

ACCESS TO MODERN TECHNOLOGIES

Project „Inter-Generation Communication”
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REGIONAL PUBLIC LIBRARY in KRAKÓW (Poland)

GENERAL COMMENTS

- It is a mission of the Regional Library to be open and friendly to seniors and elderly people.
- However, only from 2007 the Seniors-focused activities took on a systematic, cyclic form directed towards activating elderly people.



1. Access to hardware (and software) : including the use of recycled computers to solve the acquisition cost of a computer and the hardware

BASIC EQUIPMENT:

Computer Reading Room:

12 computers

- *Software* – MS Office (Excel, Word, PowerPoint)

Internet Browser

- *Tools:*

Printer, Scanner

Regional Reading Room

5 computers

- *Software* – Text Editor

Internet Browser

- *Tools :*

Printer, Scanner, Headphones (*without microphone !*)

2. Access to Internet :including offering free Internet access (e.g.free WIFI in town) to avoid the barrier of the connexion costs

GENERAL REMARK:

Library is computerized and Readers have got their Computer Cards.

To make the readers familiar with our system and to provide that they know how to take an advantage of this system we have organized cyclic, special trainings.

Computer Reading Room :

12 computers with fixed access to internet

Regional Reading Room :

5 computers with fixed access to internet

Neat to Business and European Information Centre:

Public access to WiFi internet (corridor)



Access to Internet (2)

- Computer data base of the books in the Library contains all the books available there and issued after 1997 and the whole file of the Main Lending Library, Computer Reading Room, Children Division and Foreign Languages Division
- Files of the other lending rooms and reading rooms issued before 1997 are successively incorporated into the computer system and full information is available in conventional paper-type catalogues
- To log-in the catalogue OPAC the reader has to get an account via which he gets an access to his personal data and can order, check and prolonge lending of books

3. Basic ICT training in groups for low cost participation

- The content of this courses is seniors-dedicated
- The seniors make themselves familiar with computer and internet, learn how to search the required information in web-sites, how to send an e-mail, how to get contact using communicators.
- Duration of the whole course (training) : 16 hours.
- The courses/trainings are free.
- Trainings are carried out by wll-qualified teachers and the participants get the course materials.
- The seniors also learn the meaning of : chat, discussion forum, forum, multimedia



TRAININGS/COURSES FOR BEGINNERS

COURSE 1: Basic Computer Operation

(For those without any experience with computers..)

Content :

1. How to deal with computer: basics (turning on/out ; mouse using ; opening the software ; using the window),
2. MS Windows system
3. Text editor MS Word (writing, font formatting, text formatting on the page, printing)
4. Saving documents, printing

5 meetings x 90 min (*once a week*)

Number of participants: 6



TRAININGS/COURSES FOR BEGINNERS

COURSE 2: Internet Basics

(For those having fundamental knowledge concerning computers and wanting to extend it to be familiar with internet)

Content :

1. Internet
2. www websites fundamentals: how it works, self-browsing, searching the information, using, using internet-browsers
3. E-mail (establishing the account, sending/receiving e-mails, sending/receiving attachments)

Some items : (1) Advanced Word-functions (page formatting, incorporation of tables and figures/images) ; (2) Advanced management of files ; (3) The use of Internet , incl. internet services

4 meetings x 90 min (once a week)
Number of participants: 10 (two teachers)



INTERNET COURSES FOR ADVANCED

COURSE 3: The Business and European Information Centre

(For those having fundamental knowledge concerning computers and and internet and wanting to extend it)

Program:

1. Internet I (browsing the internet pages; searching for information, internet services)
2. Internet II (being familiar with the use of library data bases, login-in, extension of book-lending period via internet)
3. dealing with recorder and scanner

3 meetings x 60 min (*once a week*)

Number of participants: 4

4. Basic training for new technologies

(telephone, Skype,...)

This is the action planned for close future

Now,

trainings using skype and phone are impossible because current firewall does not allow for downloading of install-tools and the Library is still not equipped with required computer accessories

5.Free volunteer assistance: finding and training volunteers for home computer assistance and training (*under others for disabled people who cannot come to group courses*)

- There is no such activity carried out (outdoor service) by the Library
- Professional service is carried out in the Library
- It is a special division which takes care of blind and visually impaired people (in 2006: 800 readers)
- However, no computer courses have been provided for both mentioned above groups

Free volunteer assistance (2)

In the case of blind and visually impaired readers, the computer stands are equipped with required software, enlargers and video magnifying glasses.

There is applied the software which reads from the screen and magnifies, is equipped with diction synthetizer, which makes it possible that disabled may use the books and journals as well as browse the computer catalogue, internet content and form the documents in editing software.

All the computer stands have access to internet.

The above service is free.



6. Finding sponsors for hardware or different grants for adult education

- All the courses and trainings are free.
- Regional Public Library is a culture institution belonging to regional self-government (Voivodship), like Land in Germany, Province in France and is supported from its budget as far as statutory activities are concerned. However, the seniors-directed activity is not like this and extraordinary financial support is required.
- Regional Library cooperates with NGO's (Non-Governmental Organisations) to get additional support and applies for external funding.
- Moreover, sponsors, EU-grant, governmental grants are applied to be able to extend this sort of activities.

7. State of the art in each country

- Seniors constitute about 13% of the society.
- In Malopolska Voivodship there are ca. 0.5 mln senior citizens which makes ca. 15 %.
- Among them 42 % are less than 70 years old.
- In 11 years every fifth Malopolska citizen will be a senior (0.6 mln in total), and in 2030 : every fourth (0.8 mln).

However, still there are very few systematic approaches to senior citizens. There are rather considered in terms of social-help recipients.

The 'market' of computer and modern technology trainings for seniors is an 'emerging market'. We are in Poland several years behind the well-developed countries with respect to development of the appropriate approach to senior-part of our society.

PLACES OFFERRED TO SENIORS FOR LEISURE AND ACTIVITIES IN POLAND

Third Age Universities

Senior Clubs

Many in Malopolska but mostly with conventional old-fashion activities offered

Public Libraries

- Exhibit a great potential to play a role of Senior-Centres. In Poland it is almost 9 000 public libraries (in Malopolska ca.700)
- In Libraries people meet and may be integrated «around the knowledge» and other issues.

COMMENTS

The Regional Library must carry out the principal activity and therefore, can make the Computer Room accessible to the other activities only one day a week.

This is a significant barrier preventing our trainings from being more extended.

After first announcement we have got ca. 80 senior candidates having space only for 8.

Now ca. 90 candidates wait to be trained.





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