



Eurotoolbox - What is that?

A handy tool pack for travelling by car in Europe? - an investment package for saving your hard-earned Euros? - or a free resource for librarians and teachers who need to inspire children with the latest children's books in European languages?

If you chose the last of these options you'd be right on the button.

Eurotoolbox is a resource collection which has been put together by Euroolis (1) a group of expert librarians in the UK cultural centres of France, Germany, Italy, Portugal and Spain with the assistance of the Chartered Institutes of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP) in the United Kingdom. Now in its fifteenth year of production the most recent toolbox for 2014/15 contains the best children's literature from the countries represented in the shape of picture books for babies through to books for young adults supported by fully annotated bibliographies in English to use alongside the books.

With many years of production experience and feedback from the users, the expert team of librarians have built a resource which enables librarians and teachers to use over 60 books in each collection for individual reading or group sessions in their own library or the schoolroom for a month at a time, at no cost to their organisation other than onward transportation to the next location in the UK. The books are labelled for easy identification and there is a handy checklist supplied of all the books when the time comes to gather them in.

Last year the new public library in Birmingham exhibited the books and enjoyed some great comments about the collection and use of the books from local people.



Other locations included the independent school Shobbeur College in Devon and Westminster Library Service in London. The only restrictions are that your organisation has to be in

the UK and that the books cannot be borrowed due to the need to move the complete collection onto the next participating organisation on time.

In 2014 the resource was launched at an event in the Italian Institute in London on European Languages Day (Friday 26 September) with Italian born art illustrator, Sara Fanelli and exhibition curator Paola Vassalli from the "Scuderia del Quadrante" in Rome who talked about children's book illustration. Some improvements are in progress for 2015 with plans to include: books in English; creation of a collection which can be divided in to age groups (0 - 7 years and 8 - 15 years); a second collection from the previous year which will be able to be borrowed according to the usual rules and regulations of the library concerned and with more a flexible (longer) loan period; more accompanying publicity with posters.

The Eurotoolbox is a unique collection of hand-picked recently published children's books in different languages which will help children to get into learning and loving other languages and it is available free for use by your library. So if you are interested in more information about this resource do visit <http://euroolis.wordpress.com/> or contact Martella Reidy at the Italian Institute by email: marta.riccobono.ilic@essert.it or telephone: 020 7396 4425.

(1) EUROLIS was born over 14 years ago when the European Cultural Institutes librarians based in London decided to work together and promote European Languages in the UK in association with CILIP. They meet every other month and their main activities centre on:

- One annual Seminar on a chosen topic, aimed at all the librarians in the UK
- The Eurotoolbox resource for librarians and teachers in the UK

by **John Lake**. John Lake is currently Vice Chair of the International Library and Information Group of CILIP and Editor of its journal Focus on International Library and Information Work as well as CILIP's representative on the Euroolis Committee.