

To Goethe-Institut Libanon

My name is Caroline GHOSTINE. I am a School Librarian from the Model School Library, established by Goethe-Institut Libanon and UNESCO Regional office in February, 2010. Two other participants of “School Library Experts Study Program to Leipzig” are responsible for the development of the school Libraries in Lebanon und the training of the school librarians at the Ministry of Education and Higher Education and The fourth group member was the librarian of Dialogpunkt Deutsch, Tripoli which cooperates with schools intensively.

The visit to Leipzig lasted from 16th to 23th March, 2011.

The very rich and interesting program was organized and financed by Goethe-Institut Libanon and BI-International. On behalf of the whole group I would like to thank both institutions and especially Mrs. Irina Nehme, Head of Information and Library at Goethe-Institut Libanon and also to express our gratitude for the gracious hospitality during our working visit to all the hosts and our guides Anne-Kathrin Thiele and Anujah Fernando.

In all the institutions we received a very warm welcome by our hosts, giving us detailed information about their work and giving us the answers to all our questions.

The program was divided into two parts:

1. From 17th to 20th March, 2011 Attendance of the program “The School Library” at Leipzig Book Fairhall

As the speakers of the programs three of us received high attention of the audience and acknowledgement for our work and effort in the school library field in Lebanon.

I personally had a presentation on our experience of the implementation of a reading and art project applied in our Model School Library in 2010-2011 with 60 students in the second year of secondary school, this project was in collaboration with Goethe Institute- Libanon.

This presentation was a great success which allowed me to make me contact with colleagues from Italy and Goethe-Intitut China.

From the other contributions we gained a lot of knowledge and information about school Libraries in Germany and some other Western countries:

- Support of information competence, Jana Haase
- The library in a box, Günter Schlamp
- Quality development in South Tyrol, Markus Fitz
- Research for a presentation in a school library, Markus Fitz
- Panel discussion, Günter Schlamp

- School libraries in Italy, Louisa Marquardt
- Literacy, Bettina Twrsnick
- School libraries in Saxony Anhalt (federal state), Katrin Dinebier
- English, Tina Weber
- Mathematics, functions, Victor Wolter
- Literary films, “Der Untertan” and “Der Herr der Fliegen”, Günther Bree
- Music, “Lola rennt”, Thomas Albrecht
- Physics, magnetism, Victor Wolter
- Sports, Kristina Aue
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Besides interesting international contacts in the school library experts' community it was a good experience to feel support for our efforts through the engagement of school library colleagues from the other countries.

From 21st to 23rd March, 2011 visits of School Administration Office (Schulbibliothekarische Arbeitsstelle Leipzig), 2 School Libraries, Public Library in Gohis and the National Library

21st March 9.00 am -5.00 pm

- Visit of the School Administration Office Leipzig,
- Visit of 2 school libraries
- Visit of the public library in Gohlis, which works closely with schools

During the visit of School Administration Office Leipzig Mrs. Michael Benter and Mrs. Anne Gunther gave us very informative overview about the tasks of the School Administration Office and in which ways the office cooperates with public schools. The visit of the two school libraries under their responsibility and the public library of Gohlis demonstrated clearly the difference of services, advantages and disadvantages of the two different situations: having a library in the school or the cooperation between a public library and a school

22. March 9.00 am - 5.00 pm

1. Visit of the School Library at the Protestant School
2. Visit of the German National Library

The meeting at the school library of the private Protestant School was with the head Librarian Mrs. Sabine Grunwald.

She referred to us how she works with students and teachers to stimulate them to use the Library.

The Meeting at the **German National Library** was with Ms. Sybille Jungk, Head of the Department of Education at the German National Library:

Presentation “Apprenticeship as assistant for media and information services”

Guided tour around the National Library with an account of its history and that of its sister library in Frankfurt, its impressive building, book storage and handling facilities, etc.

Conclusions:

During the conferences of the book fair, we found that we can apply many things in our school libraries in Lebanon, especially:

1. The school library should be used by students and teachers. In the library students are taught where and how to find information, how to use it. With a number of services and activities this could be reached through an introduction to the library, doing research on certain topics, offering a variety of media: books, periodicals, audiovisual-materials, databases and internet and showing the library patrons how to use them.
2. How to help teachers to use books other than school books, help students to read better and help them to discover the world of reading, using media for research.
3. Create boxes full of media that focus on certain topics, which can be used by teachers and students for teaching, learning, presentations or research.
4. School libraries have to promote reading, introduce students to the library and support them doing research using all kinds of media

The most valuable topic we learned during the lectures is how to explain and give a lesson in the library: English, Mathematics, Music, etc.

On the other side, we noticed during our trip the big difference between the educational system in Lebanon and that of Germany, especially in school libraries. For example in Lebanon the staff in school libraries get intensive training in the field of reading activities and the use, in all Lebanese school libraries of the DEWEY classification. The school libraries we visited in Leipzig did not have a standard classification system and especially the volunteers working in the libraries seemed not been trained about those fields. Their duty is very limited to lend and borrow books but not much more.

Now I come to our opinion about our collaboration and cooperation between the Lebanese School Libraries and those of Leipzig:

As we all know that in librarianship a variety of options are open to information professionals. Beyond traditional options in public libraries and schools, almost any organization in information needs people to organize, retrieve and manage business information and this can be done by visiting the libraries of both countries and seeing their system and learning by viewing and discussion with other colleagues.

Librarianship is a technique, a complete vision and life learning profession, in this profession there is always a need to stay updated by visiting different types of libraries and meeting with professional staff, who have more advanced facilities, knowledge and systems. These visits provide many good opportunities for other professional developments and new libraries settings.

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