# Looking Ahead Annual Report 2008

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# Goal

Veria central public library provides services of education, information and entertainment which contribute to the improvement of quality of life. It develops a network of traditional and web services, which help the citizen to participate more effectively in the knowledge society.

# The vision for 2010

A library, a place to meet and exchange ideas for the local community - a center to promote creativity and innovation.



Veria central public library is a legal entity of public law subject to the Ministry of National Education and Religion Affairs.

It is housed in a privately owned building in 8, Ellis Street and is also maintaining a branch in a primary school in the area and two mobile libraries, which serve communities in central Macedonia.

The art of drama

Sugar =

# **Mobile libraries loans 2008**



During the school year, 43 lending centers: 31 primary schools, 10 high schools and 2 senior high schools were served in the Prefectures of Imathia, Pella and Pieria.

During the summer, 9 lending centers in summer camps and small villages of the Prefecture of Imathia were organized.

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# Looking ahead

For Veria Central Public Library, 2008 was another interesting and productive year, full of important activities. "We can do even better", that is what we were writing a year ago, pointing out the determination of the Library to improve and introduce more services in close cooperation with the public. Last year we based our strategy on the establishment of a steady communication with the public and on the implementation of an even extrovert action plan. The plan intends to mainly attract young people. The number of our library members remains increasing, not as intensively as in previous years, but it still rises, such as the number of items on loan. This constant flourishing causes a climate of optimism and euphoria that does not conform to the current flowing atmosphere, unemployment, economic recession and the increasing shrinkage of youth employment. It is important though to underline that we continue our development that started in June 1999, when the Library moved to its own premises.

## New projects

The fact that we carry on the process of continuously introducing new services, through our participation in European research projects, cannot be overlooked. Since 1994 we have counted a total of 13 programs, in which our library participated. In 2008 three new projects were initiated: **EuropeanaLocal**, **Entitle** and **Untold Stories**. By the end of the year, **Europeana**, the European portal of digital cultural heritage was also established. In this action, that gained great publicity due to its wide appreciation by the public, our library is the national representative. In terms of the EDLocal project, we started to coordinate the activities for the cooperation and interconnections of repositories that contain Greek digital content to comply with the Europeana tools. We have already made the first steps to apply the tools to our own repository that will include more than 3.000 digitized items (mostly books and newspapers).

The increasing role of libraries as a medium to provide services related to life long learning and to the development of applications by using Web 2.0 tools comprise the basic axe of the Entitle project. In this action, where 15 different libraries from European Union countries participate, our library has undertaken the coordination of organizing all conferences to present the guidelines for the introduction of life-long-learning services. These conferences will be held in more than 12 EU countries.

## Services for special social groups

The participation of the Library in the implementation of the Untold Stories action enabled us to contact migrant communities, who live in the region. The fact that the contact was related to an entirely ingenious and creative communication frame, gave us the opportunity to ascertain the potential of the Library to introduce new services for the creation of original cultural content. Twenty digital stories are already uploaded on the Internet (10 from immigrants). In parallel, we have made the first steps towards the formation of a collection with content in the native languages of the basic migrant communities that live in the region. In this year we went on incorporating other remote communities in the itinerary of the mobile libraries. The summer program for the promotion of reading and of creativity along with the technology month encompassed again the cutting-edge activities to approach the public that does not have access to library and information services.

## Developing partnerships

For another consecutive year the successful cooperation with the prefecture authorities of Imathia is remarkable. Additionally, this year we signed memorandum of cooperation with one public and one academic library that permit us to have access to their collections for better serving our customers. The strengthening of the position of the Library in its surroundings is directly connected with the growth of synergies in terms of regional sustainability. Discussions with the municipalities of the region are in advanced stage to adopt a plan at first to connect all libraries and then to develop a system that provides high quality library and information services.

## Creating experiences

What would you say for a library as a center of cultural and creative activities? for a place that will support and encourage the growth of innovation and inventive inspiration of the community? Our Library is moving towards this direction. By the end of 2008 with the refurbishment of our Children section, this completely new approach is visible. The "Magic Boxes", the new Children section, opened before Christmas. It has been totally funded by **Stavros Niarchos Foundation**. It forms our proposal for a place which will combine learning, entertainment and at the same time will encourage the development of curiosity among children.

