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**Participation of the Libraries of Barcelona in the Year of the Book and Reading 2005:
The involvement and opportunities of libraries in a global programme to disseminate
reading**

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Abstract

THE YEAR OF THE BOOK AND READING 2005 aims to celebrate the extraordinary relationship that Barcelona has with the world of books through a wide-ranging spectrum of activities for all age groups, the main objectives of which are to exchange experiences and acquire knowledge that will enable us to evaluate and reflect upon the contribution of books, their present and their future.

We have before us a global proposal for disseminating the habit of reading that enjoys the participation of more than 350 institutions, including publishing houses, bookshops, booksellers' guilds, the media, museums, theatres, universities, cultural institutions, writers' associations and public libraries.

THE YEAR OF THE BOOK AND READING is an initiative of the Barcelona City Council with the collaboration of the Barcelona Provincial Council, the Generalitat of Catalonia and the Spanish Ministry of Culture.

Coordinated from a Technical Office and following the guidelines of a Committee, the group of partners in the YEAR OF THE BOOK AND READING have programmed the event around seven major thematic axes:

Don Quixote enters a printing house

Literary scenarios

The act of writing

The journey of reading

The desire to disseminate

Words as inspiration

The Festival of Sant Jordi

The Libraries of Barcelona are one of the leading partners in this global project for disseminating reading, being involved in three areas of action:

Through the programmes for disseminating the habit of reading that they regularly devise and manage which, in 2005, are integrating the thematic axes of the Year of the Book and Reading.

By offering activities for active participation in which the reader plays a leading role, not just from the intimate perspective of the act of reading but also in terms of the relationship the reader establishes with literary authors, critics, other readers and even with the library itself.

Finally, the libraries are getting involved in the YEAR OF THE BOOK by promulgating the current model of the library: a neighbourhood cultural centre which, by interacting with its most immediate environment, operates in accordance with four functions: information, education, dissemination of reading and socio-cultural integration.

The creation of a conceptual space such as the YEAR OF READING represents a series of valuable opportunities for the Libraries of Barcelona, notable amongst which are:

- Expanding and consolidating synergies with the city's other cultural industries at a general level.
- Creating networks of collaboration in the immediate vicinity with the cultural agents in the territory.
- Raising the public's awareness of the new model of library as described in the Library Plan 1998-2010.
- Serving as centres that embrace the working dynamics and spirit of participation of the YEAR OF THE BOOK AND READING which not only concern institutions but also the readers themselves.

Background

Libraries de Barcelona is a network of 29 municipal amenities¹ that cover a population of 1,578,000 inhabitants distributed across ten districts. The management of the network is the responsibility of the *Barcelona Library Consortium*.

Made up of the Barcelona Provincial Council and the Barcelona City Council, the mission of the Barcelona Library Consortium is to implement the *Barcelona Library Plan 1998-2010*², which not only envisages a substantial increase in the number of libraries (from the 18 initial ones to a total of 40), but also a whole new approach to libraries.

The new library model views libraries as neighbourhood cultural centres that assume socio-cultural and educational functions as well as encouraging the habit of reading, thus going beyond their image of simply being centres for reading and borrowing books.

The design, impetus and implementation of common library policies has resulted in an extraordinary increase in the number of users, going from 1,362,840 visitors in 1998 to 4,126,308 in 2004.

Participation of the Libraries of Barcelona in the Year of the Book and Reading 2005: The involvement and opportunities of libraries in a global programme to disseminate reading

1. A global proposal for the dissemination of reading: the YEAR OF THE BOOK AND READING

1.1 Introduction to the *Thematic Years*

A *Thematic Year* is any event whose aim is to unite a large proportion of the cultural programming efforts of one or more institutions for the purpose of highlighting a concept or asset of general interest.

As well as a marked temporary nature, the message of the *Thematic Years* has two spheres of action: one local one, given that the general public reflects on a cultural event taking place in

¹ **Law 4/1993, of 18 March 1993, concerning the library system in Catalonia.** Official Gazette of the Generalitat of Catalonia. 29 March 1993.

² **Barcelona Library Plan 1998-2010: the libraries of the 21st century: from information to knowledge.** [Barcelona]: Barcelona City Council. Barcelona Institute of Culture. Cultural Cooperation Service, DL 1998

their own environment, and one international one, as the *Thematic Year* attracts people from different origins interested in discovering new cultural horizons.

By extension, the organisation of this kind of event is accompanied by a significant boost to the economy thanks to both public and private initiatives leading to the production of academic and cultural promotional activities, investments in the tourist industry, etc.

The most symbolic precedent that Barcelona has in this respect is the YEAR OF GAUDI 2002³. The celebration of the 150th anniversary of the great architect's birth provided a motive for showcasing his work and his multifaceted figure by means of 300 activities, ranging from exhibitions to university seminars to tourist itineraries and concerts. The outcome was particularly positive, as some 50 other towns and cities also got involved, around six million people were mobilised and it had a major impact in the international media⁴.

1.2 The Year of the Book and Reading 2005. Definition and objectives

The YEAR OF THE BOOK AND READING 2005 aims to celebrate the extraordinary relationship between Barcelona and the world of books by a range of some 500 activities for every age and taste. The mission of the event is to encourage both the exchange of experiences and the acquisition of new knowledge which will allow people to evaluate and reflect on the contribution of books and their present and future.

The mission encompasses four main objectives:

- To extol literary creation
- To promote the habit of reading
- To incentivise the book-related industry
- To reiterate the bonds between the city and books

The organisation, development and execution of the event have been made possible thanks to the cooperation of more than 200 institutions, including government entities, the media, publishing houses, bookshops, booksellers' guilds, museums, theatres, universities, cultural institutions, writers' associations and the network of public libraries of Barcelona.

1.3 Antecedents

a.- Barcelona, international book capital

The result of a long-standing tradition –the first Barcelona printing press dates back to the 15th century, shortly after the printing presses were introduced to the Iberian Peninsula- Barcelona is a city with a notable publishing industry. Modern infrastructures and a lively creative platform have meant that every year sees all kinds of genres are published: novels, essays, poetry, text books as well as the press in Catalan, Spanish and other foreign languages.

One unique factor of publishing in Barcelona is that it operates in two kinds of markets, depending whether the language of publication is Spanish or Catalan. Books published in Spanish are released in the rest of Spain, Latin America, Europe and the United States, reaching export figures of 32,748,784.44 € per year⁵. Meanwhile, if the language of publication is Catalan, Barcelona holds the absolute leadership compared to other cities such as Valencia, Palma de Majorca etc.

