading to be an exciting journey through different identities and different cultures.

Having books from the BARFIE collection, the Library for Children and Young People develops many activities on searching for identity as well as improving language skills. One of the books that is often used for intercultural workshops is “The skin I am in”. The story is about a young black girl who is abused by her black school-mates for being too black. What

has the story of a black girl got to do with children from Poland?

► The children empathise with the hero of the story and her problems – they are almost ready to go and help her. But when the librarian asks them if they have a similar situation in their school they say no - because in our society there are not many black people.

► After a while the librarian asks them what or whom they do not accept. Then children start saying more and more. It turns out that some of them are often abused because of being a bit different.

The others confirm that bullying at school happens quite often. Sometimes such discussions change the attitudes of children and make them more understanding of difference.

► Interculturality helps children discover their own world; as well as their own and other people’s identity or culture.

### Using Books and Multimedia in the Educational Process

The development of education in our society means that the books just for reading are being replaced in the library by books for learning. Following this tendency and being aware of the needs of students, we have decided to organise a series of lectures and workshops accompanied by multimedia and book exhibitions. These focus on two interesting and important topics for the educational process:



The Open University for Young People and Adults and the participation in the European Science Festival

The Library for Children organised during the European Science Festival an event called:

## WONDERS

Our guests were scientists from Luxemburg who carried out workshops called: "Octopus car" Together with children, they built plenty of small vehicles which used jet-power to move in a similar way to an octopus. The car, which was made of wood and balloons, looked very simple, but for the children (most of them from pri-



mary schools) it was amazing. The amount of children who participated in the workshops surmounted all the organizers' expectations and proved the importance of disseminating such ideas. After that, octopus car races were held in the schools. One of the consequences was organizing the Open University – WSZECHNICA.

Educationalists from different Warsaw universities lead workshops and lectures with topics that are proposed by teachers and students from the schools in our district.

They are very popular and in the opinion of the participants quite useful. For each meeting the librarians prepare an exhibition of books and multimedia materials

related to the topic. As an example some of the topics are listed here: "The secrets of Troy and beautiful Helena"; "The theory of games - using examples"; "Love in the time of Shakespeare"; "The secrets of genetic engineering".

## Final Comments

- ▶ Our experience confirms that more books attract more children to the library.
- ▶ Computers and multimedia are becoming the most needed resources in the library.

The book is still the queen of the library but the computer has become the prince.

## EDM Reporter Recommends:

### **Kinder und Medien, Computer und Internet (Children and Media, Computers, and the Internet)**

Published in 2006 by the Medienpädagogischer Forschungsverbund Südwest (LFK), Stuttgart

This is a study of the use of media by 6-13 year-olds in Germany, which reflects the current situation in the media landscape in Germany.

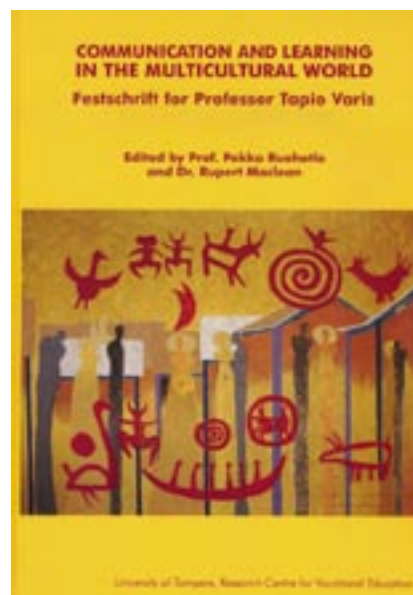


The study covers a variety of media: TV, music CDs, radio, MP3,

books, computers and the Internet, and mobile phones. It analyses the media climate in the German family as well as the use of media and the possession of media competencies by children. Leisure activities are also analysed in the study.

### **Communication and Learning in the Multicultural World**

Published in 2006 by the University of Tampere, Research Centre for Vocational Education.



This volume, published to honour the 60th birthday of the Finnish professor Tapio Varis, is divided into three major areas, in which the scientific and practical work of professor Varis has made an impact. The first and third parts are of special interest from the viewpoint of the EDM Reporter Comenius 3 Network, examining respectively "Communication and learning in the multicultural world" and "Multicultural communication and digital literacy". The authors are recognised experts from around the world.



Electronic Digital Media Reporter  
Comenius 3 Network

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