As it was mentioned above, the Library does not function outside and beyond the social well-being. The flowing atmosphere obviously influences the programming and action plans that we develop. I admit that it is not so easy for someone to conceive why we need libraries nowadays. It is sure though, that we need institutions which will significantly contribute to the improvement of the quality of citizens' life. In 2009 we celebrate the anniversary of 10 years of innovative progress in our premises. This year can become the Year of the Library for the citizens of Imathia.

Together we can certainly achieve more!

The Director Ioannis Trohopoulos

## Members of the old and new library comittee, September 2008



### Library comittee - Members

Kostas Theoharopoulos Fotis Koutsoupias π. Porfyrios Mpatsaras Athanasios Kopatsiaris Pavlos Savidis Chairman Debuty Chairman Member Member Member

#### Non voting members

Eleni Papadopoulou Maria Tsiamitrou Dimitris Bohoris Ioannis Kesaridis Efsevia Doulgeroglou



## The library's staff

Permanent employees, seconded teachers, volunteers and subcontracted experts related to European Programs compose the image of a very dynamic and creative team that forms the body of library's successful development this year. Staff's familiarity with the tools of web 2.0 was a basic priority in the program of the continuous education provided by the library. The development of new services with the use of these tools is a main concern for the comming years.



# **Training the staff**

A different seminar was organized by Veria Central Public Library on Thursday, 28 February with the participation of 27 persons who work in libraries and graduates from library schools. Lotte Dowe Nielsen and Anne-Marie Staeger, specialists from the Municipal Library of Aarhus in Denmark, discussed about the library's plans and the experimental practices they develop by examining the new services for children and teenagers. In the second part of the meeting, they presented the guidelines that were recently published by the Ministry of Civilization of Denmark about ways of bringing young people closer to the libraries. The seminar was organized in the context of planning and forming the children's department in the library with the support of "Stavros Niarxos" Foundation.

Within the framework of the program Untold, "Untold stories": Creation of Digital Stories", funded BY the European Union. (Gruntvig Initiative), a threedays seminar was carried out in Dahau, Germany in May 2008. During the seminar, all partners who came from Germany, England, Czech and Denmark discussed the course of implementation of the action and the participation of more people in the creation of digital stories.





Παλαίτυπα Μαρία Φωτακέλλη Γάτα Κουμπάρα activities Μαθηματική Εταιρεία ΑφροΑμερικάνικη Λογοτεχνία καινοτομία Αρμιουρεικά Δημίουργικοτητα Γιάννης Ιανθούλης **Events** Αμερικάνικη Γωνιά Θοδωρής Ηλιάδης Μήνας Τεχνολογίας Ψηψιακές Ηψηγήσεις Νίκος Σιδηρόπουηος Μαγικά κουτιά AARHUS καλοκαιρική καμπάχια Ίδρυμα Σταύρος Νιάρχος

**Statistics** 

155 itineraries with the mobile libraries, 225.965 loans of books and magazines, cds, dvds, 1485 new members, 70 organised guided tours, 16 book-presentations, writerspresentations, 65 creative activities, 2 concerts, 4 painting exhibitions.



November 2008, Technology month



December 2008, laboratory "Fairy tale box"





Having as a peak the implementation of a seminar about digital stories that took place in October 2008 in collaboration with the Digital Storytelling centre in Berkley, California, the American Corner of the Library helped significantly in stepping up the services provided by the library, with the enrichment of the collection and the organisation of lectures and expositions related mostly to the culture and education in the U.S.A.









A wide variety of events took place in the library on Wednesday 27th August Library's doors were open to the public till midnight. Together with the library's ordinary work, various events took place all day long and they really turned library's night and day into magical ones.

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The summer campaign of promoting books, creativity and inovation, organized by the central public library of Veria in collaboration with the Prefecture of Imathia was successfully completed with the «Magical Night in

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#### EDLnet Thematic Network: (2007-2009)

The project – the European Digital Library network (EDLnet) – runs for two years, and supports Europeana, a cultural portal which brings together content from some of Europe's major cultural organisations. The portal http://www.europeana.eu opened officially before the end of 2008 and became one of the most interesting and valuable portals for Europe's cultural heritage. Veria Central Public Library has been selected by the consortium to represent Greece in the project.

