Reading promotion in interactive literary exhibitions for children

Interactive literary exhibitions focus on an action-oriented design that involves children in experiencing literature in a multi-sensory way. They are an extra-curricular offer for children and are based on a leisure-oriented concept that seeks to motivate children to read and to become familiar with literature. Their goal is to develop reading interests and to achieve holistic access to literature, moving beyond an interest in an individual text or author. A literary exhibition can present literature elements of all varieties including books as well as all kinds of media such as movies, images, radio plays, stage properties, and also interactive learning stations.

All of these components are arranged in a sequential organisation to focus on the different interests of the children and to offer different ways of participation and engagement. Literary Exhibitions are also a public place for social and cultural interaction where it is possible to get involved in the literary context by exploring the different worlds of books jointly.

This concept was realised in 2017 and 2018 at the Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt, in the context of the literature project “KJL meets KU” which presented the works of the internationally known and prestigious authors of children’s books, Paul Maar and Margit Auer.