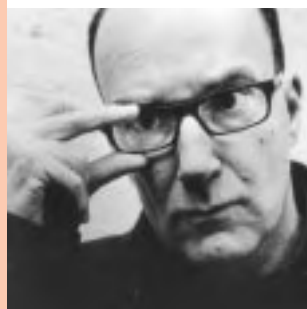


Over 2.5 million people yearly visit The Hague library. The outcome of a survey held in 2004 among customers of the four major libraries of The Hague, Amsterdam, Rotterdam and Utrecht indicated that almost everyone left the library satisfied! Moreover, the score of The Hague library was a good eight, which valued the library as very customer-friendly and customer-orientated, a fact to be very proud of. Customer orientation fits into the ambition to grow into a modern information centre using sophisticated techniques and methods. With the motto The Hague library: source of inspiration for the city the library presented itself in 2004 as an intercultural orientated place for culture, meeting and debate, as a net worker, a communicator and pioneer concerning developments on regional and national level.



dienst openbare bibliotheek annual report

2004



Gemeente Den Haag

[information] Looking for information? Books are no longer our sole source. The electronic supply of information is developing at an unimaginable high speed, and The Hague library is only a little behind in those developments. Consequently, as an equal counterpart of the physical library, the virtual library is being developed; including the important new public catalogue Zones. Only by continuing to develop, information will become available for and accessible to all residents of The Hague. A good case in particular is the addition of the Internet library with its digital source of information the Tijdschriftenbank (bank of magazines): outside the library you have to pay for the information, inside the library the information is available free of charge. Besides, the involvement of The Hague library in the popular digital encyclopaedia of the public libraries on the Internet, Al@din, provides an answer to any request of information. The Hague library focuses more and more on personal and individual services in reply to customers' questions via the medium and at the time they want the information. For example, if The Hague library collection lacks a CD you like to borrow, you enter your name at your own branch at Leendirect cd's (CDs Direct Loan), and you can order the CD via the Internet at the Centrale Discotheek Rotterdam (central record library) (www.cdr.nl).

[education] Education is not age-limited Very young, mature or senior, need of knowledge and information is not always age-limited. This demand is stimulated by The Hague library as constant education is, after all, one of the solid pillars on which the library rests! The library wants to provide facilities for life-long education (and reading) to people by opening up knowledge and by unlocking the cultural heritage of various traditions. The library also wants to bring people together and to be a local information centre, manifested by a real toddler's month and a lot of attention for pre-school. In 2004, for instance, there were activities with quizzes and courses (some on the Internet), whether or not in collaboration with schools.

[culture] Cultural Exchange Everything represented by The Hague library in 2004 was brought together in lectures, exhibitions, performances, and debates: transfer of information, meetings and discussions, and, most of all, cultural exchange. The Hague library believes in the strength of collaboration. In order to strengthen and improve its place on the list of cultural institutions, the library looked for more collaboration with (cultural) institutions: as an initiator, but especially, as a reliable partner. The Cultuurpunt Den Haag (Cultural Meeting Point The Hague) (www.cultuurpuntdenhaag.nl), a website with information about amateur art and the culture

programme of The Hague library and its local branches, was established in collaboration with the Centrum voor Amateurlkunst Den Haag is a striking example. The agreement between The Hague library and the Shanghai library cleared the way for exchanging Dutch and Chinese knowledge and culture in the shape of exchange of collections, and the first steps towards a yearly local China Festival The Hague.

[meeting] More Intercommunication The library not only is a treasure-house of books, but more and more meeting place, situated in the heart of the city and its districts. This idea was specified in real terms by The Hague library, together with the Council of The Hague: Moerwijk library was changed into Living Room of the district, a library experience in the proper sense of the word. It is an easy-accessible meeting point, where you meet up acquaintances, and with cultural education as a fixed agenda item.

Preview We do not only look back on 2004, but we also look forward to two important moments in 2005. Halfway through the year the Zomerbrief (Summer Letter) will be published, which will give an impression of the activities of the first six months at The Hague library. In November 2006 the jubilee year will start, in which The Hague library will celebrate its centenary with a range of festivities!

2004 from month to month

The Hague library is an easy accessible place for people, even if they do not want to borrow books. The library occupies a special place between theatres, museums, and galleries, which are abundant in The Hague, and the library is keen to keep it that way. A varied and attractive range of performances, lectures, workshops, and exhibitions was on offer last year, as a result of which many people could give in into temptation to attend literature, music, poetry, and theatrical performances: for anyone, throughout the year, for adults and children, at every library. But that is not all. The Hague library also showed its social engagement by giving a clear field for discussions about questions of the day, and for projects in the field of emancipation.

Visitors of The Hague library could have their interest tuned to the monthly themes that were running like a leitmotiv through the activities. This was a new way of programming: at the same time, the themes left space for following recent events as well as anticipating local and national themes with a vision. The library introduced the bibliotheekagenda (BA) for simplifying the selection of activities, and for drawing visitors' attention to library activities which they might not know. The monthly survey is agreeable to read and has a recognizable design. The library as source of inspiration for the city: information and education, a place of culture and meeting in due form. Here comes an impression from month to month.

photos cover:
Bart Chabot, Benoordenhout Library
Kristien Hemmerrechts, Leesnacht 2004, Central Library
(photo: Frank Jansen)
Toddler's Festival, Central Library

January February March

January After the excesses of December, January is the month in which everyone puts his/her health at number one and the library liked to join in this idea. Other activities were the **Landelijke Gedichtendag (National Day of Poetry)**, the launching of the website www.cultuurpuntdenhaag.nl, and the first programme of **Boek+Film (Book and Film)**.

