

Literacy and Reading - Best Practices in Malmö, Sweden

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Abstract:

Malmö is the third largest city in Sweden with a population of 300,000. It is a multicultural city with more than 30% of its population being born abroad and it is also a young city with an average age of 38.6 years per citizen. Malmö public library has worked with a range of activities promoting literacy and reading among the target groups. Such activities are Tea-parties on fantasy sub-genres, putting bookshelves in a police station and lending an empty business premises in a shopping mall to create a place for literature and creativity in a different place. Success factors include defining the target groups, having a good budget for the project(s), setting goals as well as work methods on how to obtain those goals, and being persistent in finding ways on how to reach people still not coming to the library. Last but not least, it is when we collaborate with others that we get the best results.

Keywords: Literacy Matters, reading, Sweden.

Introduction

Malmö is the third largest city in Sweden with a population of 300,000. It is a multicultural city with more than 30% of its population being born abroad; and with half of its pre-school children speaking a language other than Swedish with their parents. The city is represented by 178 countries from all over the world. Malmö is also a young city, with an average age of 38.6 years per citizen with 22% younger than 20 years old, and 62% of the population between the ages 20-64. The city has twelve public libraries, including the main city library. And, like many larger cities, Malmö has a variety of socio-economic resident areas suffering from challenges of integration, and in these areas we have target libraries aiming to reach the goal of an equal and accessible library service. To promote literacy and to establish a low threshold for encountering the services of the libraries, there is crucial work to be made with activities promoting reading and literacy in different ways. This paper presents some examples of literacy initiatives from Malmö.

Literature for readers from Somalia and Somali literature for readers

The public library received funding in joint co-operation with a Somali association with the aim to promote the public library as a meeting place and as a place for inspiration. The