The Internationale Jugendbibliothek

- is the largest library for international children’s and youth literature in the world. Since its inauguration by Jella Lepman in 1949, it has developed into an internationally recognised centre for children’s literature from around the globe.
- features a collection of over 560,000 books: 530,000 books for children and young adults in more than 130 languages – including 80,000 historical children’s books – and 30,000 volumes of secondary literature.
- lists 150,000 items in its online catalogue, 65,000 of which are searchable by subject headings.
- maintains a research library with a vast collection of documentary materials and 250 current journals.
- runs a children’s lending library with a selection of 25,000 books and audiovisual media in 13 languages.
- houses ‘reading museums’ featuring the life and work of the authors and illustrators Michael Ende, Erich Kästner, James Krüger, and Binette Schroeder and attracts visitors to the xBook Castles with a range of activities including exhibitions, reading promotion projects, school programmes, and workshops for professionals of all fields of children’s and youth literature.
- reaches out and creates international networks by publishing catalogues, compiling book lists, and curating a broad selection of travelling exhibitions.
- offers a scholarship programme financed by the Foreign Ministry of the Federal Republic of Germany, which each year enables up to 15 international professionals of all fields of children’s and youth literature to pursue their research during a three-month stay in the Book Castle.
- is maintained by the foundation Stiftung Internationale Jugendliteratur since 1996.
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