[information] **Keeping fit** One of the crowd pullers was the **alternatief gezond markt** (alternative lifestyle market) with information, workshops and little demonstrations in the Central Library. At a workshop **Internet en gezondheid** (the Internet and Health) people could familiarize with the bulk of information on this subject. An information and publicity meeting in the Haagse Hout library impressed parents minding young children on healthy eating and lots of exercise given the great importance concerning their offspring. If you want to succeed, you have to be in good form. Alpinist Ronald Naar conquered Karakorum Peak number 2: with its height of 8,616 m the most ruthless of the highest Himalayan peaks. He described this unique expedition in **Geen berg te hoog** and told his inspiring story in the libraries of Benoordenhout and Scheveningen.

[culture] **Poems and exhibitions** The Central Library invited three well-known poets on the occasion of the **Landelijke gedichtendag** (National Day of Poetry): Judith Herzberg, Karel Eykman, and Hagar Peeters read from their works and talked about their poetry with Frènk van der Linden. Their performance was sheer poetic delight.

The exhibition facilities offered by The Hague library are increasingly appreciated. The Central Library exposed eye-catching exhibitions in 2004. For example, **De vorm van de overheid** with an outline of how the authorities have expressed themselves during the last twenty years. The exhibition showed the change of company logos and ways of expression of eight ministries and municipalities under the influence of various circumstances in the course of time. The exhibition was opened by Wim Deetman, mayor of The Hague. But artists could also exhibit their works of art at local libraries. In January, for instance, the Haagse Hout library held a photo exhibition with 450 black-and-white pictures: **Den Haag/Tokyo 1000 rond 2000**. For this purpose two photographers, Dutch Leo van der Kleij and Japanese Tatsuhiro Nkagawa, recorded their everyday life in their neighbourhood during three years, starting in 2000.

[education][culture] **The library as debating place**
The Hague library organized a series of discussions with speakers who belong to a multicultural

society. The objective was to contemplate the negative images and ideas which influence society, and to look for opportunities to turn around these trends. The series was called: **Islam, beeldvorming, integratie en de multiculturele samenleving** (Islam – image, acculturation, and the multicultural society). In the Schilderswijk library, David Pinto started the discussions with a sharp analysis of the 'acculturation problem'. Ruben Gowricharn, Professor of Multicultural Cohesion, came to the Transvaal district to make a plea for giving more attention to achievements of immigrants. The third lecturer was Sjoerd van Koningsveld: his opinion on subjects such as Islam and image, and communication between cultures and religions, has been widely published. Writer, jurist, and philosopher Afshin Ellian fled Iran, the country of Ayatollah Khomeini, and has been in the Netherlands since 1989. The approach of the subject was from the heart.

[education] **A yummy breakfast** The library organized for the first time the **nationale voorleesdagen** for toddlers (0-4 years), which started with the **Nationale Voorleesontbijt**: eat a bun while a nice story by well-known and less well-known storytellers is told. The story-telling days, which aimed at reading more stories to young children, were the beginning of The Hague Toddler's Month in every library, and continued in February.

[culture] **Cultuurpunt Den Haag** (Cultural Meeting Point The Hague) The opening of the **Cultuurpunt Den Haag** by alderwoman Louise Engering-Aarts was an important moment in January. This cultural meeting point cooperates with the Centrum voor Amateurlust Den Haag and has a website (www.cultuurpuntdenhaag.nl) with activities in the field of amateur art as its virtual component. Its physical address is in Bouwlust, in the multicultural district Escamp, where it is shaped into the subproject **Escamp à la Carte**. The Cultuurpunt's goal is to broaden the supply of culture and target new groups.

[culture] **What is your opinion on this book?** Reading books and comparing reading views form the main idea of the **Leeskringen** (reading circles), organized by the library in collaboration with the Volksuniversiteit (adult education centre) The Hague. Reading circles were started in nine local libraries in January, February, and March. In five meetings just as many books were discussed: books by Henk Bernlef, Margriet de Moor, Marcel Möring, Abdelkader Benali, and Rascha Peper. To conclude this series of meetings for the participants, a lecture was held by Rascha Peper.

[culture] **Book and film** In 2004 The Hague library and Filmhuis Den Haag (Art Cinema) linked Book + Film every month and programmed a series of lectures and films during the weekend: at first a lecture in the library was presented, and then the film was projected in the Filmhuis. A fine example of how these two mediums of art can complement each other is **Hersenschimmen** by Henk Bernlef in the cinema version of Hedy Honigman.

The film adds an extra dimension to the book, although the filmmaker followed the text closely. Book and film were introduced by Bernlef in a lecture, and the film was shown directly afterwards.

February February is for a long time now the month of love, a never-ending source for writers, poets and artists. This resulted, for example, in a blind date with books: a surprising bag with books which were not chosen by the visitor himself. In the Moerwijk district, children who wanted to make a good impression at Valentine's Day could follow a workshop on writing love poems. And February was toddler's month.

[culture] **Music** Where love and passion are concerned, you need music. In The Hague library sounded tango music, and jazz by **the Groove Club**. In addition, a workshop on writing and singing croon songs was initiated in the Bouwlust library. In library Statenkwartier/Duinoord was a performance of De Smarties with the motto: sing along as if life depends on it!

[culture][meeting] **Question and answer** Imam Abdulwahid van Bommel wrote his book *Islam, Liefde en Seksualiteit*, based on discussions with young Muslims. It is not a book with regulations, but an invitation to a dialogue. He discussed with young female Muslims, who are not used to speak openly about love and sexuality. The library organized also a series of discussions under the title of **versluiserde gevoelens** (Veiled Feelings) in collaboration with MCI Unit voor Multicultureel Welzijnsaanbod and the Stichting Haags Islamitisch Platform. In a follow-up in November, imam Van Bommel and female imam Fatma Katirci led by Seher Günay looked for answers to their questions, starting from their own perception and experience, with female Muslims.

