

HISTORY

Globlivres, Switzerland's first intercultural library, got started in 1988 as an initiative of a group of people from different origins, and Swiss teachers wanting to offer books to children settled in the region in their own mother tongues.

In response to an increasing demand, the library developed very quickly, constantly adjusting to the needs and origins of its users.

From 1990 onwards, it also opened up to adults and started proposing didactic material to learn French.

During 10 years, the library was run exclusively by volunteers, but starting 1998 the increasing number of services offered made it necessary to have a paid person in charge. Five years later, loans were computerized.

In the first two decades of its existence, the library had to move three times, to bigger premises to make room for its growing activities and collections.

Globlivres served as a model to the creation of other intercultural libraries, notably in Basel, Zürich and Thun in 1992, and elsewhere as well as outside of Switzerland in the following years. There are currently 18 in Switzerland, all members of the Association "Livres sans Frontières Suisse" (literally "books without borders").

For all its actions, Globlivres was awarded:

- 1999, the "Cultural merit prize of the Renens Commune"
- 2003, the "Waking prize" of the Vaudoise Foundation for artistic creation promotions
- 2004, the "Integration merit" given by the Renens commune"

GOALS

Globlivres wants to:

- Build a bridge between native country and residence country
- Offer books in the mother tongue of all communities living in the region
- Offer a friendly environment where immigrants can find, in the testimonies of their culture, the milestones that comfort their identity and mark the way to integration
- Make kids discover the richness and the variety of the world in awaking their interest for other cultures
- Prepare a better future by the acceptance of the other and by mutual understanding

To make all this possible, Globlivres:

- Maintains and enriches a collection of more than 27'000 books and magazines in 270 languages, constituted with the collaboration of its users, notably for the choice and the transcription of the titles in other writing systems
- Offers a place and activities to bring together immigrants and natives around common interests, which are favorable to exchanges and mutual recognition
- Assembles useful material for schoolteachers and intercultural educational research

ACTIVITIES

Welcoming of classes and guided tours through our shelves

« Meeting and exchanges »

We propose a 2-hours animation for school kids, with a calligraphy workshop, a guided discovery of the different languages and writings available in the library, along with special related games. All this is meant to awaken children's curiosity for each other. (This animation is momentarily discontinued for lack of financing.)

« Your home at our place » (Chez vous chez nous)

Encounters for adults, library users, or other people learning French who want to improve their oral French; and for Swiss or other French-speaking people, neighbors, friends, students, etc... wanting to meet migrants living in the region.

Participants' objectives:

- to practice oral French and improve their communicating skills,
- to meet and establish bonds with each other,
- to give and get answers to queries and worries on managing day-to-day life in Switzerland,
- to contribute to a better integration.

For upcoming dates, see the AGENDA page

A 10.-CHF contribution will be asked

« Wednesday tales »

Every month's last Wednesday, we offer tales for kids from 3 years on

« Born to read » (Né pour lire)

The 1st Wednesday of each month, at 9.15 AM, we offer kids from 0 to 5 accompanied by their parents to read tales in their mother tongue and get acquainted with books.

For more details visit the following website (in French)

<http://www.buchstart.ch/buchstart/fr/index.asp>

NEW !

« Public writer »

On the following dates, from 5.30 to 7.30 PM:

11th and 25th January, 8th February, 1st and 15th March, 12th and 26th April, 10th and 31st May, 7th and 21st June ;,

we help you write letters, CVs, fill out forms, etc...

Cost : 10.-CHF for a simple document (furniture is included – photocopies, envelopes, stamps...)

Register by phone : 0216350236

« Renting a whole lot of books »

Rental service of 100, 50, 25 books per year, exchangeable any time, in different languages, excepting French and depending on availability.

The maximum lending time for the books is 1 year.

The rates are :

- For 100 books : 250.-CHF / 1 year
- For 50 books : 130.- /CHF 1 year
- For 25 books : 70.- /CHF 1 year

For collections sent by mail, the postage fee has to be paid by the user; a supplement will be charged for the selection of the books:

- 20.-CHF for 51 to 100 books
- 10.-CHF for 10 to 50 books