With a publishing volume of this size, the publishing world organises various important events that range from international trade fairs – *Liber International Book Fair*, *Children's Book Week*, *International Comic Book Exhibition*, *Catalan Book Week* – to recognised literary awards - *Premio Planeta*, *Premio Nadal*, *Premi d'Honor de les Lletres Catalanes*. The impact of these

³ <http://www.gaudi2002.bcn.es/>

⁴ **2002: Year of Gaudí**. Barcelona: Gaudí 2002 Office, 2003

⁵ Annex I. <http://www.cambrallibreca.com/>

publishing events on the general public is undeniable, the most evident exponent of this being the Festival of Sant Jordi (St. George's Day).

b.- Barcelona, the originator of World Book Day

On the Day of Sant Jordi –23 April- World Book Day is celebrated. This is a day on which giving and receiving books and roses has become a popular festival. The *Diada* is a festive day in which Barcelonans get fully involved, leaving their homes to buy books, discover the latest publishing releases and take part in the activities held in the city for the occasion.

The Day of the Book dates back to 1925, although it was not until 1930 that the event became established on 23 April, the day of Sant Jordi (St George), the patron saint of Catalonia and the day on which Cervantes died. Later on, in 1995, thanks to an initiative led by Catalan publishers, UNESCO declared this date as WORLD BOOK AND COPYRIGHT DAY.

c.- Barcelona, a literary metropolis

Barcelona is a literary metropolis of the first order. Not only is it the origin of prestigious writers of international fame such as Manuel Vázquez Montalbán, Juan Marsé, Jaime Gil de Biedma and Terenci Moix; but its streets, buildings and inhabitants have served as inspiration for Spanish and international authors. Cervantes' *Don Quixote*, Orwell's *Homage to Catalonia* or the recent best-seller *The Shadow of the Wind* by Ruíz-Zafón are all emblematic examples of literary scenarios that reflect the history and facets of the city.

d.- Barcelona, a city of readers

Barcelona is also a city of readers. Hundred-year-old bookshops, specialist book stores, second-hand bookshops and modern cultural outlets join the library system in creating a fabric whose mission is to preserve and disseminate knowledge. Barcelona, as well as being the home of the National Library of Catalonia, has libraries with enormously valuable book collections, university libraries and specialist libraries, as well as a network of public libraries in the process of being extended.

As mentioned earlier, the city of Barcelona is developing its library map thanks to the *Barcelona Library Plan 1998-2010*, which thus far has entailed an increase and improvement in infrastructures since 1998, going from 18 to 29 libraries and from a total area of 11,038 m² to 29,069 m². These improvements also relate to book collections and activity programmes, proof of which is the evolution in book lending, from 759,658 in 1998 to 3,079,324 in 2004.

The results of this investment have not been slow to emerge: the Libraries of Barcelona have quadrupled the number of readers, going from 1,362,840 visits to 4,126,308, with a total of 395,189 carnets.

1.4 Agents and partners

The YEAR OF THE BOOK AND READING is an initiative of the Barcelona City Council with the collaboration of the Barcelona Provincial Council⁶, the Generalitat of Catalonia⁷ and the Spanish Ministry of Culture.

The Council of Promoters, made up of representatives of the four benchmark government institutions, is joined by 362 *Participating Entities in the Council of Promoters*, notable amongst which are: writers' associations and agencies, civic centres, publishing houses, bookshops,

⁶ Provincial government. www.diba.es

⁷ Autonomous government. www.gencat.net

theatres, museums, cultural foundations, universities, guilds, art galleries, specialist publications, the general media and the library networks based in the city⁸.

The Executive Committee approves the general objectives of the event and oversees their fulfilment. The Executive Committee is supported by the Advisory Committee, a committee of 27 experts in cultural management and disseminating reading. The Executive Committee also appoints a Commissioner, who is responsible for providing the content and thematic lines to be followed by the partners as a group in programming the activities.

Finally, the Technical Office, led by the Commissioner, is the entity responsible for:

- Coordinating the planning of the different organising agents
- Programming and managing the activities
- Designing and executing the event's communication campaign
- Monitoring the results of the different activities and issuing a résumé at the end of the event

A final fundamental point is the methodology adopted: the celebration of the YEAR OF THE BOOK AND READING does not have any kind of institutional nature. The option was to give it the status of a group participation event, thus assuring the involvement of all the different agents who make up the universe of books.

1.5 Thematic axes and activities

As mentioned above, the main objective of the Technical Office of the Year of the Book and Reading is to coordinate the activities proposed by the different partners, following the directives of the Commissioner. This involves programming more than 500 activities, structured around seven thematic axes, which are:

i. Don Quixote enters a printing house

The scenarios chosen by Miguel de Cervantes for *Don Quixote* are imaginary. There is only one real location, Barcelona, where the Knight of the Sorrowful Countenance and his squire have an experience that redirects the argument of the novel. Cervantes makes his Quixote wander through the city streets, even having him enter a printing house.

On the fourth anniversary of its publication, Barcelona wanted to pay homage to this universal literary character and join the celebrations taking place in Madrid and Castile La Mancha⁹.

From exhibitions and reprints of the book, to operas and conferences, numerous institutions have organised activities that contribute to disseminating the figure of Don Quixote. The most notable of these are:

- Don Quixote and Barcelona. Exhibition. City History Museum. 18 March – 31 October
- Congress: Cervantes and Barcelona. 7 – 9 April
- The Don Quixote Route around Barcelona. A literary itinerary, organised by the Libraries of Barcelona. 19 March – 29 November
- Dulcinea. Opera for children. 19 November – 1 December

ii. Literary scenarios

Cities recreated by writers take on an independent life of their own and are one of the characteristics marks of literary and urban modernity. Authors have tried to describe the streets of great cities while at the same time projecting their imaginations to millions of readers:

⁸ Annex I

⁹ <http://www.donquijotedelamancha2005.com/>

Dickens' London, the Paris of Baudelaire or Balzac, the Venice of Thomas Mann, the New York of Dos Passos or Auster...

Barcelona, historically, has had an intimate relationship with the world of books: as a publishing centre, as a meeting place for writers, the streets of Barcelona have served as inspiration for fiction, philosophy and song. Thanks to Manuel Vázquez Montalbán, George Orwell and Jean Genet, Barcelona has been immortalised as a literary space.

Symposia, publications, meetings and tourist itineraries bear witness to the special relationship between authors and urban areas, highlights being:

- First European Meeting on the Black Novel. Barcelona Centre of Contemporary Culture. 20 – 22 January
- The Barcelona of Vázquez Montalbán. Conference cycle. Libraries of Barcelona. 13 – 27 January
- Barcelona and books; the books of Barcelona. International symposium on the publishing supremacy of Barcelona. 7 – 11 May.
- Writers and Cities. Literary course at the Pere Pruna Cultural Centre. First quarter of 2005

iii. The act of writing

The evolution of civilisations has been forged thanks to the transmission of the written word. The founder of *Structuralism*, Claude Levi-Strauss, champions the distinction between societies with a writing tradition and those without, against other ethnocentric anthropological theories that differentiate evolved and primitive societies.

Whether on parchment, paper or digital support, setting knowledge down on a physical medium has allowed humanity to evolve and transmit its legends, its laws, its techniques and its historical deeds. The book – particularly since “mass” production thanks to the printing press – has become the vehicle of knowledge *par excellence*.