[culture] **Cartoons** February is the month of publishing the winner of the Inktspotprijs (Cartoon prize): the artist of the best political cartoon of last year. This time the prize was given to Peter van Straaten, whose work was shown at the exhibition **politiek in prent 2003** in the Central Library.

[culture] **Cultuurpunt Escamp** The opening of cultural meeting point Escamp by alderman Pierre Heijnen in Bouwlust library was a festive affair. This form of cooperation between The Hague library, Cultureel Jongerencentrum Bazart, and Stichting Welzijn Escamp is part of the project **Escamp à la Carte**, and is meant to enhance the cooperation between the various institutions for amateur art and culture in Escamp. Bouwlust, Moerwijk, and Morgenstond offered a merry programme with music and performances for toddlers.

[information] **Power to the toddlers** A new item in the library was the **peutermaand** (Toddler's Month): toddlers had the last word. There were super attractive activities for the under fives, and for everybody concerned with their upbringing. Just a few examples are: theatrical performances

for toddlers at almost every library, reading by well-known writers of books for toddlers, and info-meetings about toddlers at some libraries. And when toddlers subscribed to the library, they were given a present as well. To crown it all, the Central Library organized a sensational end with a two-day **peuterfestival** (Toddler's Festival). And this, too, has never been shown before!

March March was a month of culture. And when we define culture as all art manifestations, not solely on professional level but also on the level of recreation and entertainment, then Art and Culture were present in almost any activity organized by the library. March is the month with the national Book Week and the celebration of Women's Day.

[culture] **Amateur Art** In March, the Cultuurpunt Den Haag was in the spotlight with the cultural manifestation **amateurkunst van 10 tot 10** (Amateur Art from 10 to 10). A string of activities accessed the local libraries. There was a lot of music: orchestras in full or limited strength and choirs with a varied repertoire including classical, religious, gospel and rock music. Theatre was an essential part of the programme, but dance fans, too, came into their own at various performances.

[culture] **Sprawling about in the LEESNACHT** (Night of Literature) March is the month of the national Book Week, celebrated by The Hague library for the second year during the **Haagse Leesnacht**: culture, literature, and art during five hours. It was an event till late at night with writers, musicians, actors, and performers in an almost intimate and informal atmosphere; there were Hästens beds in the library, and the lighting was adapted to this late hour. The Night of Literature, with the national Book Week's theme **France: Gare du Nord**, offered both active and idle visitors a programme with well-known writers and poets, such as Remco Campert, Kristien Hemmerechts, Esther Gerritsen, Martin Bril, Stéphane Heuet, Nathalie Heinrich, and Jean Pierre Rawie, who read from their books. And, of course, there was a lot of music by, for instance, Huub van der Lubbe with Concordia, accordion music by Haganum and Bosz de Kler that reminded of Parisian outdoor cafés. Furthermore, there were workshops, theatrical performances, interviews, and discussions with artists, musicians, and actors. The feeling of just being somewhere else was completed by a stand with wine-tasting and French bistro snacks.

[culture] **The Book Week's theme** in the local libraries brought, in particular, associations to mind with French gastronomy. Culinary journalist ONNO KLEYN told tasty stories about his experiences with the French kitchen, and after the introduction of the Alliance Française visitors could taste wine and French refreshments.

[culture][meeting] **From Women's Day to Mother's Day** During last year the emancipation project **emanciperen moet je (stimu)leren** (Emancipation - a matter of encouragement and learning) was very successful. The library wants to contribute structural-

ly to the emancipation of foreign women. In the period from 8 March, Women's Day, to 9 May, Mother's Day, activities were organized in the local libraries Schilderswijk, Transvaalkwartier, Spoorwijk, Regentessekwartier, Laakkwartier, and the Central Library. The activities in March included the exhibitions **meiden in beeld** (Girls in pictures) and **facing Afghan women**; a consciousness-raising and participation course for foreign women: **het heft in eigen hand** (Gaining Control). In addition, **op uw gezondheid** (Your Health), a day organized for women in Escamp about everything concerning healthy living, and an information morning about **de thuisdokter** (Doctor at home).

The library had organized the 'poetry breakfast' - writing poems as a result of the exhibition **Land dat in mij woont** (Country that lives in me) - which attracted eighty women to The Hague library, and the girls' talk programme **de toekomst is aan ons** (The future is ours). This emancipation project was one out of ten nominees for the Samen Sociaalprijs presented by the Province of South Holland.

[culture][meeting] **Princess Măxima's Visit** Princess



Măxima visited The Hague library twice in 2004. In March, she came to the Schilderswijk library as honorary member of the committee Participatie van Vrouwen uit Etnische Minderheden PaVEM (Participation of Women from Ethnic Minorities), which participated in the project **Kleurrijk talent** (Colourful talent). She made an appeal to Dutch women to teach foreign women. She was offered a subscription for her daughter Catharina Amalia at this occasion. The committee PaVEM held a press conference about the plan Taal Totaal (All about Language) in the Central Library, where Princess Măxima was one of the speakers.



Commissie PaVEM in the Central Library



Remco Campert, Central Library (photo Eddy Posthuma de Boer)

April May June

April Even without any knowledge about the school of Socrates, Plato, Kant or Hegel, every reasonable human being will philosophize once in a while, searching for answers on questions which occupied people's minds in the course of time. Philosophizing happens in many ways and is not age-bound. In The Hague library, April was the philosophy month.

[information][culture] **Religion and Philosophy** The question is: is Buddhism a religion, a philosophy or life principles? In a lecture, Peter van Hooff tried to give answers to many, many **questions of people concerning Buddhism**. Besides theory, he had the visitors experience in a practical way in a number of meditation exercises. **Philosophizing with children** is surprising and refreshing. So an Internet workshop for adults who want to philosophize with children was just in place.

