

PRESS RELEASE

FryskLab awarded with ALA Presidential Citation for Innovative International Library Projects

The American Library Association (ALA) has selected FryskLab as one of three winners of the "Presidential Citation for Innovative International Library Projects". This award for international library innovations will be handed out on June 26 at the annual ALA conference at the Chicago Public Library. FryskLab was nominated for the prize by Ellen Tise, former president of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) and now director of the University Library of Stellenbosch, South Africa.

With the citation the IRRT (International Relations Round Table) Advisory Award Committee of the ALA recognizes FryskLab as innovative, unique and an inspiration for libraries worldwide. *"That the largest library association in the world grants us this award is a great honor,"* said project manager Jeroen de Boer. *"For us mentioning the importance of maker spaces in libraries by the ALA in 2014 was one of the most important motivations to start with FryskLab."*

FryskLab

FryskLab is an initiative of Library Service Friesland (BSF) and the Frisian public libraries. It is the first mobile LibraryFabLab in Europe. The main objective of the project is to contribute to the innovation strength of the province of Friesland. At its core is to improve digital literacy and maker skills for children and teenagers in and beyond the mobile library lab environment.

Digital literacy and maker education

The educational offerings of FryskLab are part of the fields of digital literacy and maker education. Both are increasingly receiving attention from the Dutch national government. The new Dutch cabinet has recently decided to improve digital literacy skills in schools. The topic is also on the agenda of the National Library of the Netherlands. They formulated new ambitions and goals in their 2016-2018 Vision on Media Literacy and have added a third, new role for public libraries: that of a workshop. Under the new Vision BSF performs three pilots to test the new 'workshop' focus in practice.

Global Community

FryskLab is part of the international FabLab (fabrication laboratory) network, as conceived by Neil Gershenfeld, director of the Center for Bits and Atoms (CBA) at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Worldwide, more than 1,000 FabLabs are operationally connected to each other through a unique international network. In the Netherlands there are over 45 FabLabs.

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