Over the course of the year, a global reflection on the act of writing will be taking place, including activities such as:

- *The Literature of Exile*. Centre of Contemporary Culture. 26 September – January 2006
- *The Latin American Boom forty years on*. Organised by Editorial Alfaguara. 4 – 7 October
- *Through the eyes of Verne*. Exhibition, organised by Cosmocaixa. June 2005 to March 2006.
- Barcelona Poetry. Festival of Poetry, in various locations. May 2005.

iv. The journey of reading

Reading is a communication experience that leads the reader to experience joy, emotion, a sense of refuge... an aesthetic and intellectual experience that develops intelligence, the imagination and a critical sensibility and allows the reader to expand his or her knowledge.

The anonymous reader and his or her own personal journey through words are paid tribute to in this fourth thematic axis of the YEAR OF THE BOOK. The following activities have been organised, amongst others:

- Master works aloud. Workshop and group reading. Institut Français. 20 – 23 April

- Reading Clubs¹⁰. Libraries of Barcelona. October 2004 – June 2005
- Readers in books. Conference cycle. 14 April – 2 June
- X, are you coming? Young people and libraries. Workshop. June 2005
- International Easy-to Read Network Meeting¹¹. 6 and 7 October

v. The desire to disseminate

The meeting point between the writer and the reader is happily created thanks to the work of publishers, graphic designers, booksellers, librarians, literary agents, printers, distributors and translators.

A professional universe that in Barcelona goes back to the 15th century with the first printing presses, and which currently boasts a cutting-edge publishing industry and an ever-expanding network of libraries.

- Barcelona Book Fair. Publishing trade fair. November 2005
- Exhibition of books and publishing in Barcelona and Catalonia
- Public Library and Reading Seminars. November 2005
- Meeting of the European Council of Associations of Literary Translators. 14 – 16 October
- Meeting of the European Federation of Publishers. 26 – 28 May.
- 8th Meeting of the International Committee of Translation and Language Rights of PEN International. September 2005

vi. Words as inspiration

Literary images have served to inspire numerous artists. Painters, filmmakers and composers have given their interpretation of literary passages, thus achieving an interrelation between the arts that is fundamental for creative progress. Examples such as Orson Welles' adaptations of Shakespeare's work, the relationship between Miró and the poet Takiguchi, or the new album by Lou Reed, inspired by an Edgar Allan Poe poem, invite us to continue discovering the intercommunication between literature and other arts.

- Exhibition: *JOAN MIRÓ, Architect of a book*. Joan Miró Foundation. 30 June – 25 September
- Exhibition: *Books illustrated by Picasso*. Picasso Museum. October 2005
- Exhibition: *Around the World in 80 Objects*. Ethnological Museum. January 2005
- Film and Literature Seminars. Golferichs Cultural Centre. 25 February – 11 March.

vii. The Festival of Sant Jordi

On 23 April, the Day of Sant Jordi (St George) is one of the most emblematic festivals in Barcelona and Catalonia. For more than 70 years, the city streets have been thronged with people going out to buy and give books and roses, a phenomenon that has no international equivalent. On the occasion of the YEAR OF THE BOOK, this festive day, with its evident participatory nature, was extended over a whole week.

The main events of the Week of Sant Jordi were:

- Book Festival for Children. Centre of Contemporary Culture. 16 – 17 April.
- The Proclamation of Reading: Martí de Riquer. Libraries of Barcelona. 22 April
- Exhibition: *Who's Who in Catalan Literature*. Department of Culture. April 2005

¹⁰ Domingo Espinet, Gemma. "Reading Clubs of Barcelona: an experiment in fostering reading and dialogue" in **Public Libraries: a commitment to the future. II National Congress of Public Libraries**. Madrid: Sub-directorate General for Library Coordination, 2004. PP 267-271

¹¹ <http://lecturafacil.galeon.com/>

- Evening recitals in the Libraries of Barcelona. *The night as read*. Libraries of Barcelona. 23 April.

1.6 Communication strategies

As mentioned in point 1.4, the Technical Office, through its Press Office, is responsible for planning the communication strategy of the YEAR OF THE BOOK, based on three factors:

- a. Communications campaign. This was mainly concentrated on the city of Barcelona with the slogan *MÁS LIBROS, MÁS LIBRES* (MORE BOOKS = MORE FREE) in a clear allusion to the process of acquiring knowledge and a critical sensibility by the reader.
- b. Media relations. The synergy of so many endeavours with a single message requires a platform for "visualisation". Relations with the written press, radio and television aim to go beyond simply providing information and disseminating the event's activities, aiming for an analysis of the phenomenon of reading and its promotion through discussion. In this way, with the support of the Technical Office, the media is able to create its own programmes and spots to reflect upon literature.
- c. External projection. As well as a communications campaign in the context of Barcelona, the organisers of the YEAR OF THE BOOK were also determined to disseminate their actions at a Spanish and international level. With the aim of boosting this endeavour, Barcelona is welcoming Spanish and international publishers and writers as well as foreign journalists on cultural issues. This line of action is complemented by various collaborations with the Cervantes Institute, such as the production of the major travelling exhibition *Don Quixote and Barcelona*.

A series of products have arisen from the communications strategies:

Official programme. Published in Catalan, Spanish and English, this was structured on the basis of the seven thematic axes of the event and served as the agenda of activities. It consists of an introduction and credits.

Official website¹². Information can be accessed by targeting a thematic axis, via a search engine or through a calendar of events. This enhances the options for feedback from the general public, who thus achieve a certain level of participation. Another added value is the incorporation of a series of links to the different institutions and initiatives for fostering the habit of reading that run parallel to the Official Programme.

Versions are available in Catalan, Spanish and English.

Urban signage. Utilised all year round, the aim of the urban signage is to raise the general public's awareness of the existence and significance of the event. It involves hanging banners on the main city streets and the different centres where activities are being held.

Advertising. Advertising messages have been transmitted by the written press, radio and television, placing a special emphasis on the main events of the *Year of the Book*, such as the Meeting on the Black Novel and the Festival of Sant Jordi.

The advertising message was reinforced thanks to printed materials such as posters and pamphlets on specific programmes.

¹² www.anyllibre2005.bcn.es

Event Report. Envisaged as a summary of activities, this will be published in Catalan, Spanish and English and will be available in both printed and digital versions.

2. Involvement of the *Libraries of Barcelona* in the YEAR OF THE BOOK AND READING

The Barcelona Library Consortium, as an essential benchmark of the city's public reading system, is very much involved in organising the YEAR OF THE BOOK AND READING. This involvement has a dual facet: from an institutional sphere and within the framework of collaboration in the overall dynamic of the event, as it is contributing to the planning, production and execution of activities.