### Untold Stories: Learning with Digital Stories: (2007 - 2009)

Untold Stories is a multilateral project under the Grundtvig 2007 call, focusing on the provision by public libraries and museums of informal learning opportunities for migrant communities in specific regions of four countries (Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany and Greece), through shared Digital Storytelling, utilising the potential of new Web 2.0 technologies. The project makes use of the potential of cultural institutions, principally public libraries and museums, to provide new, informal and accessible learning opportunities. Library and museum staff in the four regions have been trained to train and support groups of individuals from migrant communities in the art, skills and technologies involved in the creation of Digital Stories. For more information visit the official web site <a href="http://www.untoldstories.eu">http://www.untoldstories.eu</a>

### ENTITLE - Europe's New Libraries Together In Transversal Learning Environments: (2007-2009)

The project identifies, describes and disseminates the many instances of good practice, specific services, tools and approaches used for learning in public library settings, building on work conducted under a number of different actions, in order to support the multiplication and mainstreaming of these activities and to enable a fuller understanding of their contribution to Europe's learning agendas. The project is funded under Grundtvig 2007 and consist of 14 different partners across Europe. For more information visit official web site: http://www.entitlelll.eu

## EDLocal - Connecting cultural heritage: (2008 - 2011)

EuropeanaLocal builds on existing multiplier networks of local institutions to bring together a consortium that represents 27 countries with broad ranging experience of the cultural sector, digital libraries, standards and aggregation services. Veria Public Library represents Greece in the consortium. The expected results include:• the establishment of a network of regional repositories that are highly interoperable with Europeana• an integrated Europeana-EuropeanaLocal prototype service• and the development of thematic areas for Europeana services which integrate content from both the national and the local/regional level.

For more information: http://www.europeanalocal.eu







The project «Untold Stories» is funded under the European initiative Grundtving 2007. It emphasizes the effort of giving opportunities of lifelong learning to groups of immigrants and to native civilians in 4 regions from countries in the European Union. (Czech, Denmark, Germany and Greece). The complete action contains the creation of digital stories with the use of technology web 2.0.

The digital stories are movies lasting from 2 minutes to 5 minutes, they are multimedia as they include picture, sound, video and text in free and various combinations among them and they are available through internet.

Until today 12 immigrants from different countries and 10 other Greek citizens have created their own stories that can be seen through library's website http://www.libver. gr, and the project website http://www. untoldstories.eu.

On the day of September 26, 2009 a conference that among other things will analyze all the course of the action, is being planned. Furthermore, the prospect of developing similar services from libraries, museums and archives is going to be discussed.







<b>Εφιαλτικές νύχτες στην έρημο της Αραβίας</b> Αλεξάνδρα Συμεωνίδου-Αλ Μαντίλ - Αθήνα: Λιβάνη
<b>Ο γιός της βροχής</b> Χρύσα Δημουλίδου - Αθήνα: Λιβάνη
<b>Κρυμμένα φεγγάρια</b> Ελενα Σωτηράκη - Αθήνα: Σύγχρονοι Ορίζοντες
<b>Σαν γλυκό του κουταλιού</b> Πετροπούλου Μαρίνα - Αθήνα: Λιβάνης
<b>Ο κήπος με τις μουριές</b> Καίτη Οικονόμου - Αθήνα: Ωκεανίδα
<b>Χαρταετοί πάνω απ' την πόλη</b> Καλέντ Χοσεϊνί - Αθήνα: Ψυχογιός
<b>Τατιάνα και Αλεξάντερ</b> Πωλλίνα Σίμονς - Αθήνα: Ωκεανίδα
<b>Καλημέρχαμπα Σμύρνη</b> Can Eryumlu - Αθήνα: Ηλέκτρα
<b>Το γαλάζιο δωμάτιο</b> Ρόζαμουντ Πίλτσερ - Αθήνα: Ωκεανίδα
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