

Cooperation between Mobile Library and ZGNL: Example of Good Practice

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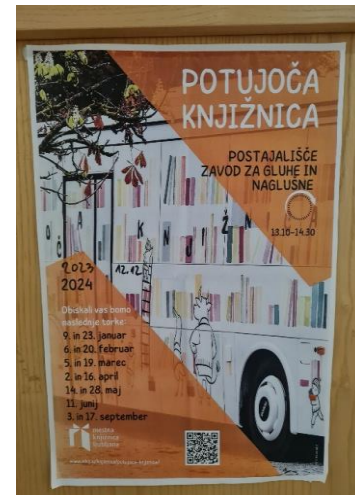
Zavod za gluhe in naglušne Ljubljana (ZGNL)

- presentation: kindergarten, primary school, high school, dorm, doctor's surgeries, mobile services;
- educational programmes with equal educational standards: adapted for the hearing impaired and students with language and speech disorders, children with autism spectrum disorder, lower educational standard;
- the role of the school library: link between children and Mobile Library (providing information, notifying, encouraging, accompanying, interpreting if needed or providing help during communication, teaching responsibility);
- cooperation with Mobile Library started in:
 - May 2017: ZGNL became a permanent stop;
 - June 2017: cooperation strategy started.



How we cooperate?

- bibilobus gives information of its arrival: posters across the school, email reminders, in-person information;
- once a month, from January 2022: twice a month;
- (extended) operating times: from 13.10 to 14.30;
- providing escort: librarians, afternoon programme teaches (group visits), dorm teachers and assistants;
- first visit: children visit bibliobus, get to know the librarian, see the books, get an registration form;
- filled-in registration form is returned to the school library, and is the sent to the Mobile Library – next time they visit they get a library card;
- school librarians remind students about their due dates.



SWOT ANALYSIS

STRENGTHS:

- interesting and alternative approach to encouraging reading;
- mobile library = cultural institution on wheels;
- general library personnel: good relationships, honest and relaxed two-sided communication;
- clear rules;
- more books, more choice;
- better access to different services;
- library as a quiet and peaceful place.



WEAKNESSES:

- poor reading skills of deaf students;
- bad past experiences – distrust towards libraries, rejecting reading;
- poor social skills of children with autism spectrum disorders.



OPPORTUNITIES:

- morning visits: diversification of field days, kindergarten visits – increased foot traffic;
- kids can build their cultural capital;
- employees can have access to new scientific publications, information databases, general literature;
- opening the institution;
- alternative ways of spending free time;
- implementing „new services“(for example riding the bibliobus as a reward).

THREATS:

- school closures during COVID-19 pandemic;
- the construction of ZGNL;
- digitalisation of education;
- the use of other media instead of books.

Interview Analysis

- HOW DID YOU FIND OUT ABOUT THE MOBILE LIBRARY?
 - I saw the bus once and went to look at it; I saw the bus parked at the stop;
 - when I was outside, I saw the librarian walking towards the bibliobus;
 - from the teacher;
 - from the librarian, at the library;
 - from my classmate;
 - I saw a poster, at the dorm;
 - I saw a model bibliobus at the library;
 - in the kindergarten.

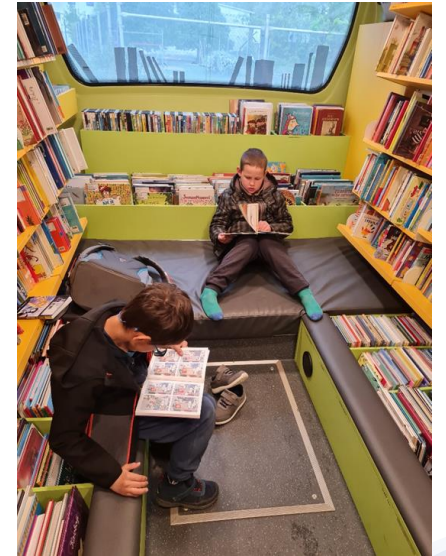
Interview Analysis

- DO YOU KNOW WHEN THE MOBILE LIBRARY COMES TO ZGNL STOP?
 - only a few students know the exact Mobile Library's operating hours;
 - the majority of interviewees remember the day of the visit.
- DO YOU LOOK FOR BOOKS ON YOUR OWN OR DO YOU ASK THE LIBRARIAN FOR HELP ?
 - students prefer to browse the Mobile Library on their own;
 - encouraging finding: many students ask the librarian for help when they cannot find the book they want: „At the beginning I didn't know where the books were, but now I can browse on my own.“



Interview Analysis

- WHAT DO YOU LIKE BEST IN THE MOBILE LIBRARY?
 - You can sit and read;
 - looking for books in the bibliobus;
 - there are books that the school library doesn't offer: „It's very interesting, they have everything.“
 - good books, bigger collection: „There are exotic books that I cannot borrow elsewhere.“
 - you can walk around the bus;
 - the white paint of the bibliobus: „The new bibliobus is very pretty.“
 - button that opens the door;
 - a pillow for reading, soft seats.