2.1 Institutional involvement

The institutional involvement of the Library Consortium is at the following levels:

- Preliminary planning. Before the launch of the YEAR OF THE BOOK, the Barcelona Library Consortium worked for the Advisory Committee with three members: the Head of the Consortium itself, the Cultural Programming Technician and the Communications Technician.
During this phase of the planning, it collaborated from June through to the middle of November, shortly before the official presentation of the YEAR OF THE BOOK ON 18 November 2004.
The meetings of the Advisory Committee took place each month and although the *Libraries of Barcelona* had no decision-making authority, they were able to put forward proposals concerning the setting of criteria for defining the event and give their opinions on the activities that each of the different partners would be contributing.
- Final overview. It was anticipated that at the end of the event, *Libraries of Barcelona* would not just limit itself to evaluating the activities with which it contributed to the *YEAR OF THE BOOK* but that as a consultant agent of the Advisory Committee, the Library Consortium would be involved in making a quantitative and qualitative assessment of the overall development of this great cultural venture.

2.2 Areas of action of the Libraries of Barcelona: perspective of collaboration with the *YEAR OF THE BOOK AND READING*

As mentioned in the **Background** section, the Barcelona Library Consortium has developed the *Barcelona Library Plan 1998-2010*¹³, which aims to address the needs of the city's inhabitants by means of a new model of library.

In this framework document, the Library is conceived as a centre of information *versus* knowledge which, open to the general public, offers the material, technological and human resources that facilitate democratisation and the dissemination of information, the transmission of knowledge, academic education, lifelong training, self-education and leisure.

The Library, in this way, positions itself as a neighbourhood cultural centre and social meeting place that interacts with the other socio-cultural agents in the territory and reflects their situation.

Highlighted below are the four main areas of action of the Libraries of Barcelona and the activities these encompass:

¹³ ***Barcelona Library Plan 1998-2010: the libraries of the 21 century: from information to knowledge.***
[Barcelona]: Barcelona City Council. Barcelona Institute of Culture. Cultural Cooperation Service, DL 1998.

2.2.1 Libraries as centres of INFORMATION

Based on the concepts promoted by the *UNESCO Public Library Manifesto*¹⁴, access to information represents the end objective of the *Libraries of Barcelona*.

The main lines of action emphasise: the growth and diversification of collections, the acquisition and availability of new documentary supports, the specialisation of collections, the optimum use of collections by means of secondary information services and products, Internet access, access to the media via different channels (written press, connections to foreign media via satellite, the Internet, etc) and the definition and strengthening of local collections.

2.2.2 Libraries as centres for EDUCATION

As well as collaborating with the educational fabric of their environments –in terms of both regulated and non-regulated education – the *Libraries of Barcelona* see themselves as the instigators and drivers of educational actions¹⁵ aimed at the general public, addressing and anticipating the needs of actual and potential users.

The fields of action, amongst others, are ongoing training, efficient use of the information available on the Internet (Information Literacy), management and publication of information through the instruments and channels offered by information and communication technologies (ICT), etc

2.2.3 Libraries as centres of SOCIO-CULTURAL INTEGRATION

Socio-cultural integration relates to two spheres: on the one hand, the integration of the library itself in the social, cultural and educational dynamics of the territory. In this respect, every centre establishes its own network of relationships in the local sphere with the aim of carrying out actions that facilitate social cohesion and, at the same time, a “crossover” of users.

Secondly, due to its services and resources, the library has an unquestionable role as an integrator of the more disadvantaged sectors of the population. The Libraries of Barcelona offer lending and home-reading services, reading experience with mentally disabled collectives¹⁶, collections of special interest to the immigrant population, etc.

2.2.4 Libraries as centres of CULTURAL DISSEMINATION

The *Libraries of Barcelona* aim to implement *active accessory systems*, i.e. activities and actions of cultural dissemination that enable passive information to be translated into active knowledge. In all of these, the reader is the protagonist, not just from the intimate perspective of reading in itself, but in the relationships he or she establishes with writers, critics, other readers and even the library itself.

Both centrally – through the Consortium’s Central Services – and territorially – through each of the libraries that make up the network – reading and cultural dissemination programmes are being designed¹⁷ in line with the different age groups and characteristics of the territory concerned.

¹⁴ **UNESCO Public Library Manifesto**. The Hague: IFLANET Section of Public Libraries, 1998.[Online. <http://www.ifla.org/VII/s8/unesco/span.htm>. Date of reference 20 May 2005]

¹⁵ Arranz, Juan José ; Carmen Galve. "The Libraries of Barcelona: Centres of Education for the General Public.

The exaple of the *Vila de Gràcia Library*". In **The Public Library: commitment to the future. II National Public Library Congress** . Madrid: Sub-directorate General for Library Coordination, 2004. pages 232-240

¹⁶ Altamirado, Antonia, [et al.]. **Activities for mentally disabled people in public libraries** in *Item*. No. 36. January-March 2004. Pages 79-86. ISSN 0214-0349

¹⁷ Arranz Martín, Juan José. **A distinctive trait of the libraries of Barcelona: reading and cultural dissemination programmes** in *BID: university texts on library science and documentation*. No. 12. June 2004. [Online. Date of reference 6 September 2004]. ISSN 1575-5886

Following the principles of quality, creativity, diversification of media and interaction with the general public, activities are grouped as follows:

- a) Activities within the network. Series of activities managed by Central Services which are programmed in the 29 libraries in the city. There are two main programmes: one aimed at children and families (*Small Print*) and another at adolescents and adults (*The Adventure of Reading*).
- b) Special activities unique to each centre relating to the cultural life in that particular territory, local events, etc.
- c) Activities reflecting the cultural activities in the city as a whole (Carnival, GREC Theatre Festival, Kosmópolis, Comic Book Exhibition, Manga Exhibition, etc)

Finally, it is worth highlighting in this section the promotion of the *Library Card*, not just as an access to the library services of the network but also as a cultural card of the city, offering discounts and special offers to library users thanks to agreements and collaborations with the cultural agents in the territory (museums, bookshops, cinemas, theatres, etc).

2.3 Planning, production and execution of activities in the YEAR OF THE BOOK AND READING

As can be seen in the previous section, the Libraries of Barcelona have a solid policy of planning and managing activities to motivate reading *a priori* the celebration of the *YEAR OF THE BOOK*.

Thus the majority of proposals put forward to the Technical Office and Commissioner originated in the conventional programming that the Libraries have been undertaking in developing the new library model. Some of these activities include:

- *Reading in film*. As part of the Adventure of Reading. A series of six conferences led by experts and film critics relating films to literary references. February 2005.
- *Women of '36*. As part of the Adventure of Reading. Series of eight conferences led by experts and based on testimonies on the Spanish Civil War. March 2005
- *From the Earth to the Moon*. As part of the children's programme Lletra Petita (Small Print). Homage to Jules Verne with a travelling children's show. April 2005
- *Virtual Reading Club*. May 2005.
- *Literary Itinerary. The Barcelona of Carvalho*. The itinerary follows in the steps of Manuel Vázquez Montalbán's emblematic character around the city. January-June 2005.

