

The Club of Creative Librarians Celebrated Its 10th Anniversary

Abstract:

The presentation will introduce the Creative Librarians' Club, a division of the Association of Library and Information Professionals of the Czech Republic, and its major activities.

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I founded the Club of Creative Librarians one year before I retired. I worked as the head librarian at the Scientific Information Department, Faculty of Science, Charles University.

There were several reasons: during my employment I had met a lot of librarians with art and handicraft hobbies; I found that librarians are nice and great people, and I didn't want to lose touch with this community. So, my goal was: to put together library staff with creative hobbies, mostly with artistic and handicrafts focus.

I turned for help to the Association of Library and Information Professionals of the Czech Republic. The Association accepted us as a special division – as a club.

I spread the challenge to join the club through an e-conference of the Association. The number of members increased very rapidly to 70. After several years, it was necessary to contact all members due to GDPR. The number of members went down and stabilized at about 50 women, out of which 25-30 of them work more intensively – either for the club as a whole or mostly in their libraries.

The club would not exist and work without a program of activities. Therefore, I set several goals, put together a program and organized activities each year. One of goals was to improve librarians' creative skills, so that the members can decorate libraries and turn them into beautiful meeting places. Our conference on the topic of "Decorate libraries creatively" was supported by a grant of the Association from the Ministry of Culture Czech Republic.

Therefore, we organise courses of various handicraft and art techniques. I also organise seminars on theoretical basis lead by experts; for example, a seminar on the topic of „How it is important to have a hobby“ with a professor of Psychology from Charles University, or another one on the topic of „How to avoid kitsch“ lead by a Professor from the Academy of Arts. The seminar on “Composition of an art work” was lead by a well-known sculptor and a well-known artist.

One of the goals also was to organize presentations and exhibitions of the club members' own art and handicraft works. The first joint exhibition became the base of a travelling exhibition through 10 libraries all over the Czech Republic. The next one took place in the National Library.

Since the beginning of the club, I have been organising Christmas and Easter fairs in cooperation with the National Library of the Czech Republic. We use part of the proceeds to support charity, for example a fund for seriously ill children, or, last Easter, we supported Ukraine.

Since 2018, twice a year, we have been publishing an e-magazine called 'Creative Child' for children in libraries. The idea came from a woman from the Děčín library in North Bohemia. She is now the Chief Editor. Our club members create original quiz worksheets. The Fall 2021 issue was also published in Ukrainian. The last issue - Summer 2022 – has just been published.

In their libraries, the club members organise art and handicraft courses, exhibitions of local artists, art meetings with books for pupils from local schools and children from nurseries - all with the goal to attract readers to libraries. Thanks to our web site under the Association, the good practice can be shared.

Two years ago, I felt that I will not be able to manage the club alone in the future. Therefore, I asked two women for help. They are helping me now with social networking sites and with using Google environment. They create and fill galleries and the summary of club activities on Google etc.

I would like to terminate my work as the chairwoman of the club when I turn 70 and I would like to stay only as a member. I believe that I will find the best person to take over the role of the club leader.

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Web of the Club of Creative Librarians: bit.ly/3wXXL5S

Facebook: http://bit.ly/FB_KTK

Gallery on Google: <https://bit.ly/3fpFuqD>