Libraries bridging borders
Session 2 Working across border

Mulhouse (France) / Baden-Württemberg Relations
- the cross-border mobile library
- « tandem » exchanges

Catherine Storne
Once a month,
- the German mobile library, from Freiburg goes to Mulhouse, in front of « Grand’Rue » library
- the French mobile library goes to :
  ✓ **Freiburg** :
    ✗ In a Franco-German school (for 1 hour)
    ✗ On the cathedral square in front of the town library (for 2 hours)
  ✓ **Lörrach**, once a month (for 2 hours)
  ✓ And soon to **Neuenburg**
A project set up 27 years ago...

- May 1991: political decision (vote from a joint session of Mulhouse and Freiburg town councils)
- Monthly parking of each mobile library in front of the partner library
Cross-border mobile libraries

Mulhouse, Grand'Rue (2017)

Freiburg, Münsterplatz (2018)

Lörrach, Alter Markplatz (2010)

Freiburg, école franco-allemande (2018)
1991 in the newspapers
Motivations for the project

« The mobile library makes up for the lack of French books in Freiburg. For this targeted public, an effort was made regarding the stocks: Alsacian – bilingual books – children tapes » (1991 report from Mulhouse library)

A faithful public
A relationship between the mobile library staff and the readers
Readers come to borrow books but also to practice their French
Readers in Germany

https://fr.batchgeo.com/map/Bibliobus_m2A_Allemagne
The mobile library of Mulhouse Alsace Agglomeration

- Mobile library = under the authority of the urban area Mulhouse Alsace Agglomération (m2A)
- https://bibliotheques.mulhouse.fr/bibliobus
- Servicing:
  - 11 municipalities from m2A, once or twice a month
  - Mulhouse schools with no libraries
  - Cross-borders: Freiburg, Lörrach, Neuenburg
- Annual operating budget (purchase of documents): 32 400 € (excluding fuel and maintenance fees)
- A collection of around 25 000 documents, 3 500 of which are available in the mobile library
A challenge: increasing the numbers of readers

More than 100 readers from both sides of the Rhine are keen to read in the neighbouring language

But no major increase

- **In Germany (French mobile library):**
  - 1991: 125 readers
  - 2018:
    - 190 readers
    - 104 active ones

- **In France (German mobile library):**
  - 2018:
    - 450 registered readers
    - 136 active ones
How, in the future?

- Replacing the bibliobus by another service, more efficient?
  - Part of the whole strategic thinking about the activity of the bibliobus, not only in Germany but also in Mulhouse Alsace Agglomeration
  - Up to now, the cross-border bibliobus is one concrete activity symbolizing the attachement to the local version of the European Charter for Regional or Minority languages
Children and young people: non-significant figures (they borrow on their parents’ or teacher’s card)

Adults, active readers are 3 years younger on average in:

- Adult readers in France (older than 18 years):
  - Average: 51.9 years old
  - Median: 49 years old

- Adult readers in Germany (older than 18 years):
  - Average: 48.8 years old
  - Median: 45 years old
Occupational categories in Germany

+ most represented ones
  - Executives and professors
  - People with no professional occupation (except unemployed persons)

- the least represented ones
  - employees and workers
  - Unemployed persons → they don’t sign up
French mobile library
Documents borrowed

26 426 documents borrowed in 8 months
including 2 790 in Germany
Youth funds = 2/3 of the borrowings

Baden-Württemberg          Haut-Rhin
Bade-Wurtemberg

Fiction = 3/4 of the borrowings

Comic books = 40-50% of the borrowings

In Germany, more comics and novels; less children books

* entre le 1er septembre 2017 et le 30 avril 2018

Haut-Rhin
French mobile library
Borrowings* : Adults funds

Baden-Württemberg

Haut-Rhin

Fiction : around 60%

1. Novels
2. In Germany : comics
   In France : crime novels

* entre le 1er septembre 2017 et le 30 avril 2018
Top 7, most borrowed documents

Mbote Kinshasa ! : article 15 / scénario Sébastien Maître ; dessin Kash

Gérard : cinq années dans les pattes de Depardieu / Mathieu Sapin ; couleur Clémence Sapin

Watertown / Jean-Claude Götting

La Zizanie / Texte Goscinny ; Dessins Uderzo

Strip-cocker / Roba ; mise en couleurs Léonardo (Boule & Bill, 23)

Biba / Scénario Colman ; Dessins Batem ; couleurs Cerise ; d’après un personnage créé par Franquin (Marsupilami, 28)

Tout pour lui plaire ! / Scénario Cazenove & William ; Dessins & couleurs William (Les Sisters, 8)

Le premier roman = un roman jeunesse
La Rentrée, mon chat et moi / une histoire écrite par Marie-Hélène Delval ; illustrations de Vincent Mathy
Privileged moments

- 2016: Celebrating 25 years of exchanges

- Décembre: Christmas Tales in Mulhouse, in French and in German when the German mobile library
The teams

Freiburg
• Elisabeth Willnat, library director
• Christel Karle, mobile library supervisor
→ Figures presented on slides 8 and 11 (on the Mulhousian readers of the German mobile library) provided by Mrs Karle

Lörrach
• Sabine Dietrich, library director

Mulhouse
• Catherine Storne, library director
• Edith Koumany-Schneider, mobile library supervisor
• Philippe Fillinger, driver, in charge of welcoming the readers and lending books
• Donatien Jud, driver, in charge of welcoming the readers and lending books
Since 2012

• Sessions of improvement of German and French
• Formations work as tandems / pairs:
  1 agent from Mulhouse or the m2A + 1 agent from Freiburg city hall
• Many sessions a year per tandem, lasting one day
• Attended also by librarians
• Knowing the useful words in an administration