

CHAPTER 23

Art Xcess Library@School

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Abstract

Art Xcess Library (AXL) at School is an innovation project to develop literacy at school. The original idea of Art Xcess Library was inspired from Little Tiny Free Library from an estate in Wisconsin, USA. The study begins when the frequency of pupils visiting the school library is very less. This is because of the time factor and also the logistic problem which the library is located at level four compared to the classrooms that located in level one, two and three. In addition, the canteen is located at the ground floor which separated from the main building. So, it is in need for us to think of an innovation on how we can make the library accessible by the pupils in an easier and relaxing way.

Introduction

By this AXL project, what to be proved here is to make pupils easier to read anywhere around the school itself. This is also to promote reading culture among pupils and also to improve the pupil's reading records under a NILAM programme where pupils will be rewarded for the highest record in their reading. Due to that, the success in pupils will be based on the pupil's literacy development either in short or long terms.

Content

AXL project give a new dimension to the literacy development at our school. AXL were not just as an attraction to the school community. Hence, it have also became a

benchmark to other school in running the same project at their respective school. Thus, we had received many visitors from the Education Departments and schools locally and internationally.

Besides, Trust concept which originally started and practiced at Wisconsin was also being practiced among the pupils and the school community where they been given freedom to take, to read, to borrow books based on their need. Also, pupils and the school community can contribute books to the AXL around the school to add the reading materials to be shared with others. On part of that, we are able to provide and placed the AXL around the school with the help of corporate companies through the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Programme. Other than that, parents and communities also play an important part in making this AXL project a success by contributing in term of money or books.

Our biggest success was by getting the sponsorship from our CSR Programme with RM7000.00 per year for our SK Medini Library by Medini Iskandar Malaysia Sdn Bhd and a cooperation with the Malaysia Official Star Wars Fan Club. By so, we have received wide media coverage thanks to our CSR partners. This project is also in the process of getting a recognition from Malaysian Book of Record in 2 categories :- 1. First School Running AXL @ School 2. Founder of AXL at School. This records will be one of the benchmark achievement of SK Medini Library or known as The Book Kingdom. This project will be presented and shared in some educational conference at Labuan International Conference of Education Research and The 2016 International Conference on Library and Information Science (LIS2016) which to be held in Kyoto, Japan on September 2016.

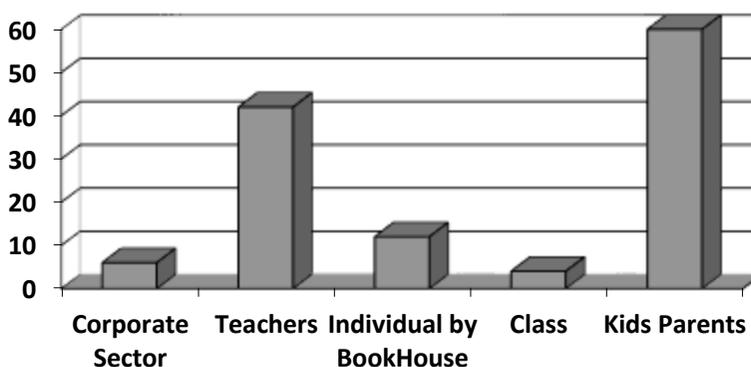


Fig. 1: Number of AXL Sponsor

We do see AXL as one of the trigger in the innovative of library development. Thus, in order for us to achieve the goal, we have placed book houses that called AXL around the school. To attract more pupils to use it, the AXL was specially design with various attractive art designs and each design has their own meaning. This include the Malay castle, animal designs like lion and bird, classic train, Hello Kitty house, dinosaur, Star

Wars Spaceship, robot and many more. Each book houses were supplied with books on different genre to attract pupils in reading. Books on fiction, non-fiction, encyclopedia, international books, Star Wars books and many more were placed in the AXL.

Based on our observation and analysis, this project has increased the pupils interest in reading and the pupils themselves have use their free time wisely by making the AXL as a destination to get the reading materials. Campaigns to attract the pupils in reading were conducted to increase the reading interest among the pupils such as 100 Books AXL, 'Take a Book Return a Book', Spot Badge, Book Worlds Day, Kem Membaca 1 Malaysia (1 Malaysia Reading Camp) , AXL Week and AXL Ambassador. The campaigns were a success because they were able to increase the reading interest among the pupils. Also the leadership skill had increased among the school librarians since they were given responsibility to take care of their own AXL and by becoming the AXL ambassador in order to encourage our friends to access and use AXL around the school wisely

Table 1
AXL and the Philosophy

No	AXL	Academic and Philosophy
1	Train	Transportation The Journey To Explore The World
2	Lion	Animal Kingdom The Big Empire
3	Traditional Malay Castle	History Heritage and Respectfulness
4	Hello Kitty	Animation. Imagination and Fantasy
5	Parrot	Birds Fly High and Dream Big
6	Dinosaur	Science The Secret of Life
7	Star Wars - Millennium Falcon	Technology Thinking Out of The Box
8	Kuda Kepang	Art and Culture The Spirit Away
9	Rocket	Space My Dreams

Conclusion

Art Xcess Library (AXL) at School is not just to give a new face to the library itself and to the reading culture but it is also an alternative to help in increasing the literacy level among pupils in teaching and learning in the classroom. With the cooperation through CSR Programme, communities, parents and school community, together we have made this innovation as a medium in producing holistic pupils in the future.

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