

## **Become actively older**

### **Library services for the third phase of life „Forum 55+“ of the public library Straubing**

#### **Public library Straubing**

- 71.000 items total; 51.000 of that in the central library at Salzstadel
- 2006: 352.000 issues; 7.700 activ readers; 145.000 visitors
- Staff: 12 employees on 10 permanent posts

#### **Possibilities in Straubing for older adults**

- Straubing 44.700 inhabitants is the „Gate at the Bavarian Forest“
- 30,5 per cent of the inhabitants are older than 55.
- 7 senior centers from nursing homes to senior residences
- Various groups of institutions:
  - Senior adviser of the city administration (since 1990)
  - Managing board for seniors and senior centers
  - Political parties have senior groups
  - Social institutions like the churches

#### **Structure of the age and offers of the library till 2002**

- In the year 2001 less than 2 % of the active readers were 55 years and older.
- Autumn 2002 special place for books 55+ (named „information place 55+)
- Large print books (novels) have an extra location

#### **The third lifephase**

- Age – division in three groups
  - go goes-> people between 55 - 70 years
  - slow goes-> people between 70 - 80 years
  - no goes-> people between 80 and older

#### **Scholarship from Bertelsmann Foundation**

- In spring 2003 four weeks in the USA (Las Vegas, Phoenix, Los Angeles)
  - Theme: After the vocational life into the library?! – From investigation in the States to the „Seniorforum Straubing“

#### **Seniorforum established 2003**

- A circle from seniors who are interested in culture and who want to be active in the cultural life of the city
- Cooperation: Center of volunteers
- Announcement by the local press: „Seeking for active seniors“
- Questionnaire: Questions about their interests
- Information meeting

#### **Offers of the library: done by volunteers**

- Story hours in the library, kindergarden, schools and senior centers
- Cinema of picture books
- Responsible for fleeing market, books exhibitions, library events

## Offers of the library for older adults

- Trainings round Computer and Internet
  - Basic knowledge windows
  - Introduction into the internet without previous knowledge
  - Introduction into the internet with previous knowledge
  - Workshops and performance about ebay
- Event guide: published twice a year
- Site on the homepage of the library
- „Become actively older“ – place of information 55+
- Media boxes for senior centers
- „Mobile book table“ in a senior center

## Seniors for seniors

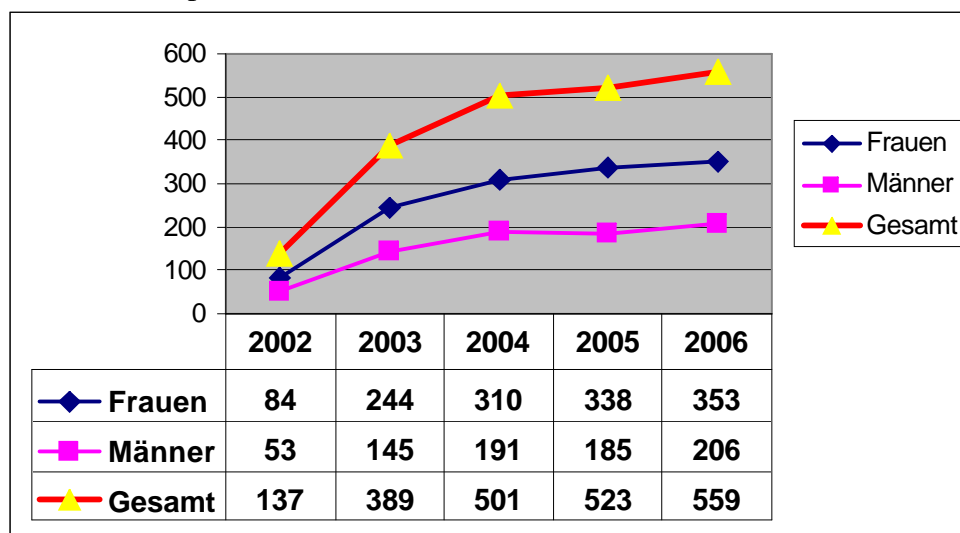
- Since autumn 2003 computer circle („Help and help yourself – exchange of views)
- Since autumn 2004 story times in the senior centers of the city and the county
- Since autumn 2005 all two weeks we offer a book table
  - Cooperation and support by Caritas
  - Circulation not online
  - Care by volunteers

## Benefits for volunteers

- Periodical newsletters
- Annual report with pictures
- Periodical meetings
- Additional learning
- Library ticket free of charge

## Results with future !?

- Development of the active users 55+



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