[culture][meeting] **Discussions with writers** The Egyptian writer and culture philosopher Mohammed Salim Al-Awwa, who is known as the mediator between the West and the Arab world wrote a book about Islamic women and their position. He held two lectures. Duygu Asena shocked Turkey with her daring and realistic novel *De vrouw heeft geen naam* (1987). The book was reprinted forty times within one year, and the film of the same name broke visitors' records. With her audience, she discussed, for example, the position of the Turkish woman in the Turkish society.

[culture][meeting] **Islam, image, acculturation, and the multicultural society** - continuation In April and May two more lecturers took the floor in a **series of discussions about islam**, image, acculturation, and the multicultural society. Journalist Bart Top often found image-building of ethnic minorities reason to publish articles. He got the discussion going on minorities and media effects. Han Entzinger has been saying the same for 25 years: the Netherlands is an immigration country and the acculturation of the newcomers must be encouraged by learning Dutch as soon as possible. In addition, they have to go to school, to get as many job opportunities as available, and be considered as members of a different national community as little as possible. These were the items of his discussions.

[culture] **Chopin** In the Nieuwe Kerk and the Dr Anton Philipszaal sounded **music of Chopin**, by well-known pianists, by music students, and by laureates of the Princess Christina Concours at and around Easter. Female pianist **Ani Avramo** gave a foretaste during a lunch time concert on Sunday in the Central Library.

[education] **Dictation** The subject of **the multicultural dictation** for pupils of group 8 of primary schools was Tom, a remorseful stork from The Hague. Although some found the word stork far too difficult, this year the winner managed to write down the dictation without any mistakes. This was maybe thanks to the readers, including some aldermen.

[information] **In the future** On the occasion of its tenth anniversary, the Stichting Den Haag Nieuw Centrum showed developments and plans in a retrospective **Den Haag Nieuw Centrum: verleden, heden en toekomst** (New City Centre of The Hague: past, present, and future). As a result of this exhibition children could participate in a workshop with artists of BarioK where they created their own dream house or dream building, and assembled a new dream town.

May May was the month of expectation, the month of anticipation to the travel and holiday season. The library already offered a foretaste of the possibilities in a number of programme items. The theme was 'reizen' (Travelling): looking around in other countries.

[information] **Europe** The increase of the European Union from fifteen to twenty-five countries is a challenging task for all 'participants'. This was shown in a startling way on the exhibition **Discovering Europe** in the Central Library: twenty panels with important cultural characteristics of the ten new member states. Deputy mayor Louise Engering-Aarts, the alderwoman for Culture and Finance, opened the exhibition. Statenkwartier/Duinoord was the first library where the travelling exhibition **Europe** was to be seen. It consisted of a three-dimensional panel with cultural and literary facts about the ten new member states. Bas Verkerk, alderman for Economics and Personnel, opened the exhibition which would go on its way to all local libraries and the Central Library.

[culture][meeting] **Photographs** Photographer Jerry Lampen had his work rewarded with the **Zilveren Camera (Silver Camera) 2003**, the most prestigious prize in Dutch press photos. His picture of fleeing Iraq women in Basra convinced the jury, who declared this photo unanimously as last year's best news photo. All winning photographs and series of photographs were exhibited in the Central Library.

[information][culture] **Spain and Ecuador** Rik Zaal is a journalist and a traveller with a **passion for Spain**, which he explored to the farthest corners. He put his experiences down in a personal book and took the visitors who attended his lecture in Nieuw Waldeck library on a surprising trip.

There is a paradise, exactly on the equator, which has always attracted scientists and explorers: **Ecuador**. Remco Dalkman held a lecture with slides about the people, the magnificent scenery, and the rich culture of this fascinating country.

[information][education] **Story Marathon** This year the theme of the international non-stop story marathon, organized by the Tsjechisch Centrum (Czech Centre) and The Hague Central Library, was inspired by the increase of the European Union. All ambassadors of the acceding countries were invited to participate in this marathon. As **goede buren** (good neighbours) they read, in turn, literary texts in the Central Library, together with representatives of the other EU- member states.

[culture] **India** Travelling to India and **dancing like in Bollywoodfilms**. Professional dancers explained the tricks of the trade in workshops in Statenkwartier/Duinoord library. The demonstration in Moerwijk library was especially meant for children.

June Family is a matter of importance, and unconditional. Yet, in our language, the word does not always call up favourable associations. There is not for nothing a saying: 'nice family I've got' and this portend little good. To put it briefly, family serves all sorts of purposes. The theme of the month June, jong, oud & familie (young, old & family), left room to review different aspects of life, and all sides of the concept of family.

[culture] **Getting on in years and Being young** For the exhibition **ouder worden wereldwijd** (Getting on in years all over the world), photographer Mieke Schlaman took attractive photographs of people from different countries who are getting on in years in the Netherlands. Photos of young students at a school by Armando Geuze show the joy of life, pride, and faith in the future. To be seen on the exhibition **jong en gelukkig** (Young and Happy).

[culture] **Jazz!!** With the **North Sea Jazz Festival** almost here, the Central Library arranged a foretaste. Jazz band 4SURE opened the exhibition with a gorgeous performance. It was an impressive performance with Juan Pablo Nahar, string bass, Olaf Keus, drums, Efraïim Trujillo, tenor saxophone, and Robin van Geerke, piano.

[culture] **BOOK+FILM** Willem van de Sande Bakhuisen made his movie **Family** after the book **Familie** by Maria Goos. It is a touching story in which both the father and mother keep a secret, family relations are on edge, and a family reunion has more impact than was expected. People could first attend a lecture in the Central Library, and than the film in Filmhuis Den Haag across the street.