Interview Analysis

- WHAT DO YOU DISLIKE ABOUT THE MOBILE LIBRARY?
 - I want the bus to come more often: „If you're ill when it arrives, then you have to wait for another month. If I were late, then I would have to wait for a long time. I don't like the fact that it comes only twice a month.“
 - operating hours: „I would visit the library, if it came earlier.“
 - it comes only on Tuesdays; I would like it better for it to come on other days of the week;
 - not enough seating areas;
 - torn book pages.

Interview Analysis

- WHAT BOOKS DO YOU LIKE AND CAN YOU FIND THEM IN THE MOBILE LIBRARY?
 - most students are happy with books provided by the Mobile Library;
 - they can find books that interest them: about space, English comic books, football, mythological monsters, princesses, books about popular video games such as Minecraft, current series Attention, Fairy Tales, Stories for the End of the Stone Age, Dog Man, Dirty Bertie, Percy Jackson, Tintin;
 - only one student pointed out that „the Mobile Library could purchase extra books, for example adventure books and comics.“



Interview Analysis

- HOW DO YOU FEEL IN THE MOBILE LIBRARY?
 - relaxed, calm, interested, great, excellent;
 - like in any other library, it's not that different;
 - good because you can walk around the bus.
- WOULD YOU LIKE TO VISIT THE MOBILE LIBRARY MORE OFTEN?
 - most students would like to visit the Mobile Library more often.



Our Successful Stories

- ZALA: is a 4th grader and on weekdays she stays in an intensive group home, where dorm teachers work with autism spectrum disorder and other conduct disorders. When at home she does not go to the library. She refuses to read. We have noticed that she likes flipping through board books with pictures of animals. During learning sessions she visits the Mobile Library with a teaching assistant. She likes reading educational books with clear illustrations. She is quite a star among students from the first educational-cycle. Zala faces challenges on how not to borrow the same book every time and we need to encourage her to pick up more challenging educational books.
- GORAZD: is a lively fourth grader with attention deficit disorder. He is lively and always on the move. At the library he calms down and reads Tintin stories. At the school library he has read every book in the series, that is why he uses a larger collection of books offered by the Mobile Library.

Our Successful Stories

- Year 3: these children are enrolled in a programme designed for children with language and speech difficulties. There are 10 boys and they are very lively, and some of them are bilingual (Albanian and Bosnian languages as their native language). Their challenge is to return all books on time and to agree among each other that the most recent publication of Dog Man does not go to the strongest boy in the class. Because they are all fans of the comic, one of the students proposed to form a Comic book club of the cat kid that is still offered by ZGNL in 2023/2024 school year as an afternoon programme.
- MATIJA: is a high school student that comes to the Mobile Library during dorm's study sessions. He loves science fiction. He's looking for the third installment of the Witcher, he's already read the first two books. His challenge is to preserve his interest in fiction and continue to go to his local library.

Our Successful Stories

- NEJA: is a high school student who's enrolled in ZGNL because of her ADHD diagnosis and Asperger's syndrome. Although she talks a lot, she is shy when it comes to new social situations. She has to prepare to make her first visit to the Mobile Library and is accompanied by the librarian whom she's familiar with. Neja has many interests („books about facts“): plants, computer science, planes, personal growth guides etc. Neja's challenge is to limit the number of books she borrows and be mindful of due dates and to talk to the general librarian on her own.
- EDO: is a high school student who studies to become a woodworker. He considers the library a place where he can get away from the school noise and his family. He has a vivid imagination, he likes to explore mythological monsters and likes reading comic books. Edo's challenge is to return many borrowed books on time, to start reading longer comic books and to preserve his interest in books despite the temptation of video games.

