

“Ernte deine Stadt“ – “Harvest your City“

***3 Years of green and sustainable library
commitment in the Stadtbibliothek Bad Oldesloe***

Application for the IFLA Green Library Award 2017

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Bad Old as Low?

The Town

- District Town in Schleswig-Holstein, Germany
- Appr. 25.000 Inhabitants

The Library

- 40.000 items, E-books, etc.
- 1050 sqm space (including offices & room for events)
- 7 employees
- Elementary school in the neighborhood



Bad Old as Low? Not at all!

Strong local actors on environment and sustainability

- Vital Civic Society
- Adult education centre
- OASE (information centre & meeting point for families)
- Inihaus (autonomous cultural centre for young people)
- JugendUmweltProjektwerkstatt (centre to educate young people in environmental stuff)
- Offener Garten Bad Oldesloe (community garden)
- BUND, NABU (environmental & conservation organizations)
- ADFC-Stormarn (local cyclist association)
- Bella Donna Haus (Center for issues on feminism and women politics)



Municipal politics

- Focused on sustainability & environmental protection
- Progressive politics on refugees
- Fair Trade Town since 2015

The Green Library – still on the Agenda!

„The conversation about sustainability and libraries is no longer a pet project but rather a vital part of the strategy to ensure that libraries are around for the long haul”
(Rebecca Smith-Aldrich, 2017)

Approach in general

- Libraries can act as a key institutions on ecological, environmental and social problems
- the ideas of green and sustainable libraries can work as theoretical background for practical library services

Approach in Germany

- By developing new services, the Stadtbibliothek:
 - gives a broader idea of public library services to local society and politics
 - shows its relevance by connecting the aims of public libraries with issues on environment and sustainability
 - strengthens the idea of the green library in Germany through practical examples
 - shows new ideas on the significance of public libraries in Germany

Ideas

The Library (in general):

- reacts on new forms of learning and the need for meeting spaces in a digital society
- connects the idea of green and sustainable libraries with social and political developments by providing new services
- considers Urban Gardening as an expression for the needs of the digital society – DIY, Maker, new public spaces, low-intensive meeting places



<https://www.flickr.com/photos/gartendeck/17227552396/sizes/z/> (Copyright: Gartendeck Hamburg)

Aims

The Stadtbibliothek:

- creates an annual series of events on environmental and sustainable issues
- ties in with the very vital civic society to focus on the needs of the community
- develops new cooperations with the civic society
- transforms to a low-intensive meeting place
- offers its room as a platform to the civic society
- presents itself as a modern & creative space for learning
- supports new initiatives in the city and community
- tests new forms of services
- connects books and media with the community and their needs
- connects people and initiatives by issues of environmental and sustainable thinking

2015 – planting the seeds

“Harvest your City“ 2015...

- ...started as a university project for the MA-Library- and Information Science
- ...planned as a series of events and a makerspace on the topics of Urban Gardening
- ...developed new cooperations between the library and the civic society

– STADTBIBLIOTHEK  BAD OLDESLOE –



Ernte Deine Stadt
Ein Aktionstag über Stadtgärtnern und Urban Gardening

Samstag, den 25. April 2015

15:00 Uhr Das neue Gärtnern: Stadtgärtnern, interkulturelle Gärten, Urban Agriculture
Vortrag von PD Dr. Elisabeth Meyer-Renschhausen (Berlin)

15:45 Uhr Workshops & Pflanzenbörse (mit Gartendeck Hamburg)

- Altes Saatgut
- Gemüsepflanzen
- Kartoffeln im Sack
- Blumentopfpreise

16:00 Uhr Workshop und Wettbewerb für Kinder bis 10 Jahren

- Blumentopfpreise
- Wettbewerb "Die schnellste Bohne der Stadt"

Die Veranstaltung wird begleitet von einer Foto- und Buchausstellung (20.4.-1.5.2015)

Der Eintritt ist frei

Veranstalter: Stadtbibliothek Bad Oldesloe,
Königstr. 32, 23843 Bad Oldesloe
<http://stadtbibliothek-od.de/>



anstiftung
Stiftungsgemeinschaft anstiftung & erntes



Bad Oldesloe  DIE BESTE TRAVE STADT

2015 – planting the seeds

By organizing a special day of action, the library offered a presentation of books and media on Urban Gardening...



2015 – planting the seeds

...opened an exhibition...

(which started one week earlier to attract people to the forthcoming event)



2015 – planting the seeds

...organised a lecture by Dr. Meyer-Renschhausen on Urban Gardening worldwide...



2015 – planting the seeds

...offered a workshop and seed savers exchange by the “Gartendeck“...

(a community garden in Hamburg-St.Pauli)



2015 – planting the seeds

...and started the children's competition "the quickest bean in town."



2015 – planting the seeds

After the opening of this event, the librarians stepped behind their desks and let the Stadtbibliothek turn into a meeting place on the issue of urban gardening.



(No librarians in this picture!)

2015 – planting the seeds

The seed savers exchange was very well attended...



2015 – planting the seeds

...and the people started to talk to each other and (with the help of coffee and biscuits) turned the library into a low intensive meeting place.



2015 – planting the seeds

The Insect Hotel Makerspace a few weeks later was organised for a class of the neighboring elementary school.



2015 – planting the seeds

The barrow in the foyer was the first sign about the forthcoming event.