[information] **Creepy Books** June is the national **month of thrilling books**. And so, customers in the Escamp library could be given a pleasant surprise with a **thrillerttas**, a bag full of creepy

thrilling books. The need for excitement was great, and this activity was an enormous success.

[culture][meeting] **Looking for your roots** A family's history often is so fascinating, that people are going back to their roots. Investigation in the family tree may help with this search and sometimes leads to surprising results. Coos Wentholt held a lecture in The Hague library.

[information][culture] **Turkey in the picture** The recent situation in Turkey, the legal reforms, and the attempts of Turkey to become a member of the European Union, were subjects of discussions in the lecture **Turkije en de Europese Unie** (Turkey and the EU) by Murat Belge. He is a columnist and critical writer about various subjects, such as the enforcement of human rights.



Hanneke Groenteman, Haags Uit Festival, Central Library



July August September

July + August Focussing on nature and sports, the theme of the months July and Augustus was, of course, entertainment. The reason why nature and sports often play an active role in holidays is that Athens was the scene of games in twenty-eight sports during the Olympics in 2004. It was also holiday time in the local libraries, with lots of activities for those who looked for entertainment near home. For example: an exhibition and jazz concert were organized in the Central Library during the North Sea Jazz Festival, Melancholic Stories, sports in Book+Film, and a demonstration of Tai Chi.

[information][culture] **Human Nature** Heere Heeresma's briefing for his **Zwaarmoedige verhalen voor bij de centrale verwarming** explained how 'they accomplished in the awareness that nature is tremendously beautiful and that human life hardly is worth living'. The book is about human nature and about human beings in certain familiar situations we seldom come across with. The book, composed of four stories, was turned into a film by young talents. Heere Heeresma introduced BOOK+FILM and then invited the visitors to see the film in Filmhuis Den Haag.

[information] **Save the Panda** In nature not any other animal can be more vulnerable than the panda. Young members of the World Wildlife Fund campaigned for its well-being in its endangered habitat. An exhibition with information about the panda showed children how to comply with this campaign to protect animals, such as pandas, elephants and tigers.

[culture] **North Sea Jazz Festival was in town** The exhibition **North Sea Jazz Art** in the Central Library offered lots of opportunities to fans of music and art who wanted a sample of the atmosphere of the North Sea Jazz Festival. In collaboration with Pulchri Studio, the exhibition showed two-dimensional as well as three-dimensional works of art by fifteen artists. Besides these works of art, the exhibition included the best part of the original posters from the collection of Jos Acket (i.e. widow of Paul Acket, founder of the festival). Photographer Illah© exhibited photos of national and international jazz musicians.

Those who could not obtain tickets could indulge themselves in jazz. ZAPP! STRING QUARTET made their appearance on the evening before the festival. People like piano virtuoso Robert Rook, accompanied by alto saxophonist Miguel Martinez as guest musician became quite a box office success.

[information] **Meditation in motion** Tai Chi, originally a Chinese combat sport, lost its fighting element in due course and turned into martial art and system of callisthenics. The combination of sequences of very slow controlled movements and relaxation of body and mind is also called 'meditation in motion'. People could attend demonstrations of Tai Chi at several libraries.

[culture] **Football players** Sports commentator Tom Egbers wrote **De zwarte metoor**, a story about football players Mokone and Dhlo, who caused quite a stir in the fifties, due to their skin colour. Kees van Beijnum wrote the film script and turned the South African footballers' short adventure in Almelo in Egbers' book into a full-blown story. After the lecture by Jeroen de Jong, people could see the movie in Filmhuis Den Haag.

[information] **How do you spend your holidays?** A number of libraries offered **logeerkoffertjes** during the summer months: a case full of surprises for children who are going to stay (or for grandparents who will have their grandchild staying). Getting bored during the holidays was needless, because the Stichting Kinderboekenstad invented a number of hunts, called **zwerfverhalen door Den Haag** (Stories about rambling through The Hague) starting off with a children's book or a writer. With the help of those stories, children discovered spots they might not have known of. The Central Library was the end of the ramble, but the trip was not finished yet!

September Instead of one week, the **Week van het leren in September** should ideally last a month, or maybe one year. Nothing is more important than acquiring knowledge and concentrate on something you are not familiar with. The library linked up with the national theme of learning by organizing a courses market, and a seminar. September is also the month of the start of a new cultural season, including in the local library! Two important events draw the attention: the **Haags Uit Festival** (a yearly presentation of the forthcoming cultural events), and the **second Haagse Cultuurnacht** (Cultural Night).

[education] **Life-long learning** The Week van het Leren puts fun into learning first. The process of learning is omnipresent, in all kind of ways, and during your whole life. All local libraries paid attention to this item with exhibitions, little workshops, and a courses market in the Central Library. Institutions were introduced, which advised people who were curious and interested in schooling. The national **Week van het Leren** was officially opened at The Hague library with a seminar *Leren in de kennissamenleving* (Learning in the information society).

[culture][meeting] **What will this season bring us?**

As usual, people could get a foretaste of the cultural supply of the forthcoming season during the **Haags Uit Festival** on the first Sunday of September. The library offered visitors a varied programme in the Central Library, following on the festival. The programme included a talk between Hanneke Groenteman and Anne

October November December

Scheepmaker, two female writers with a special bond with food and diets; music by the klezmer quintet *Di Fidl Kapelye*; the presentation of the poetry event *Poëzie op pootjes*: an appeal to residents to write poems about themselves and The Hague. Children's theatre group *De Ruwe hondjes* gave the pleasantly loud show *Dries Draaiorgel* in which the children could join in. Finally, town councillor Merdan Yagmur launched the library's new product: www.kleurrijken-haag.nl; a website that has the presumption to become the digital information centre for every resident who is interested in the multicultural society.

