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EVOLUTION OF THE IES HUELIN LIBRARY IN RECENT YEARS

Since its foundation in 1983 our high school, I.E.S. Huelin, has gone through multiple makeovers to adapt itself to the times. Following the warning of the last Nobel Prize for Literature, which stated that ‘times are changing’, it became apparent that the institution needed to modernise its building and update its structures.

The school library began to change when the Language teacher Paqui Carvajal was appointed Librarian, five years ago. From that moment on many changes began to take place.

In 2011, she put forward an idea to turn the library into a cultural ‘living space’ and a resource centre for all kinds of teaching. Thus, during the last five years all her efforts were focussed on achieving these goals. She had taken on an exciting challenge and the first step was to look for a professionally outstanding team to put into place the library she had in mind. Unfortunately, the human resources and funding were limited. She had very few hours free in her timetable to spend on the library and the rest of the support team were volunteer teachers from different departments who did not mind working in their spare time.

Despite this lack of those resources, she had the support of the management team, which did its best to help to enhance the school library and she also had the economic contribution of the Parents Association.

It was obvious that the ‘new library’ had to change its looks to transform it into a pleasant and more welcoming space. Walls were painted with a relaxing light blue; matching curtains were hung and paintings made by the students decorated the room. Bookshelves were reorganised and became more accessible to students by removing the keys and the cabinet glass doors, which had previously held the books. The library was transformed from a sombre warehouse of books to a cosy space to read, borrow books and hold exhibitions, concerts and meetings with authors.

After improving the physical space, it was time to organise funds by counting and cataloguing the existing material. In these tasks the *ABIES* programme has proved to be very useful, although there are minor improvements left to make. In the last few years’ book fairs and the *departmental policy* have increased the collections and the funds keep growing with the years.

Another important measure to bring the library ‘up to date’ with the times was to bring an IT suite to the library by purchasing computer equipment for students (desktop computers and laptops with internet connection) as well as multimedia and audio-visual equipment (projector and display) to use in meetings. The next step was to place what was going on in the library on the Internet. In the last two years, the library has increased its presence on IES Huelin’s

website and it also has its own blog space, as well as the Biblioweb application. Some of the events organised by the library have been shown on social networks like Youtube, Google+ or Issuu.

Right from the start the coordinator and her team designed a threefold action plan. They would:

- Promote the library as a reading site to encourage students to read and write.
- Transform the library into a resource centre for information and documentation to help the students to acquire the appropriate skills for their intellectual work. The aim is to support students and inspire them to learn
- Make the library the hub for cultural revitalisation, which implies coordinating interdisciplinary work among the high school departments and designing activities involving many students and teachers.

ACTIVITIES FOR THE PROMOTION OF READING.

SALE OF SECOND HAND BOOKS

The members of the educational community provide books, which are sold on bookstalls. For each book given the owner will receive a voucher to purchase another in the market. The books are sold for about 2€.

BOOK FAIR

The book fair, started on the 23rd April, (World Book Day) has been taking place for many years. The students can buy books with a 25% discount; 10% from the bookstall itself, 10% from the parents' association and 5% from the High School itself. Four years ago, the date of the event was changed. The organisers thought that the first term (October or November) would be a better time to encourage the purchase of reading books. It also serves as an excuse to show the library to new pupils at the beginning of the school year. Nowadays, it is much more than a book sale; it has become a cultural fair where the whole High school is invited to participate and schedule visits within the class timetable to ensure all students can have the opportunity to see the library.

LITERARY TOURS

Students can participate in different tours organised by departments such as Language or Biology. They visit the places related to the life or work of important authors in Spanish Literature like Federico Garcia Lorca (Lorca's route) or the locations where Miguel Cervantes' Don Quixote de la Mancha took place (the route across La Mancha).

THEMATIC READINGS

On each occasion, the library is decorated with drawings related to the subject. The collaboration of the Art department is very much appreciated during this part of the activity.

- **Terrifying readings workshop**

When Halloween and All Saints Day are approaching, the library organises a public lecture based on a selection of terrifying stories adapted to different levels and in different languages like French, English and Spanish. Some students read them aloud to groups of pupils in the library.

- **Multilingual poetry reading**

Around San Valentine's day the theme chosen is Love. Students and teachers interpret literature and music. Poems and fragments of works of world literature are recited in different languages. Lots of departments are involved in this activity: Language, English, French, Classic culture, History, Music and Art.

- **Reading of Don Quixote**

This is a scheduled activity to commemorate World Book Day This activity takes place in the library and all members of the educational community who are interested in participating read a fragment of the first chapter of Don Quixote translated into different languages, both national (Catalan, Basque and Galician) and international. The event is held to celebrate the 'Day of Reading' in Andalusia on 16th December.

MEETINGS AND TALKS WITH AUTHORS

Meetings are organized in the library where (mainly female) writers talk to students of different levels who have previously read their books. That is an enriching experience for both parties.

COMPETITIONS

The library organizes several competitions throughout the school year. Some past competitions have been:

- A Photo contest 'Moments of reading'
- A Design Contest: 'The mascot for the Library', 'Bookmarks' related to a chosen book.
- A Writing contest: 'Educational Micro-stories' or 'Lyrics by Reading'

THEMATIC EXHIBITIONS

The library has also become a place to host exhibits. Some examples are:

- 'Lorca and his time' and 'The Generation of 1927 and its time' in collaboration with the Language department.
- 'Linneo, the scientist' organized by the Science department.
- 'Geometric bodies', works made by students and promoted by the Mathematics department.

The work done in the School Library during the last few years was recognized by the Local educational Authority in June 2016.



THE LIBRARY TEAM



Paqui Carvajal (in white trousers) with her team from different departments, Mathematics, History, Language and Art.



The Library before 2011



The Library today

ACTIVITIES

SALE OF SECOND HAND BOOKS



BOOK FAIR



LITERARY TOURS



“Lorca’s route”

THEMATIC READINGS

Terrifying readings workshop



Multilingual poetry reading



Students and teachers interpret literature and music



Reading of Don Quixote





Uninterrupted reading during all the morning



Reading in different native languages by Students and teachers



A student reading in Chinese



A teacher reading in Galician

MEETINGS AND TALK WITH AUTHORS





COMPETITIONS

Design contests



Looking for a mascot for The Library

Photo contest



“ Moments of reading”

The winner and her masterpiece

Literary contest



“ Educational Micro-stories”



Essay contest winners

THEMATIC EXHIBITIONS



“Geometric bodies”



“Exhibition Generation 27”

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ACTIVITIES