The second line of action on which the Libraries of Barcelona worked was the production of unique activities solely related to the event, following the premise of its literary themes. Examples of this include:

- *Come and have a coffee with... Conversational afternoons about books and reading*. Writers, translators, publishers and printers explain their experiences and exchange opinions with readers. Monday to Thursday, from February to December 2005.
- *Literary Nights*. On the occasion of the night of Sant Jordi, four of the city's libraries opened their doors at night to host recitals of poetry, narration and music. 23 April 2005

- *Literary Itinerary. The Barcelona of Don Quixote.* This itinerary takes users to the main locations that Miguel de Cervantes cited in his novel. March-November 2005

The Libraries of Barcelona, as a municipal amenity, provides a network of venues for the organisation of the YEAR OF THE BOOK. Far from simply lending the space, the Libraries of Barcelona aim to create a series of relationships with different agents with a view to cooperating in planning and producing activities.

- *European Meeting on the Black Novel.* January 2005
- *Under quarantine: seminars on new trends in Catalan narrative.* February 2005
- *The South Seas. Photographic exhibition.* January-March 2005

For further information, Annex II includes all the activities undertaken by the Libraries of Barcelona in commemorating the YEAR OF THE BOOK.

3. Opportunities for the *Libraries of Barcelona*

3.1 Participation indicators

The participation figures, as well as being collected and processed by the Library Consortium's Central Services, are submitted to the Technical Office of the Year of the Book in order to incorporate them in the total figures for the event¹⁸.

So far, the only indicators that allow us to assess the impact of the event on the network of libraries of Barcelona are numerical indicators, i.e. the number of attendees at activities and average participation figures. In the near future it will be necessary to correlate this attendance information with library data such as total visitors to the libraries, book loans, users of the lending system, new library cards, etc.

In the medium term, the main point of reference that shows us whether 2005 has represented a change in reading habits and, as a result, if the objectives of the YEAR OF THE BOOK have been achieved, is the evolution in the results of the survey on reading habits, which in Barcelona is carried out on a yearly basis by the Guild of Publishers.

3.2 Continuity and Opportunities

The main obstacle to the continuity of activities held during the YEAR OF THE BOOK is the nature of the thematic year itself, as the celebration needs to be kept within a strict time schedule (see 1.1). Even so, the creation of a proposal for disseminating reading on such a large scale as this will result in a series of long-term benefits and opportunities for the Libraries of Barcelona, notable amongst which are:

1. The dissemination of the new model of library proposed by the *Barcelona Library Plan 1998-2010*; a model in which the libraries go beyond simple access to books and are projected as neighbourhood cultural centres where people can find a vast range of services.
2. A greater presence of library-related activities and services in the media, making it possible to reach new markets that were not aware of the facilities available.
3. The Libraries of Barcelona will expand and consolidate synergies and collaboration projects with the other agents involved in reading:

¹⁸ The total movements during the first four months of the YEAR OF THE BOOK point to more than 800,000 people: 123,000 visitors to exhibitions, 185,000 attendees at meetings, conferences, workshops and literary itineraries, 335,000 attendees at different performances and 160,000 participants in the Sant Jordi week activities.

- With the institutions that promote public reading systems: the Barcelona City Council, the Generalitat of Catalonia and the Barcelona Provincial Council
- With educational networks: the Municipal Institute of Education and Catalan universities
- With other professional collectives: writers, journalists, cultural motivators, publishers, booksellers, teachers, etc.
- With the city's cultural institutions, such as publishing houses and bookshops, museums, theatres, etc.

The relationship networks mentioned above have two facets: one at an overall city level, where the Consortium's Central Services is the main point of liaison with other agents, and the other at a local level, where each of the libraries cooperates with the socio-cultural and educational agents in its immediate vicinity to provide solutions for the specific needs of each territory.

4. The Libraries of Barcelona will continue to host the new literary and dissemination of reading meetings that took place for the first time in 2005.
 - European Meeting on the Black Novel
 - Book World. A book festival for children
5. The Libraries will be the centres for bringing together the discussion platform that has been created around reading. In this respect, the reader, thanks to the event, has become more "visible" and this could have effects such as increasing studies and general surveys on reading habits or the greater presence of this phenomenon on television, cultural programmes with sections devoted to books, the proliferation of reading clubs outside libraries, etc.
6. The last consequence does not refer to public libraries so much as to school libraries. The situation of these libraries is precarious and the YEAR OF THE BOOK can help to raise political awareness of their importance.

The municipal political authorities responsible for education have announced measures to improve the current situation of libraries in educational centres. Thus just as a public library plan was created at the time, a plan for school libraries is envisaged which would initially encompass 25 centres in the city.

This concern for encouraging reading in educational centres goes beyond Barcelona, and the government of Catalonia has announced the launch of the PUNTEdu programme whose objective is to reformulate the role of school libraries with an initial investment of five million euros across a total of 300 schools.

4. Conclusions

The YEAR OF THE BOOK AND READING represents a tremendous amount of organisation, in which the agents from different cultural sectors have united all their planning efforts with the aim of achieving the dissemination of a common asset.

Its importance stems from the fact that a visible platform for debate has been created about reading, which might be regarded as a large-scale promotional action. The action of disseminating the habit of reading puts the reader himself at the centre of the whole range of activities, placing a special emphasis on children and young people.

Meanwhile, the social debate could oblige political authorities to implement policies to encourage reading which, up until now, have not been given much attention at either a library or general level.

In this highly favourable context, the Libraries of Barcelona, which are making great headway thanks to strategic planning and a new management model, cannot restrict themselves to

simply representing the public reading system. The Libraries need to form an active part of the process and must consolidate themselves as the main centres for upholding the dynamic of cultural cooperation instigated by the event, in which the consummate protagonist is the reader.

