

Here we want to highlight some very fine examples of library services to children and young adults from around the world. Check out the links in the short articles and let yourself be inspired by the creativity and engagement of your fellow librarians.

Australia: Paintings from the Collection

By Claire Stuckey, Children's librarian retired, Central Coast Council - Gosford

Pauline Fitzgerald, currently leading the Learning team at the State Library NSW, was keen to produce a complimentary version of an audio guide in our *Paintings from the Collection* exhibition for children, created by children. She worked with ten fabulous students from Summer Hill Public School in Sydney and their two super teacher librarians. It was a very successful project and apart from the audio guide version they have also produced a classroom friendly version. Teaching notes will be available shortly. A further version of the project for secondary students is underway.

References

Classroom version <https://dxlab.sl.nsw.gov.au/kids-audio-guide/>

Audio guide version <https://audio.sl.nsw.gov.au/kids-audio-guide>

Croatia: Library-Themed Board Game

By Alicia Kolarić, Head of Library Services, Rijeka City Library, Croatia

The worldwide COVID19 crisis disrupted everyday life around the globe, including lives of Croatian public libraries which were forced to close their doors in mid-March. Seeking to meet the needs of their users under these new and challenging circumstances, librarians all around Croatia immediately started to offer additional online library services. To offer the overview of all services available online, Croatian Library Association started the platform *Remote Library Services* which gathers digital collections and portals, information services, e-book platforms, educational and recreational content and information for librarians in one place https://padlet.com/hkdrustvo/knjiznicne_usluge_na_daljini . Much of the newly created online content is intended for children, families and other children libraries' users, for example digital storytelling on YouTube, digital picturebooks created in library workshops, online book club meetings, old postcard puzzles and many more. The National and University Library in Zagreb offers coloring books created out of materials selected from its rich collections for all ages.

Rijeka City Library took a creative step towards designing a library-themed board game. The idea is to develop a fun and educational board game for all ages, inspired by the library, reading and books, available to be printed at home. The process started by librarians providing a basic design. The board game will soon be offered to library users to try out and to provide feedback which will be used for further development and improvement. The main intention is to inspire and engage the user community in collaborative work and a joined creative process of designing the board game which will be a result of collective inspiration, imagination, work and joy. In these challenging days, this is the best a library can do!

Denmark: Digital Services for Children and Young Adults During COVID19

By Søren Dahl Mortensen, Senior Project Manager, Odense Central Library

In Denmark all libraries have been closed since March 13, 2020. Many library employees are working from home, with all the challenges that come with that. Danish libraries have been focusing on digital services for all – especially the reading pages – <https://ereolengo.dk/> (the e-shelf) which serves both adults and children. It is a huge success, with 85% more users than normal - even when we have competition from commercial services like SAXO.com.

For students we provide full access to all the digital services – magazines, master files etc. We also provide access to films through <https://fjernleje.filmstriben.dk/> which includes non-commercial, online films for children. One library has started a program about writing stories and poems on a website: <http://www.ordskaelv.org/lockdown> Here children can start their own short stories.

Many Libraries have been focusing on reading and telling stories on social media and on library webpages. Also, there is lots of singing and playing songs for children on our library webpages and social media accounts. Several Libraries have created a take-out option. You can borrow a bag of up to five books at a from the Library on request at your local library og delivered through a local shop.

Some have created “Little Libraries” in different places around town. Here children can take a book and swap it for a new one. These are not necessary library books, but also their own books. But here we have to announce that you borrow from these at your own risk, and that it is important to clean the books before reading them. If your children do not like to read, the website “All Read” helps parents inspire their children to read: <https://www.xn--allelser-n0a.dk/>

The libraries will stay closed at least until May 11th. But at that point, (or whenever we actually can open), I think we will be opening a totally different library experience for children and young adults. I expect to see less focus on borrowing books, and more focus on events like storytelling, music, theater, meeting, and especially, social interaction.