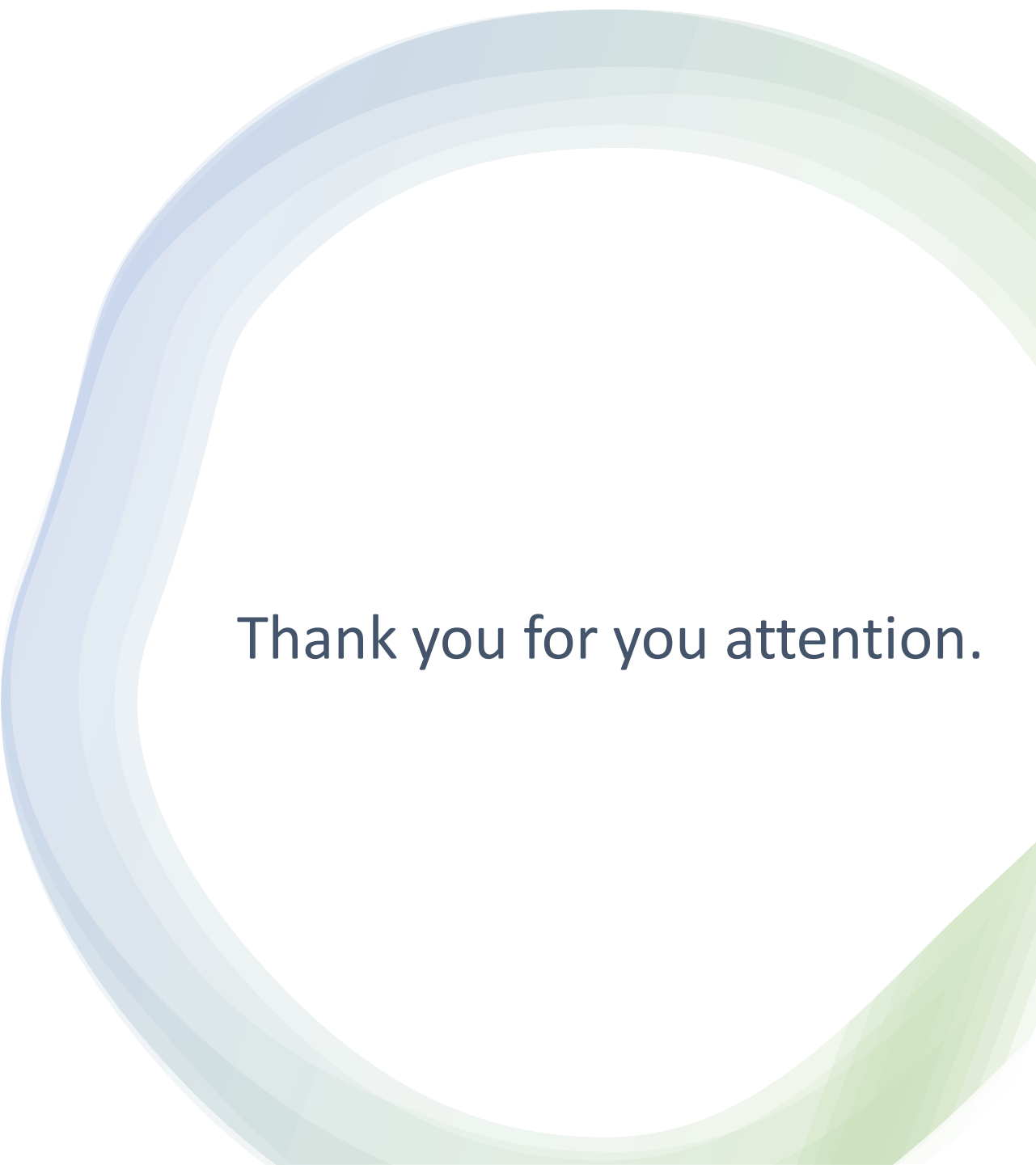
Future Successful Cooperation

- personal engagement and cooperation of all teaching staff at ZGNL;
- open two-way communication and the flow of information between school and general librarians;
- evaluation at the End of the school years, group planning for the next school year.



WHAT WOULD STUDENTS LIKE LIBRARIANS TO KNOW?

- if it had more books, the bus could be even bigger;
 - it could have a small TV to watch videotapes;
 - the bus could change its colour into blue;
 - I would like to go for a drive in the bibilobus;
- I want a different school timetable in order to visit the Mobile Library.

A decorative graphic on the right side of the slide, consisting of several concentric, slightly irregular circles. The circles are colored in shades of blue and green, with the outermost ring being a darker blue and the inner rings transitioning to lighter shades of blue and green.

Thank you for you attention.