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Annex I

List of the institutions, entities, associations and companies participating in the Promoter Council of the YEAR OF THE BOOK AND READING 2005:

Ayuntamiento de Barcelona
Generalitat de Catalunya

Diputació de Barcelona
Ministerio de Cultura

Ayuntamiento de L'Escala
Ayuntamiento de L'Hospitalet de Llobregat
Ayuntamiento de Sant Cugat del Vallès

Àrea de Cultura de la Diputació de Barcelona
Archivo Histórico de la Ciudad de Barcelona
Archivo Municipal del Distrito de Sants-Montjuïc
Archivo Municipal de Sarrià-Sant Gervasi
Centre d'Estudis i Recursos Culturals
Centro de Estudios Hispánicos e Iberoamericanos
Centro Regional para el Fomento del Libro en América Latina y el Caribe
Comisionado de Cultura Científica del Ayuntamiento de Barcelona
Consell Català de la Música
Consell de les Dones del Districte de Sarrià-Sant Gervasi
Departament de Medi Ambient de la Generalitat de Catalunya
Dirección General de Promoción del Libro
Institució de les Lletres Catalanes
Institut de Cultura de Barcelona
Institut d'Educació de Barcelona
Institut Ramon Llull
Institut d'Estudis Catalans
Institut d'Estudis Baleàrics
Instituto Cervantes
KRTU
Mercats de Barcelona
Serveis Territorials. Generalitat de Catalunya

Àula d'Extensió Universitària per a la Gent Gran
ESADE
Institut d'Estudis de la Cultural Medieval de la Universitat de Barcelona
Institut d'Estudis Medievals de la Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
Institut d'Estudis Polítics Blanquerna
Institut d'Humanitats
Institut Europeu de la Mediterrània
Institut Universitari de Cultura de la Universitat Pompeu Fabra
Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
Universitat de Barcelona
Universitat de Girona
Universitat Oberta de Catalunya
Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya
Universitat Pompeu Fabra
Universitat Ramon Llull

Biblioteca de Catalunya
Biblioteca Pública Arús
Biblioteca del Mil·lenari de Sant Cugat del Vallès
Biblioteca Víctor Balaguer de Vilanova i la Geltrú
Col·legi Oficial de Bibliotecaris i Documentalistes de Catalunya
Consorci de Biblioteques de Barcelona

Centre Cívic Can Déu
Centre Cívic Casa del Rellotge
Centre Cívic Cotxeres Borrell
Centre Cívic Drassanes
Centre Cívic Fort Pienc
Centre Cívic Golferichs
Centre Cívic Joan Oliver
Centre Cívic matas i Ramis
Centre Cívic Pati Llimona
Centre Cívic Sagrada Família
Centre Cívic Torre Llobeta

Centre Cultural Les Corts
Centre Cultural Riera Blanca
Espai Cultural Pere Pruna
Centre Cultural de Sant Cugat del Vallès

ARA Catalunya
Asociación de Revistas Culturales de España
Associació Catalana de Crítics d'Art
Associació Col·legial d'Escriptors de Catalunya
Associació Cultural La Ciutat de les Paraules
Associació Cultural Modiband
Associació Cultural Planetababel
Associació Cultural Translit
Associació d'Editors en Llengua Catalana
Associació de Bibliòfils de Barcelona
Associació de Mestres Rosa Sensat
Associació de Narradors i Narradores ANIN
Associació de Publicacions Periòdiques en Català
Associació de Traductors i Intèrprets de Catalunya
Associació Lectura Fàcil
Associació Literària i Artística en Defensa del Dret d'Autor
Associació Professional d'Il·lustradors de Catalunya
Associació Promotora del Museo de la Poesia
Associació TRIAC
Associació Experimentem amb l'Art
Associació Una Sola Terra
CEDAM
Club Lleuresport
Col·lectiu + de 3
Edelman

Actar
Alfaguara infantil i juvenil
Altea
Booket
Cercle de Lectors
Círculo del Arte
Ediciones Bellaterra
Ediciones Folio
Ediciones Océano
Ediciones Siruela
Edicions B
Edicions Bromera
Ediciones Serres
Editorial A cau d'orella
Editorial Alba
Editorial Alpha
Editorial Anagrama
Editorial Anaya
Editorial Angle
Editorial Barcanova
Editorial Castalia
Editorial Columna
Editorial Crítica
Editorial Cruïlla
Editorial Edebé
Editorial Destino
Editorial Edhasa
Editorial Emecé Editorial Gedisa
Editorial Gustavo Gili
Editorial Icària
Editorial Joventut
Editorial Kairós
Editorial La Campana

Editorial La Galera
Editorial Marcombo
Editorial Mediterrània
Editorial Melusina
Editorial Meteora
Editorial Minúscula
Editorial Molino
Editorial Montesinos
Editorial Paidós
Editorial Planeta
Editorial Pòrtic
Editorial Proa
Editorial RqueR
Editorial Rubes
Editorial Salamandra
Editorial Santillana
Editorial Seix Barral
Editorial Siruela
Editorial Tusquets
L'Esfera dels Llibres
Lunweg Editores
Roca Editorial
Triangle Postals
Enciclopèdia Catalana
Etcétera
Flor del Viento Ediciones
Grup 62
Grup Edebé
Grup Planeta
Grupo Random House Mondadori
Grupo Santillana
Publicacions de l'Abadia de Montserrat
Quaderns Crema / El Acanilado
RBA

Agència Literària Carmen Balcells
Agència Literària Casanovas
Agència Literària Pontas
Antonia Kerrigan Agència Literària
Barcelona Ad Libitum
M B Agència Literària
Ute Körner Literary Agent

CaixaFòrum
Casa Asia
Casa-Museu Castell Gala-Salvador Dalí de Púbol
Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona
Cosmocaixa
Espai Cultural Caja Madrid
FNAC
Fundació Miró
Fundació Antoni Tàpies
Metrònom
Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona
Museu d'Arts Decoratives de Barcelona
Museu d'Arts Gràfiques de Barcelona
Museu d'Història de Catalunya
Museu d'Història de la Ciutat de Barcelona
Museu de Ciències Naturals de la Ciutadella
Museu de Zoologia de Barcelona
Museu Diocesà de Barcelona
Museu Egipci de Barcelona
Museu Etnològic de Barcelona
Museu Frederic Marès de Barcelona

Museu Marítim de Barcelona
Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya
Museu Picasso de Barcelona
Museu-Casa Verdaguer de Barcelona

British Council
Goethe Institut
Institut Français
Istituto Italiano di Cultura

Café Salambó
Consorti de les Drassanes
Cooperativa de Produccions d'Educació i Cultura
El Corte Inglés
El Simposio, Serveis Culturals
Federación de Asociaciones Nacionales de Distribuidores de Ediciones
Federación de Cooperativas de Consumidores y Usuarios de Cataluña
Federació d'Institucions Professionals del Còmic
Federación de Comunidades originarias de Castilla-La Mancha en Cataluña
Feria del Libro de Madrid
Feria Internacional del Libro
Fira de Barcelona
Fundació "La Caixa"
Fundació Bernat Metge
Fundació Caixa Catalunya
Fundació Gala-Salvador Dalí
Fundació Enciclopedia Catalana
Fundació Futbol Club Barcelona
Fundació J.V. Foix
Fundación Bertelsmann
Fundación Germán Sánchez Ruipérez
Fundación José Manuel Lara
Fundación Ramón Areces
Intermón Oxfam
ONCE
Sa Nostra

Associació d'Art Barcelona
Galeria Artur Ramon
Galeria Carles Taché
Galeria Dolors Junyent
Galeria Esther Montoriol
Galeria Fotonauta
Galeria Jordi Barnadas
Galeria Lluçà Homs
Galeria Ma José Castellví
Galeria Punto Arte
Galeria Sneda
Gremi de Galeries d'Art de Catalunya
Sala Parés
Saló d'Antiquaris de Barcelona

