Library Services in Guatemala and Utah:
Applying lessons learned abroad in library outreach and collections

SLCO Library System

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#ula2016

Utah Library Association
Diversity Services Round Table

Librarians Without Borders

Mission

Librarians Without Borders (LWB) is a non-profit organization that strives to improve access to information resources regardless of language, geography, or religion, by forming partnerships with community organizations in developing regions.

librarianswithoutborders

Jorge Chojolan

Miguel Angel Asturias Academy discusses forward thinking themes rare in Guatemala, including:
- Gender Equality
- Ecology
- Racism
- Health
- Courtesy
- Human Rights
- Corruption
- Discrimination

https://youtu.be/CTCV4i1N0Kc

Introduction and Background

❖ Librarians Without Borders have been working with the Miguel Angel Asturias Academy in Quetzaltenango, Guatemala since 2009.

❖ The partnership supports the following common goals:
   ➢ Support learning, literacy and curriculum at the Asturias Academy
   ➢ Facilitate access to reading materials
   ➢ Ongoing training and development of staff expertise

Guatemala Education Stats

Out of 100 children

- **89** start primary school

- **55** complete sixth grade

- **38** begin secondary school

- **18** complete secondary school

- The average number of years of completed education among the wealthiest 20% of Guatemalans (age 25-59) is 9.5 years, whereas among the poorest 20% it is only 1.3 years of schooling. The overall average is 4.9 years.

- 19% of students each year drop out of elementary school.

- 38% of secondary school-aged students enroll in secondary school. (This is the worst record in Latin America, which has an average enrollment rate of 69%.)

Primary Sources
UNICEF, WHO, Instituto Nacional de Estadísticas, PREAL Report Card on Guatemala, and the CIA World Factbook

- On average 1/2 of these 18 students will attend University

- The majority of students who start University graduate

- Public Universities extremely difficult to get in

- Private Universities cost the same as 2 full time monthly salaries, per month (US $300-400 a month)

Asturias Academy Statis

Serves approximately 300 students from varying backgrounds

The Academy has two main missions: get ALL Guatemalan children in school and break cycles of poverty through education.

- 75% of students will graduate 12th grade
- The other 25% are usually lost in 6th grade
- 50% of the students go to University
- 50% will start their own business once leaving school at 12th grade

LWB Projects

❖ Collection Development

❖ Library Day

❖ Professional Development

❖ Communications

Collection Development

Purchased 19 books with LWB funds and 37 books funded by volunteers. Purchased a total of 56 non-fiction books

Discovering Dewy

Introduced students to three subjects of the Dewey Decimal system through educational activities and fun crafts.

The students were able to discover the Dewey Decimal System on a small scale and we hope that this connected their interests in exploring their library for more subjects.

500s Astronomy and Constellations

Students used books from each planet to place themselves in the correct order around the sun and learned about different constellations and the stories that go along with them.

300s Ninjas and Fairytales

Focusing on fairytales and ninjas. The students talked about different classic fairytales they may have known and then created clothespin mermaids and pipe cleaner ninjas.

900s Geography

Students were able to learn about different countries and choose different places they would like to visit and why.

Began by looking through various continent books and travel magazines to discover and learn about different cultures around the world.

Once students were interested in a destination they used stickers, cutouts and flags to paste onto a giant map. After two days the map was a beautiful sight of future places and destinations the students wanted to visit someday.
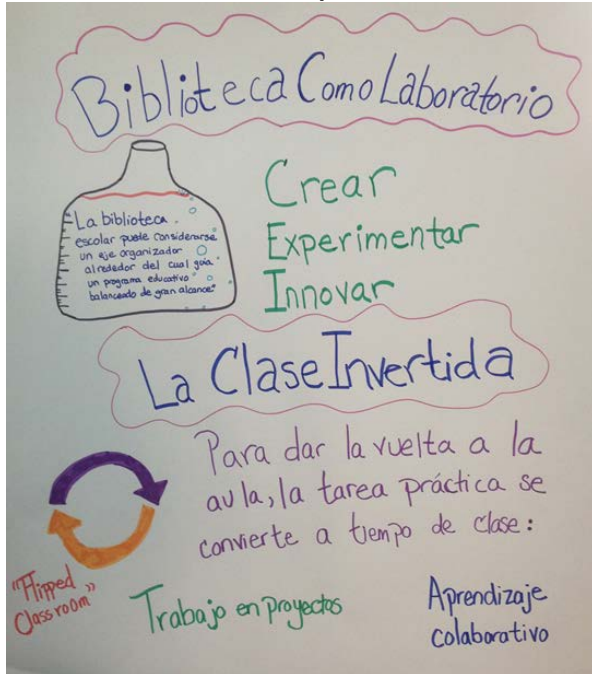
The oldest students created a fairytale through a fill-in-the-blank activity choosing various parts of speech. After they completed their story they created cut out characters to re-enact their story through a shadow puppet theatre. The youngest children were even able to enjoy this performance

Mad-Libs and Puppet Theatre

Bringing the Library into the Classroom

At the request of Jorge Chojolan and the teachers at the Miguel Angel Asturias Academy, this year marks the first service trip where LWB offered a professional development workshop for the staff of the school.

❖ Library as a Lab & the 'Flipped' Classroom
❖ Guided Research
❖ Early Literacy
❖ Brainstorming Exercise

Books are not allowed to leave the building or be browsed
The library is on a hand written cataloguing system and still use the Dewey system.

Library materials appear to be dated
No children's section
No programming
No computers

Local Library Visit

All books behind bars for protection
No way to browse collection
Allowed to use books in the library
No lending libraries in the city
No Programming
No computers

Biblioteca vs. Librería

Librería = Book Store

Biblioteca = Library. Usually academic library or paid membership.

Librarians need to be proactive in teaching their community that services are relevant and free to them.

Biblioteca vs. Librería

Mexico:

Plan de 1984:
Resulted in all 31 states with a central public library and every city with a population of 5,000+ received a library.

2005:
The literacy rate in Mexico climbed to 86.1%, and 91.4% in the 2010 census (US Dept of State, Censo de Población)

Library Outreach & Latinos

Form relationships within the community:

    Identify community representatives:
- Local community services and government
- Local religious groups
- Local business and chamber of commerce
- Search keywords in social media and join those groups. Introduce yourself then listen to their stories.

    Listen:
- Ask about their experiences
- Make yourself available – schedule time to meet
- Offer conversation over food
- Learn about the structure and needs of the group

    Ask about their communication habits and needs

Use these relationships and habits in your marketing plan.

Collection Development Resources

Location and Visibility of Collection

Is the collection in a place that could be found by someone who does not read in English?

Is there visible signage in Spanish?

Can you put all the Spanish collections in one place?

Can you explain the borrowing process in Spanish and promote programming with signage in the collection?

Quality and Relevance of Collection

Spanish collections need to be maintained frequently.

"Spanish in Our Libraries" listserv and ThinkTank: http://www.sol-plus.net/

LibraryJournal Spanish collections articles and essential Spanish collections links: http://bit.ly/1lUUciW

Reforma: http://www.reforma.org/

Q&A

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