

Title: Bibliotecando
Subtitle: The new “social” role of school libraries

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The project “Bibliotecando” began in September 2005 and lasted till April 2006 .Its aim was to define the “new” rule of the school library in the region of Piedmont (Northern Italy) from the point of view of the students, of their relatives and of the citizens .It was carried out by the so called Nucleo Biblioteche (Task Force for School Libraries) of the Regional School Office from Turin. “Bibliotecando” consists of three phases: a survey, a competition and an action called “To read or not to read?”. Thanks to the survey on line we had information about the best practises which show an interesting and efficient interaction between the school library in Italy that is to say as Centres of Resources where not only students learn and make research but even people can interact in many ways. Moreover we had considered and collected the different links that the school libraries have in the context of local, national and international networks. The greatest challenge for our school libraries is how to promote themselves in the public opinion

An analysis of school libraries

The “Bibliotecando” programme aims to contribute to improving the quality and effectiveness of school libraries , working directly with the schools themselves. It is focused on the transfer of the different experiences in terms of using school libraries, supporting schools in extending their activities including the planning of education -related initiatives aimed at increasing employability. In particular it has the following objectives: to facilitate the application of educational methodologies , aiding schools to acquire, adapt and utilise the libraries “best practises”, to work with local and regional institutions in drawing up educational and cultural initiatives which may be of interest to the area in general.

Library activities

Library activities are not included in the curriculum, but they are part of school education. In lower and upper secondary schools, they are, however, an essential factor in school education. Some schools have even made such activities a great feature. The innovative projects characterise, in fact, the identity of the school.

A new reading consciousness. The action “To read or not to read?” aimed to stimulate the interests and the creativity of students, teachers and school principals in drafting and implementing educational and training programmes within the framework of school selfgovernance.

References

Nucleo Biblioteche (2006). : *Bibliotecando Il monitoraggio regionale sulle biblioteche scolastiche e l'azione pilota “ To read or not to read?”* Torino : Ufficio Scolastico Regionale per il Piemonte

Biographical Note

Gabriella Colla is working as adviser for different projects about schools archives and schools libraries at the Regional School Office from Turin. She is taking part in the Education Europe programme and in the “Thinking library” project at national level. She has worked for Turin-Rome : Book's World Capital 2006 organizing an exchange between schools from Turin and Rome which had innovative projects about reading activities and school libraries. Some of her innovative projects gained the European label in 2000 and 2002. She has presented sessions and published articles at local, national and international levels.

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