2015 – planting the seeds

Tools and old cans turned to be important ‚media‘ on this day and brought the idea of upcycling closer to the kids.



2015 – planting the seeds

With the help of experts,...



2015 – planting the seeds

...their own ambition...



2015 – planting the seeds

...and their creativity...



2015 – planting the seeds

...the class built an insect hotel...



2015 – planting the seeds

...which found its place at the school garden.



2015 – planting the seeds

Outcomes of the 2015 events:

- the Makerspace strongly improved the identification of the children with the Stadtbibliothek
- many requests for the books & media about „Urban Gardening“
- angry municipal gardeners (seed bombs!!)
- presenting the event at the Kulturstiftung des Bundes (Federal Foundation for Culture) concerning the so-called TRAFÖ-Programm
- Stadtbibliothek improved visibility as possible partner for future cooperation
- mediate an urban gardening cooperation between senior citizens and underprivileged children



(as a result of the mediation, one cucumber of the harvest was given to the Stadtbibliothek!)

2016 – growing the seeds

“Harvest your City“ 2016:

- ...continued after the successful beginning in 2015
- ...worked out new forms of library services
- ...tried to get ‚outside the box‘
- ...planned a series of events on local food and nature in urban spaces
- ...developed new cooperations between the library and the civic society

– STADTBIBLIOTHEK  BAD OLDESLOE –
Veranstalter: Stadtbibliothek Bad Oldesloe in Zusammenarbeit mit dem Bella Donna Haus



Ernte Deine Stadt 2016
Ein Aktionstag über Obst, Kräuter und das Teilen von Lebensmitteln

Samstag, den 15. Oktober

Veranstaltungen in der Stadtbibliothek

12:30 Uhr Treffpunkt Stadtbibliothek
13:00 Uhr Beginn Kräuterwanderung
13:00 Uhr Beginn Mundraub-Radtour
14:30 Uhr Get-together & Präsentationen der Initiativen

Veranstaltung im Bella Donna Haus
16:00 Uhr Solidarische Landwirtschaft - Vortrag & Präsentation der Gärtnerei „Junges Gemüse“

Der Eintritt ist frei



BELLA DONNA HAUS
Monika Möller
Heilpraktikerin

Hanse-Obst e.V.
Kernige Regio-Kost

Bad Oldesloe  DIE BESTE TRAVE STADT

2016 – growing the seeds

This event started with very common aspects of typical library services: ...



2016 – growing the seeds

... Informationboards about
(medical) herbs...



2016 – growing the seeds

...and a small exhibition on local fruits and vegetables are no groundbreaking library services in Germany.



2016 – growing the seeds

Rather the idea was to turn the library into a place once again, where people can meet experts, get in contact with each other and get information on environmental and sustainability issues.



2016 – growing the seeds

The very uncommon aspect was that the library left it's ,box' and turned the urban space into a learning environment. The library organized a guided walking tour about natural herbs in parks and on roadsides...



2016 – growing the seeds

...and a cycling tour to local trees and bushes in public domain to harvest their fruits.



2016 – growing the seeds

The people learned about their local environment,...



2016 – growing the seeds

... got in contact with each other
and even harvested.



2016 – growing the seeds

Afterwards the two groups gathered in the library again, where the local foodsharing-group offered their ‚rescued food‘ from the local market.



2016 – growing the seeds

The latter got in contact with the other participants...



2016 – growing the seeds

... and so, the library again turned into a low-intensive meeting place for citizens and the players of the civic society.



2016 – growing the seeds

Everyone could leave the library with a lot of new impressions on environmental and sustainability issues, meet new people and ,rescue‘ some food.



2016 – growing the seeds

Outcomes of the 2016 events:

- the Stadtbibliothek turned into a part of a local network on sustainability and environmental protection
- fostered commitment on local environmental and sustainability issues
- “Harvest your City“ became part of the ‚Wandelwoche‘ (week for social and ecological change)
- became a civic hub for local environmental and sustainability issues
- As a result, the first local CSA found enough supporters to start their business!



2017 - and it grows

“Harvest your City 2017“:

- ...widening the concept to a whole weekend of action in the entire town
- ...working together with the local authority for environmental protection, the local centre for culture und education (KuB), the civic society and the local economy (the local CSA and Hanseobst)
- ...embedded in the ‚Wandelwoche‘ (Week of social and ecological change) in October 2017
- ...exhibition, lecture, events for kids, seed savers exchange, foodsharing, the local community garden, bicycle tour, guided walking tour for herbs, etc.

2018 – and it grows?

“Harvest your City“ 2018:

- “Harvest your City“ remains an annual event
- plans to return in Spring to strengthen the aspect of seeds
- thoughts on setting up a seed library in the Stadtbibliothek

Conclusion I: Overall critique

- Huge efforts for organisation necessary
- Difficult to adress all parts of the society within one day/weekend of events
- Difficult to offer special services for kids and children

Conclusion II: Overall outcomes

The Stadtbibliothek

- Became a part of a local network on sustainability and environmental protection
- Widened its idea of a public library services
- Turned into a meeting space for the community and brought people together
- Increased its positive image in the community
- Took responsibility for local issues on sustainability and environmental protection
- Supported local initiatives and economies and connected them with local politics
- Received positive response from local politicians