[culture][meeting][information] **New rounds of discussion** In a recently published study about Arab Islamic immigrants in West Europe, the authors expressed their concern about **the image of the 'Muslim immigrant'** which considerably deteriorated as a result of the terrorist attacks by Muslim extremists. The three authors of the book, Issa Mukhlouf, Karim Mroua and Faisal Darraj were the library's guests in September, October, and November. They individually got into conversation with the public about some of the study subjects.

[culture] **Cultural Night!** Museums, theatres, churches, Filmhuis, music centres, art galleries, and the library were the showcase of performers and artists in the festival town of The Hague during the evening and night of 25 September. A number of local cultural institutions had opened their doors to an unexpected variety of spectacles: dancers, artists, musicians, photographers, poets, film directors and video makers, and actors. The Central Library offered, in collaboration with the Koninklijke Schouwburg, **an unusual and spectacular programme**, such as a demonstration of capoeira by *Grupo Capoeira Brasil*, stand-up comedy by Anuar Aoulad Abdelkrim, a performance by the original musician *Like a Tim*, and poetry slam with *Sven Adriaans & co.* **DJ Alex Montoya** provided the music that evening.

[culture] **BOOKMARKERS** Sculptor Jan Snoeck and artist Vittorio Roerade designed magnetic book-markers for The Hague library and bookshop Paagman. These unique designs have been made in a limited edition and were for sale at all libraries from the beginning of September.

[culture] **How to become a star** In future, Madelief wants to be a star, leading a nice and relaxed life of luxury. She wants to make her own music and listen to super-duper music. But her mother has quite different views: Madelief has to go from one hobby course to the other, she will play all kinds of musical instruments, and, of course, she will take part in sports. And she has an overfull agenda. **Star**, played by Theater **van niks & van alles**, was a Sunday matinee for children from 4 to 12 years old in the Central Library, where, apart from this, there is a lot to do for children on Sundays all year round.

October The arrival of October in the autumn with winter on the doorstep invites people to make their homes cheerful and warm. The leitmotiv of this month's exhibitions was **Women in en om het huis (Living in and around your house)**. The safety aspect in and around the house was not forgotten. **October is also the national Kids Book Week, this year a very festive one because it was its fiftieth anniversary. And with a party goes music. Music was just the Children's Book Week's theme with the colourful BOEKIDS as high light in The Hague. The full programme was published in a special edition of the BibliotheekAgenda (Library Agenda), which was in great demand.**

[information] **A fire-resistant library** The library is fire-resistant and, for that reason, was granted a permit. In several branches, the fire brigade of The Hague gave informative presentations about fire safety in public buildings, with activities for children in some of these libraries.

[culture][education] **Tararaboomdeey** The Hague library participated in the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the **Children's Book Week** with a lot of musical sounds and noises, and the usual activities in every library, such as cheerful music from all corners of the world, workshops in drumming and dancing, in making musical instruments, listen to a choir or sing in a choir, and public music lessons. And there were theatrical performances, an open stage for up-and-coming actors, and a workshop in writing poems.

[culture][education] **BOEKIDS** The undisputed high light during the Children's Book Week in the Central Library, Theater aan het Spui, and Filmhuis Den Haag was the literary children's festival BOEKIDS. Children came to the Central Library between toppers like *the great Def DADA Show* (with guest ALI B) and performances of reading writers. Writers collaborated with musicians and aroused a lot of admiration: Arend van Dam with musician Karim Eharryen gave a musical trip with *Mijn tante uit Marokko* (My aunt from Morocco), and Mirjam Oldenhavere performed with a rock group. The programme for the tiniest ones included Vera de Backker and Anne Takens. And then there was a musical show by **Het Nest**, and a workshop led by artists of *Susan de Kruijff Kunstprojecten*. And similar to last year, BOEKIDS collected books for Surinam.

[culture] **Zapping Culture** was the title of a simultaneous, **intercultural exhibition of twenty international artists from The Hague**, who collectively showed their works at the Central Library on the initiative of the Stichting Internationale Haagse Kunst (Stichting IHK). Zapping meant that visitors could 'quickly' take note of an outline of art disciplines and simultaneously as at the same time, every participating artist had a solo exposition in one of the eight participating local galleries: a unique collaboration.

In l'Art pour l'art, guitarist DIMITRI VAN HALDEREN gave a concert with an unexpected diversity of music, including 20th-century compositions inspired by paintings, poems, or other compositions.

[culture] **Theatre performances during lunch break Theater Tussendoor** had theatre performances between 12 a.m. and 1.30 p.m. with a startling concept. **Winkeldochters** (Fixtures) was a remake of a Dutch play by Ger Thijs directed by the foreign producer Rasoul Saghir, and with foreign actors. What will happen when you have Dutch stew cooked by an Iraqi chef? The following production **Djinn** reversed the situation: a Dutch remake of a play by the Iraqi writer Falah Shaker, directed by a Dutch producer and by Dutch actors. Here, the question was: what will happen if you are going to have couscous in a Dutch eating-house? Theater Tussendoor was a project by Stichting Stage-Coach in collaboration with The Hague library.

[culture][education] **Art and History** The collaboration between the library and HOVO-Den Haag (higher education for senior citizens) and the Volksuniversiteit (Dutch adult education centre) was continued in 2004 in the series of activities **Haagse Culturele Verkenningen** (cultural studies), including a lecture on the liber amicorum (Festschrift) of artist Adriaan van der Venne in the Central Library. Further collaboration with the Volksuniversiteit resulted in a series of interesting lectures in the Central Library, for example, a series of ten lessons about **The history of Judaism**.

November History & Politics coloured the month of November, with different lines of approach in the choice of lectures, performances, and debates. The lectures varied from excavations in the Benoordenhout district, traditional music of the Ottoman Period during the Ramadan, to the history of The Hague in the project *Stadskind* by Wim Willems. The Max Havelaar edition of *Book+Film* combined the subjects.