Norway: Limiting the Spread of the Coronavirus and Providing Library Service in Norway During a Difficult Time

by Jorun Systad, Library Director Førde Public Library, Norway and Chair of IFLA SC Libraries for Children and Young Adults

Due to the Coronavirus, almost all public libraries (and the rest of Norwegian society) closed from Thursday 12th of March. A week later, most libraries started to offer “take-away” services outside the library. Users order books online in our databases, and pick them up outside the library. It is also possible to deliver borrowed material in the same way. All loans can, as usual, be renewed digitally, or by contacting the library by email.

There is a public digital library on the Internet: [Karanteket](#) - A collection of free digital resources offered by Norwegian public libraries. For example Filmbib offers a free film-streaming service.

The Norwegian government also offers extra free access to information and databases to students and researchers. The Norwegian National Library offers free access to all legally deposited Norwegian publications, and extra funding to increase the number of e-Books in public libraries.

Our libraries try to stay in contact with our users through social media, and to inform about all the great digital library resources we had available already before COVID19. Additional digital development of library services is developing fast. Almost all public libraries are now doing reading and storytelling via social media, webpages, podcasts, and digital classes. Ingunn is a librarian in the Sunnfjord Kommune Library system. Here she is, [telling a story on YouTube in the local Nynorsk dialect](#) (spoken in northern Norway). But we miss our users and are looking forward to opening the doors again!

Singapore: Catch Up on Your reading and Learning from Home

By Huey Bin Heng, Head (Children & Teens) National Library Board, Singapore

Like most libraries around the world, our libraries in Singapore have temporarily closed from 7 April to 4 May 2020.

We have curated learning packages, with new content uploaded weekly on NLB (National Library Board) mobile app. This includes topics on:

1. Virus breakouts, pandemics, vaccination and public health in Singapore, in the past 100 years.
2. Mindfulness, dealing with uncertainties, working from home effectively and new hobbies.

In support of Singapore schools in full home-based learning from 8 April to 4 May 2020, we have also put together the following resources:

1. Stay Home Activities on [discoverReads](#)

Fun DIY printables, discussion worksheets, inspiring STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) activities, literary quizzes and reading resources to engage children, teens, families and educators in reading and learning.

2. Information Literacy – Home-Based [Learning Resources on S.U.R.E](#)

A one-stop resource portal for information literacy, library resources, library activity, quizzes, infographics, videos and e-learning for teachers, parents, students and the general public.

3. Unlimited checkouts of eBooks from several publishers, including Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone in multiple languages and literary classics.

To engage children in reading at home, we will be offering weekly storytelling sessions featuring titles in our four official languages of English, Malay, Chinese and Tamil on NLB's [Public Libraries Singapore Facebook](#) starting from 13 April.

Sweden: Actions at Stockholm Public Library During Coronavirus Pandemic

By Salomon Hellman, Librarian, Stockholms stadsbibliotek, Sweden

During the Corona crisis, Swedish authorities have chosen to rely on people's sense of civic responsibility, asking rather than ordering them to avoid non-essential travel and contact with

others. Compared with other countries, Sweden remains fairly open, although most of the population stays at home in accordance with the recommendations of the authorities. Considered essential civic institutions, most of Sweden's public libraries remain open, but of course with limitations.

In Stockholm, 12 of 40 public library branches stay open, but with reduced opening hours and with strict limitations regarding the number of simultaneous visitors. All public events have been cancelled, although some of them have been transformed into virtual ones instead.

Some initiatives during the crisis

- Campaign for e-book reading together with an increased e-book budget
- Extended loaning periods for paper books and removal of all overtime and reservation fees
- Home delivery of books by bike (see picture). The ordered books are hung on the recipient's door
- Live-streamed storytimes for children
- Live-streamed debate about the effects of the crisis on socio-economically vulnerable areas
- Virtual book clubs