Introduction and Aims of the Research

Professor Chris Robertson, Ann Jordan and Suzanne Horton from The Institute of Education at the University of Worcester are currently involved in The Lifelong Readers Project (LiRe) which is a two year study examining pupils' attitudes to reading led by The International Research Centre, CARDET, in cooperation with partners from six European countries; UK, Ireland, Greece, Cyprus, Austria and Poland. The main aims of the research are, to place reading for pleasure at the heart of policy and practice; provide training for stakeholders in promoting reading for pleasure; to implement reading promotion programmes in all participating countries and to make recommendations based on the findings. LiRe aims to provide school librarians, teachers, and administrators with guidance and tools for encouraging children of ages 6-12 to develop lifelong reading habits. The project has been funded with support from the European Commission.

Project Design

The first year of the project focused on designing a training package to be delivered in schools and libraries across Europe by all partners. All partners provided case studies of effective practice and these were collated and published on the website www.lifelongreaders.org . In addition, training activities were developed, trialled and collated on the website. In the UK, a group of second year trainees from the University of Worcester participated in the research by working with small groups of children implementing and evaluating some of the reading activities in order to discuss and refine these in collaboration with the European partners.

Once completed, the results and findings from all countries involved in the project will be published and members of staff from the Institute of Education will present at a conference in Cyprus in October. In addition, an online flip book is to be developed, outlining details of the training materials suggested for use in schools and libraries across Europe which will promote reading for pleasure.