[culture][education] **Archaeological treasures** The earliest finds, excavated by archaeologists at the former site of the Alexanderkazerne on the Oude Waalsdorperweg, probably date from the Middle Bronze Age (1500 BC). They give an idea of the habitation history of The Hague dune area, with an explanation of the excavations by archaeologist E. Bulten.

[culture] **From the Ottoman Period** The tradition of religious musical performances during the Ramadan dates from the Ottoman Period. This tradition was continued by two musical evenings in The Hague library. Visitors became acquainted with this old tradition in a lecture, and in a demonstration of the two best-known Ottoman musical instruments, the ney and the ud.

[culture] **The Fifties** Wim Willems reminisces about his youth in The Hague during the fifties and sixties in **Stadskind**, his weekly column in the Haagsche Courant. A book about his personal experiences was published under the same title *Stadskind*. At the Bomenbuurt library he had a discussion with literary critic Jan Hendrik Bakker about his project.

[culture][meeting] **History and Art of the Berbers** There were theatrical performances, literature and poetry, exhibitions, films and music during **het Berbers vrouwenfestival** (Berber Women Festival) in various places in the city, as well as in The Hague library. Three artists, A. Messoudi, A. Sekkaki, and M. Abatoy, showed a selection of their works at an exhibition. Two female researchers, Daniela Merolla and Mena Lafkioui, held a lecture in which the attention was focused on the art disciplines of the Berber women, while Said El Ghazouani and Monim Lazrak highlighted the modern history of the Reef Mountains in North Morocco.

[culture] **History and politics in Indonesia** The story about **Max Havelaar**, written by Eduard Douwes Dekker in 1859, was a point blank complaint against the government of native federal rulers in the Dutch East Indies and caused a great deal of controversy. Fons Rademakers and screenwriter Gerard Soeteman turned the book into a film. Dik van der Meulen, **winner of the AKO Literary Prize 2003** with the biography *Multatuli: leven en werk van Eduard Douwes Dekker*, read a paper, and the film followed afterwards.

[culture][meeting] **About upbringing** Psychologist Üstün Dökmen is well-known for his information campaign **Secret to happiness by little things** on the Turkish television, in which he gives useful tips on the upbringing of children and young people. He held a lecture in the Transvaalkwartier specifically for Turkish women about the mother role in upbringing. The following day at Theater Concordia, he continued to discuss emancipation in the family with Turkish parents, professional educators and other interested persons.

[culture] **Arab culture** The **Arab film and cultural week Escamp** offered an interesting and varied programme including film, music, dance, theatrical performances, and exhibitions. But people interested in lectures, debates, and workshops were also offered a varied programme. The Iraqi writer Fouad Al-Tikerly held a lecture in library Bouwlust, and a debate under the title **Dialogue between the East and the West**. They tried to conduct a conversation about the Muslim image by the Dutch people, and about

feelings and prejudices which determine the way of behaving both in the East and the West. Ferqat Alturath Aliraqi brought this evening to a close with **Iraqi classical music**. In the libraries of the Escamp district, children's activities had also an Arab touch during this cultural week.

[culture] **Surprise!** Children who are fond of surprises could join in a **surprise workshop** led by Susanne Micke, one of the artists of art studio **BarioK**. They had to make something, but were unaware of the selection of materials; this was revealed only after they joined the workshop. Children could take part in free workshops by BarioK throughout the year in the Central Library on Sunday afternoons.

December After the feast of St Nicholas, and Christmas in December, the year was seen out with various activities with religious and spiritual themes. And on top of this, there was a meeting in the Central Library to celebrate the historical date of Surinam and the Netherlands Antilles on becoming autonomous; library Benoordenhout celebrated its first jubilee.

[culture] **Fifty-year-old Charter** To the **Netherlands Antilles and Surinam**, 15 December 1954 became a historical date when the Charter for the Kingdom of the Netherlands was signed: former Queen Juliana declared the overseas dependencies autonomous within the Kingdom of the Netherlands. This fiftieth anniversary was enthusiastically celebrated during an exotic, jolly, and cultural evening where **overseas music and literature** dominated. Guests included John Leerdam, poets/writers Quito Nicolaas, Walter Palm, and Denis Henriquez, pianist Alwin Toppenberg, and rap group Pharao & DJ Kalie. There was also the presentation of a special publication *De gouden eeuw van Curaçao* from the pen of Walter Palm. Photographer Nicole van Hoogendijk (1976) gave her own interpretation of the Kingdom Overseas in a photo exhibition.

[culture] **Five-year-old Benoordenhout** Five years ago, writer **Bart Chabot** opened the new library in the Benoordenhout district, and now he is back again at its first lustrum, where he introduced his two new books.

[culture][information] **Turkey in Europe** The prominent Turkish philosopher, Alev Alath, has a different and clarifying view on Turkey's entry into the European Union and the unification with Europe. She is a writer of novels of ideas, who not only displayed in various books that she can penetrate deep into the Turkish soul, but also kept an eye on international relations. In her lecture about the unification of Turkey with Europe she looked at it from a different angle.

[culture] **Discussions with writers** Historian Hans Goedkoop, presenter of the Dutch television programme 'Andere Tijden', wrote a biography of Herman Heijermans. He knows the tricks of the trade about writing biographies, and gave in The Hague library a lecture in which he explained the kind of ingredients which enter into the telling of

a life story. Books by crime-writer Tomas Ross, such as *De zesde mei* about Pim Fortuyn's death, or *Omwille van de troon* about Greet Hofmans' case, were frequent topics of conversations because the mixture of fiction and truth was not appreciated by everybody. Nevertheless, he belongs to the top of our national crime-writers and has won **de Gouden Strop** award three times. Ross explained, read, and signed his work in The Hague library.

