

ILCL events for children during the summer vacation

The International Library of Children's Literature (ILCL) conducted various events including a reading campaign for children during the summer vacation. This article gives an outline of events held in 2013.

1 National Diet Library career education: Seminar for teens “Working in the National Diet Library”



<<“Talk on working in the NDL” on July 31>>

The seminar for teens “Working in the National Diet Library” intended to present the roles and activities of the National Diet Library (NDL) to high school and junior high school students, as well as introducing jobs in the NDL to contribute to career education. It was held for the first time in 2012, and many participants expressed the hope that the event would be repeated. Staff members of the NDL explained their own work and answered questions from participants. In a workplace visit, participants looked around the ILCL facilities including reading rooms and stacks.



<<“Talk on working in the ILCL” on August 7>>

The program of the seminar was as follows:

<<Program>>

Working in the National Diet Library: “Research service for the Diet” and “Digital library service” (for high school students)

July 31, 2013, 13:00-16:00

- 1) Presentation on mission and activities of the NDL
- 2) Workplace visit: Tour of the ILCL facilities
- 3) Talk on working in the NDL
 - Research service for the Diet (by a staff member of the Research and Legislative Reference Bureau)
 - Digital library service (by a staff member of the Digital Information Department)
- 4) Question and answer session

Working in the International Library of Children’s Literature: “Linking children with books” and “Cooperating with libraries of Japan and overseas” (for junior high school students)

August 7, 2013, 13:00-16:00

- 1) Presentation on mission and activities of the NDL
- 2) Workplace visit: Tour of the ILCL facilities
- 3) Talk on working in the ILCL
 - Linking children with books (by a staff member of the Children’s Services Division, ILCL)
 - Cooperating with libraries of Japan and overseas (by a staff member of the Planning and Cooperation Division, ILCL)
- 4) Question and answer session

A total of 44 students took part in the seminars. Participants commented that they were impressed by the fact that “materials are preserved in digital form in the digital library” and “12,000 items are deposited every week.” Many of them regarded being a librarian as their work in the future saying, “The seminar was a good opportunity, since I hope to work for the NDL in the future,” “I came here as a career experience of my school assignment and feel happy because I am interested in the work of librarians” and “I hope to be a librarian in the future and the seminar was a great experience to glimpse the world of my dream.”

2 Library tours for children during the summer vacation

One-hour library tours were conducted for elementary school children on August 1, 8, 15 and 22 so that they would know about the ILCL and get familiar with books and libraries. Library tours for elementary school children are normally offered upon request from groups of a whole school or class, but requests from individuals were accepted during the summer vacation. The tour consisted of looking around the ILCL facilities and observing story hour. A total of 66 children, from the first grade to the sixth grade, participated in the tours.

3 Summer event at the International Library of Children’s Literature: Fun with science 2013

The ILCL carries out various activities to provide opportunities for children to meet books. Aiming at motivating children to get interested in science and science books through hands-on experience, “Fun with science” has been conducted since the ILCL’s opening in 2002. Relevant books are introduced and a book list is distributed, which is different from similar events held in science museums and children’s centers. On July 27 and 28, “Fun with science 2013” was held for elementary school and junior high school children. Taking up “sound” as the theme of this year, Ms. Sawako Harada of the Japanese Society of Science Books for Children was invited as an instructor for experiment and crafts.



<<Children doing crafts>>

After the experiment and crafts, a staff member of the ILCL gave a 30-minute book talk relevant to experiments with sound. At the end of the program, there was a picture book reading session.



<<Book reading>>

A total of 78 children took part in the event. The feedback received from the participants shows that they enjoyed listening to various sounds, particularly, making and trying echo microphones and paper snakes moved by vibrations. Book reading also attracted interest.

4 Reading campaign during the summer vacation 2013

A reading campaign for children was held from July 23 to September 8. The purpose of the campaign was that children who visited the ILCL during the summer vacation would get familiar with reading through trying a quiz, as well as giving a chance to enjoy reading to children who find it difficult to select a book they wish to read. A five-question quiz was prepared at three levels, aimed at 1) from

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four years old up to early elementary school children, 2) children in early elementary grades and above and 3) children in the third grade of elementary school and above. Looking at a map of the Children's Library and Meet the World which was printed on the back of a quiz sheet, children searched out books containing solutions and answered the quiz by reading the books. Those who got all the answers right received a bookmarker as a surprise gift. A total of 1,092 children participated in the event.



<<Question sheets, bookmarkers and books on shelves containing solutions >>