

The School Library Rocks

living it, learning it, loving it

IASL 2015

Maastricht

MECC, 28 June - 2 July

Dear participants,

The organizing committee of IASL 2015 takes great pleasure in welcoming you to the 44th Annual Conference of the International Association of School Librarianship and the 19th International Forum on Research in School Librarianship. We are thrilled that so many participants from a wide range of countries attend this event in the international medieval city of Maastricht, the Netherlands. Your presence is important for IASL, for your colleagues and for yourself. A special welcome goes to the 2016 IASL Conference committee, Mr. Morita and his team from Japan.

Professional development through participation in international conferences offers a major tool for keeping abreast of innovation and new visions within the profession. School libraries are at the heart of revolutionary technological developments and ongoing changes in educational methodologies. The rapidly changing landscape can be scary and complex, but at the same time challenging and interesting. By letting your curiosity to be triggered, opening up to new ideas and knowledge, and sharing views and experiences with colleagues, you'll enhance your skills and motivation and optimize your role as a school library professional. Your simple presence here stresses that life long learning is an attitude rather than a competence.

This year's conference offers ample learning opportunities through keynotes, research papers, posters, workshops, professional meetings and networking opportunities. Its provoking theme, *The School Library Rocks*, relates to state-of-the-art developments in school librarianship and to the necessity of keeping a close eye on future challenges. *The school library does not exist: it has many appearances*, varying from self-made books on a donkey cart to state-of-the-art rooms with modern devices and comfy chairs. A good school library meets the requirements of the school community, the curriculum, stakeholders and society and supports learning. Research shows that professionals who develop, maintain and manage such a library, play a significant role in student achievement.

This conference is taking its own lead through the choice of theme, organization structure and innovative content in a challenging local environment and era. We want 'The School Library Rocks' to be a wake-up call for professionals and decision makers in the field of education and librarianship.

IASL conferences are known for quality, professional organization and networking opportunities. Without the input and efforts of the conference committees, partners and sponsors it could not have been realised. We therefore wish to thank the members of the review committees and especially the IASL Research SIG for their advice and support. Special thanks go to the team of the Open University Netherlands: Jos van den Broek, Sabine Roks, Marina Prongaz and Jeroen Berkhout and to our volunteers Gusta Das, Justin van de Mortel and Wilma Boonstra for their support and ongoing dedication.

We also highly appreciate the support from our vendors and sponsors; without them this event would not have been realized. Please give them your well-deserved attention when visiting them at the Information Market.

We wish you all a wonderful, interesting, fruitful and enjoyable conference. Participate, share, contribute and make the most of it.

The 2015 Organising Team

Lourense Das
Saskia Brand-Gruwel
Jaap Walhout
Kees Kok
Jeroen de Boer