It only happens occasionally that writers appeal both to children for whom they write and to critics, and Rindert Kromhout is one of these writers. Children do not just think the world of him, but he wins annual **prizes for best children's books** too. At The Hague library he exchanged views about his marked ideas of good children books with parents, while their children between 4 and 10 years old were playfully introduced to Kromhout's work.

[culture] **Interactive art show** The Central Library's youth department accommodated during a weekend a hand-painted Vliegertent (Kite tent), in which children listened to stories, philosophized, and were finally set to work in making 'hemelkunst' ('sky art'). **Tijgeren en vliegeren** (Crawling and flying kites) was a project by artist Rienke Enghardt, with which she travels all over the world since 2000. This programme was part of the Festival *Horen Zien en Schrijven Kunstenaars voor Mensenrechten*.

[culture] **Alice in Wonderland** Opus One turned the book **Alice in Wonderland** by Lewis Carroll into a musical. Choreographer Frans Schraven and leading actress Marjolein Teepen told about the musical at The Hague library. In the afternoon children could get a reduction in price when they bought admission tickets for the musical.



emanciperen moet je (stimuleren)

Permanent education in association with The Hague library

No match than the one between school+library does complement better than the one in this combination. In 2004 The Hague library focussed specially on toddlers (and their parents) in the pre-school period, when the foundation is laid for reading and learning pleasure. In addition, many activities for primary-school pupils, secondary-school students and students of adult education were held. The promotion of books, hosting of groups, and offering of Internet courses and help that could simplify the searching and finding of information as this helping hand makes learning just a bit more pleasant. The Hague library will provide an enjoyable permanent education.

Reading is fun, and searching for information is not difficult Many schools took advantage of the Offer of Library Activities Primary Education and joined the local libraries. Toddlers encountered the magic of reading, pupils of group 3 just managing to read discovered their first read, and older children found the sheer pleasure from reading. In addition, older children from junior school up to the sixth form learn the skills to search for and find information on paper and in digital sources. This advice on library use (Leerlijn Informatie-Educatie), developed by The Hague Library, attracted 17,851 participants in 2004.

Language projects The local authority supports schools in districts where children run the risk of language deficiency. The Hague library partly implements these projects for linguistic development as part of the **gemeentelijk onderwijs-achterstandenbeleid GOA** (for special needs pupils). Sixteen permanent staff members laboured in the cause for GOA, and they offered 32 language projects in the *Activiteitenboek Welzijn* (Activities' book Welfare). The projects for children up to six years and children of primary and secondary schools concentrate on poetry, on reading and writing skills, on growth of vocabulary, and on listening and narrating skills.

Special days with story-telling and multicultural dictation The local PEUTERMAAND (Toddler's Month) got many playgroups and day-care centres going: they started the National



Reading café, Centrale Bibliotheek

Story-Telling Days in the library with a delicious toddler's breakfast, accompanied by nice stories. Almost every local library offered theatrical performances and a real toddler's festival at the end. Over five hundred toddlers were welcomed as new library members.

Via their primary school, pupils of group 7 and 8 could join in the ultimate language test: the **multicultureel dictee** (multicultural dictation). Thirty schools with 950 pupils attended this competition. The winner received a book token worth € 115 for an addition to the class library.

History of The Hague All facts and corresponding illustrations of the history of The Hague, listed per period, are to be found at www.haagse-tijden.nl. Collaboration between The Hague library, the Haags Gemeentearchief (Municipal Archives), Monumentenzorg (Dutch National Trust), Archaeology, the Stichting Haags Historisch Museum (Foundation The Hague Historical Museum) and Museum de Gevangenschap (the Gatehouse Museum in The Hague), resulted in this website that is specially designed for pupils of the last two classes of primary schools and the first two classes of higher secondary education.

Search, find, and choose The training programme Zoeken, Vinden, Kiezen (Search, find, and choose) was used in 2004, too, with enthusiasm. It is meant for both teachers and students of secondary education and developed to help them acquire and apply skills in the field of information and to guide them to all information facilities. The companion Haagse informatiekaart (information card), a useful tool to the programme, is now available in three versions: one for the Study House students, one for VMBO-examinees (vocational training), and one for students of the first two classes of higher secondary education. In addition, you can find the first two versions on www.zoekenvindenkiezen.nl

Collaboration A new member of the family is the thoroughgoing collaboration between the Montaigne Lyceum in Nootdorp and Ypenburg library (which is under construction). The pilot project Haagse Lente investigates the effect of

Library visits 2004

Registered users	92,000
Lending copies	3,435,000
Total number of library visits	2,430,000
Central library visits in particular	965,000
Visitors library activities	40,000
Exhibition visitors	106,000
Information request handled	326,000
Group visits (groups)	4,400
Number of people visiting in these groups	106,000

Virtual library visits

DOB homepage visits	576,000
Number of visits to pages	5,668,000
Information requests handled	5,433

mutual exchange of knowledge, information and accommodation. The Montaigne Lyceum offers accommodation for cultural and educational activities; the library offers books and other teaching aids. Furthermore, the library will allot space to youngsters, and will reckon with the school's changing demand in the library's collection.

For adults Adults who want to keep on learning were also offered a lot of activities in 2004. For instance: library lessons for students of the Mondriaan Onderwijsgroep (NT2) and (functional) illiterate persons; computer lessons (in collaboration with Mondriaan Onderwijsgroep); a 'poetry breakfast'; taalklas.nl: a programme for television and computer, a project of ETV (educational television), Haags Centrum voor Onderwijsbegeleiding HCO (Schools advisory service), and library, and co-operation projects of Transvaalkwartier library, Mondriaan Onderwijsgroep and DAK kinderopvang (crèche).

During the Week of Learning in September, the Central Library organized an information market, which accommodated also institutions of adult education.

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