Cambrà del Llibre de Catalunya
Consell Europeu d'Associacions de Traductors Literaris
Federación del Gremio de Editores de España
Gremi d'Editors de Catalunya
Gremi de Distribuïdors de Publicacions de Catalunya
Gremi de Llibreters de Barcelona i Catalunya
Gremi de Llibreters de Vell de Catalunya
Guionistes Associats de Catalunya
Saló del Llibre de Barcelona

Associació de Performers, Artistes i Poetes Associats
Espai Escènic Brossa
Focus
Gran Teatre del Liceu
Jove Teatre Regina
L'Auditori
Mercat de les Flors
Sala Beckett
Teatre Nacional de Catalunya

Abacus
Casa del Llibre
La Central del Raval
Llibreria 22
Llibreria Al·lots-Petit Príncep
Llibreria Altaïr
Llibreria Carbó
Llibreria Catalònia
Llibreria Documenta
Llibreria Gaudí
Llibreria La Gralla
Llibreria La Ploma
Llibreria Laie
Llibreria Robafaves
Llibres Parcir

CLIJ Cuadernos de Literatura Infantil y Juvenil
Comunicación y Publicaciones S.A.
El Ciervo
Granta
L'Avenc
Lateral
Leer
Qué Leer
Quimera
Serra d'Or
Revista de Libros

Àula de Poesia de Barcelona
Ateneu Barcelonés
Consell Català del Llibre per a Infants i Joves
Escola d'Esriptura i Humanitats de l'Ateneu Barcelonés
Escola Disseny i Art Eina
Grup d'Estudis de Literatura Catalana Contemporània de la Universitat de Barcelona
Òmnium Cultural
PEN Català
Reial Acadèmia de Bones Lletres
Residència d'Investigadors
Sociedad Estatal de Conmemoraciones Culturales
Societat Espanyola d'Estudis Clàssics
Xarxa de Patrimoni Literari de Sarrià-Sant Gervasi

Catalunya Turisme
Centre d'Informació de Catalunya
Transports Metropolitans de Barcelona
Turismo de Barcelona

ABC
Agència EFE
Antena 3 TV
Barcelona Televisió BTv
Canal Cultura
Catalunya Ràdio
CITY TV

COM Ràdio
COPE
Cromosoma TV Produccions
El Mundo
El País
El Periódico
El Punt
Enderrock
Europa Press
Flaix FM
La Razón
La Vanguardia
Ona Catalana
Onda Cero/Onda Rambla
Ovideo TV
RAC1/RAC 105
Ràdio Barcelona
Ràdio Estel
Ràdio Gràcia
Radio Nacional de España RNE
Ràdio Salut
Sagrera TV
Telecinco
Televisió de Catalunya
Televisión Española
TVE a Catalunya
Vilaweb

Annex II

The Adventure of Reading. ADULTS' programme

The Barcelona of Vázquez Montalbán

January 2005

Participating libraries:

Guinardó-Mercè Rodoreda, Collserola-Josep Miracle, El Carmel-Juan Marsé, Ignasi Iglésias-Can Fabra, Sant Pau-Santa Creu and Joan Miró

The aim of this series is not so much to pay homage to the author himself as the scenario he chose so many times in all his creative facets; as a poet, a novelist, a gourmet and a journalist. The aim is to offer the participant an insight to the more recent history and literature that form part of the collective memory of all the inhabitants of Barcelona.

European Meeting on the Black Novel

22 January 2005

Participating libraries: Barceloneta-La Fraternitat, Fort Pienc, Vapor Vell and Francesca Bonnemaison

As a complementary activity to this meeting, the writers taking part (Donna Leon, Alicia Giménez-Barlett) held discussions with their readers in some of the Barcelona libraries, where they also read sections of their novels.

Reading in Film

February 2005

Participating libraries: Nou Barris, Xavier Benguerel, Francesca Bonnemaïson, Montbau-Albert Pérez Baró, Clarà and Vila de Gràcia.

Books, libraries, writers, readers... these are all key issues in film plots in the history of cinema. Six film experts analyse cinematographic works that bring us closer to literature.

Women of '36. Experiences of the Spanish Civil War

March 2005

Participating libraries: Nou Barris, Guinardó-Mercè Rodoreda, Francesca Bonnemaïson, Les Corts-Miquel Llongueras, Ignasi Iglésias-Can Fabra, Poble-sec Francesc Boix, Barceloneta-La Fraternitat and Joan Miró.

This series of talks gives a voice to the women from the generation that played a leading role in the transcendental moments of our most recent history and to scholars of that period: the Spanish Civil War and Post-War. A journey through the female role in politics and revolution, the terrible experience of exile and the grey days of the post-war period.

The Orient with the hands

April 2005

Participating libraries: Nou Barris, Mercè Rodoreda and Garcilaso.

A participatory approach to disseminating Oriental cultures, in collaboration with the Bamboo School from Casa Asia.

Jules Verne, dreams and reality

May 2005

Participating libraries:

Series of conferences dedicated to the prolific writer Jules Verne on the occasion of the centenary of his death. Various aspects of his work are tackled, from the literary richness of his narrations to the fertile combination of science and fantasy we find in them. With the collaboration of the Maritime Museum of Barcelona

A journey through the classics: links between adventure and literature

June 2005

Various Barcelona libraries

This series is dedicated to classic texts whose main element is travel and features discussions in which writers and philologists specialising in these authors give us an insight to their works in a clear and approachable way.

Bibliophiles, the art of loving books

October 2005

Various Barcelona libraries

A series to complement the exhibition "Bibliophile: private collections, hidden treasures" of the Library of Catalonia. It will focus on the book as a precious object.

Other literature. Voices from the South and East

November 2005

Various Barcelona libraries

A series of conferences and debates dedicated to the literature of Africa, Asia and the Pacific, with the participation of exiled writers from those regions.

A taste for words. Gastronomy and Literature

December 2005

Various Barcelona libraries

A series dedicated to the relationship between gastronomy and literature, which has resulted in so many outstanding works.

Other activities

Reading Clubs

October 2004 – June 2005

Various Barcelona libraries

The Reading Clubs are bringing together ever-increasing numbers of readers to discuss a particular book. Each club is coordinated by an expert in literature. There are more than 30 general and specialist clubs in operation (theatre, poetry, comics, foreign languages, etc).

Come and have a coffee with...

February - December 2005, Monday to Thursday

Dante Room in the French Library Bonnemaison

A rendezvous the protagonists of the book world: authors, booksellers, critics, translators, journalists, publishers and other agents involved in the world of books. Every day, visitors can come and have a coffee and gain a deeper insight into the publishing process. With the collaboration of publishing houses and booksellers.

What shall we read? Recommendations of books for children

January - December 2005

Various Barcelona libraries

On Saturday afternoons, the latest and best books for children will be discussed with parents while the children themselves are listening to stories in another part of the library.

