

3

Checking out books at institutions like “Bibliomedia”

Goal

Students should find reading materials in their first language that are of interest to them, thereby increasing their motivation for reading and their reading competence. In looking for appropriate reading materials, they can avail themselves of the collections by specialized institutions, such as “Bibliomedia” in Switzerland. These institutions where one can borrow books in different languages for longer periods of time, exist in many countries.

1st–9th grade

15–30 minutes



Procedure:

- An institution’s library holdings in the students’ first language are collectively reviewed and discussed. Appropriate materials are selected and an order is placed.
- Upon receipt of the books, the students may take them home to read. For 4–6 weeks, HLT classes reserve 15–30 minutes during which students discuss their reading experiences and make recommendations.
- Two students are selected to assume control of the process and to ensure that all borrowed books are returned in good and clean condition.

Remarks:

- Local librarians or the teacher who is responsible for the library in the school building may be able to assist students in searching for appropriate institutions with native language collections.
- Information about and links to various institutions in Germany, Austria, Sweden and Switzerland can be found in the introduction, chapter 4d, “Books and informationen in country-specific institutions”.

4

A library visit

Goal

Students visit a library (if possible a multilingual library) and thus experience there the extent and variety of the library collections. They learn about the holdings, titles and the library’s structure, and inform themselves about the circulation conditions. They should also perceive the library as a place of learning, i. e., as a focal point for obtaining information about specific themes.

1st–9th grade

45–90 minutes



Procedure:

- Most libraries are happy to receive classes and to introduce them to the library systems. Many libraries, most of all the larger ones, hold titles in various languages to lend.
- The trip to the library should become a habit for all students. In the library they should find those reading choices that really are of interest to them. This could entail very different topics, such as cookbooks, magazines about football, love stories or comics. There are often computers available in the libraries, which can be used to search for texts in the native language.