Stories in the Carmel district

April - December

Juan Marsé Library

This series of events features different authors, their narrative and dialogue with readers. Every month, the Carmel neighbourhood will be transformed into a literary space to welcome different figures from contemporary literature.

One-Way Ticket

November

Vila de Gràcia Library - La Sedeta Civic Centre

The One-Way Ticket cycle offers a meeting place between writers and scholars of literature from Mediterranean countries with members of the general public interested in discovering and identifying with the literary roots of this unique geographical region. Through essays, novels, oral narrative and poetry, we will discover the sensibilities of a country from the Mediterranean which, though it may seem very far away, is actually very close.

Of Thoughts, Words and Deeds

October - February and March - June

Guinardó-Mercè Rodoreda Library

The aim of this cycle is to disseminate the library's speciality in poetry in all its incarnations. Since 2002 it has been programming recitals, concerts, photographic exhibitions, etc. One of the most characteristic features of the cycle is conversations with renowned poets.

The House of Words

All year round

Different Barcelona libraries

Mot, a character who lives in the library, shows us how it works, what we can find there, what we can do there... all based on a picture-card album for adults and children. The Barcelona libraries and the Barcelona Institute of Education have published this new material which is used during visits by primary school children to the city's libraries.

Inauguration of the Jaume Fuster-Lesseps Library

November 2005

Lesseps Library

In November 2005, the Lesseps Library will be opening, which will be the Central Library for the Gracia district.

Workshops

Catch the Word

January - December 2005

Various Barcelona libraries

Storytelling workshop

Literary creation workshop

How a book is made

Seminars

Under quarantine: new trends in Catalan fiction

3 and 4 February 2005

Fort Pienc Library

Seminars bringing together contemporary Catalan fiction writers and critics to debate the subject.

Public Library and Reading Seminars

December 2005

The *Public Library and Reading Seminars* aim to provide a place for reflection and debate on the challenges facing public libraries in the following areas:

New services at public libraries

Book collections as the key factor

Young people and reading

Cultural activities and the public library

The unbreakable bond between the library and reading

Organised by: Barcelona Library Consortium, Library Service of the Barcelona Provincial Council, Official College of Librarians and Archivists of Catalonia, University of Barcelona, Bertelsmann Foundation. With the sponsorship of the Department of Culture of the Generalitat of Catalonia.

Exhibitions

The South Seas

31 January - 13 March

Ignasi Iglesias-Can Fabra Library

With her pictures, photographer Tatiana Donoso will be making an interpretation of *The South Seas*, based on a text from the Pepe Carvalho series by the late Manuel Vázquez Montalbán.

Carlos Giménez

June

Ignasi Iglesias-Can Fabra Library

An exhibition of originals from the master Spanish cartoonist, almost certainly the person who has best captured our recent history and the everyday life of our society.

Taula

16 May – 5 June

Fort Pienc Library

The artist Joma creates an installation based on a polysemic play on the world TAULA.

Both image and word

2 - 29 June

Xavier Benguerel Library

16 poetic views of Barcelona: an exhibition featuring 16 poems by contemporary writers.

Magic Pencil

2 - 29 September

Ignasi Iglesias-Can Fabra Library

Exhibition of 60 drawings by the best British illustrators of children's and young people's books.

Images with Poetry

5 - 28 October

Xavier Benguerel Library

Photo-interpretation exhibition in which the words of different poets (Miguel Hernández, José Hierro, Rafael Alberti, Vicente Aleixandre, Antonio Machado, C. P. Cavafis) are interpreted by photographer Santiago Huete.

Exhibition kindly ceded by the Germán Sánchez Ruipérez Foundation and the Badajoz Regional Council.

Exhibition of Easy-to-Read Materials

October 2005

Francesca Bonnemaison Library

An exhibition on the Easy-to-Read phenomenon and the different experiments in this field. This activity is associated with the International Easy-to-Read Network Meeting which takes place on 6 and 7 October 2005.

Literary Itineraries

Literary itinerary: "CARVALHO'S BARCELONA"

29 January - 25 June 2005

Various locations around the city

Itinerary: "The Barcelona of Don Quixote"

19 March - November 2005

Various locations in the historical quarter of the city

An activity aimed at families, which includes a visit to the "Don Quixote and Barcelona" exhibition in the Barcelona City History Museum.

Small Print. For children and families

Playing at Shakespeare

January – December 2005

Various Barcelona libraries

A children's show based on Shakespeare's work and his most well-known characters, aimed at children over the age of 3.

Word Play

January - December 2005

Various Barcelona libraries

Activities for finding out about different spheres of knowledge in an entertaining and participative way. Each workshop is accompanied by books linked to the subject matter which can be found in the library.

From the Earth to the Moon

April 2005

Various Barcelona libraries

A fascinating journey to the universe of Jules Verne is what this show for both adults and children proposes. An adventure through some of his most famous novels: *Twenty Thousand Leagues under the Sea*, *Five weeks in a Balloon* and, of course, *From the Earth to the Moon*.

The Emperor and the Nightingale

April 2005

In every library in Barcelona

Based on the popular Hans Christian Andersen tale, this show aimed at boys and girls of every age combined traditional Chinese shadow play with others facilitated by new technical possibilities.

Don Quixote and Barcelona

May - October 2005

Various Barcelona libraries

A workshop aimed at the whole family in which a character, dressed in period costume, introduces the participants to Don Quixote and explains how the protagonist represented moral ideals that were disappearing, and how the world was changing.

With the collaboration of the Barcelona City History Museum.

Tirant Lo Blanc

January - December 2005

Various Barcelona libraries

A puppet show devised for children aged over 6. This is a dynamic, entertaining version of Joanot Martorell's novel and tells of the adventures of the White Knight around Europe and the Mediterranean.

With the collaboration of the Barcelona Institute of Education.

ComiComix

April - December 2005

Various Barcelona libraries

A small-format show that gives an insight to the world of Catalan and international comics and invites some well-known personalities. The session is illustrated by huge laminated posters of action characters.

With the collaboration of FICOMIC

Internet

Virtual itineraries

Virtual journeys that reproduce some of the itineraries that the Libraries of Barcelona have organised in previous years. You can currently find: *The Barcelona of George Orwell*, *Writers of the City, Barcelona and the Sea* and *Traces of Dalí in Barcelona*.

Virtual Reading Club

From May 2005

One of the innovations of the network of Reading Clubs of the Libraries of Barcelona is the presentation of a new virtual reading club. The initial programme will features classic, universal novels.

Festival of the Book

FESTIVAL OF SANT JORDI

18 - 24 April

Various locations and libraries in the city

Proclamation: 22 April at 7.00 pm in the Saló de Ciento of the City Hall. A well-known author, presented by a Catalan author, spoke on the value of reading and the role of the library.

Literary nights: four libraries opened at night to offer night owls poetry recitals and storytelling. With musical accompaniment.

Free World: Book Festival for children

Book exchange and second-hand book markets