

For the first time: Train the trainer digital

by Uta Pohl-Patalong

In addition to the three co-trainings and the supervised Bibliologs, the education for trainers also includes a separate course that deals with the didactics of Bibliolog courses: In three days we look at each element of a basic course also with its challenges and typical questions about the respective unit, but we also deal with the dynamics in courses or when the certificate cannot be given. All of them also hold a short Bibliolog with one or two roles for which they get feedback again. The training was led by Frank Muchlinsky and me.

12 prospective trainers had to wait a long time for the training due to corona and after we had postponed it twice and it seemed unlikely again in March that a face-to-face meeting with people from different regions and countries would be possible in an uncomplicated way, we decided to have a digital version on March 8th to 10th. Of course, we missed the opportunity to meet each other in person, to make new contacts during the coffee breaks, and to exchange ideas in a relaxed atmosphere in the evening. Nevertheless, the feedback showed that even in this form the human level was definitely present. This was helped by the gather.town platform, where at least our avatars were able to meet and you can move to and talk to others on your own. We actually wanted to use it for the entire course, but not everyone had the appropriate technical equipment for it, so we ended up using Zoom in some cases.

The advantage of the digital form was that it also allowed a Brazilian trainer and a Russian trainer to participate, which would otherwise hardly have been possible. With the participants from the Czech Republic, Austria and Germany, there were a total of 12 people who either completed their training as trainers or will do so after a final co-training. As always, the composition was ecumenical and different generations were represented.

The question that was open to us beforehand, whether a digital course can guarantee a similar quality as a presentational one. Afterwards we were able to give a positive answer, following our impression and the feedback of the participants. We were impressed by how intensively and competently everyone contributed with their short bibliologs, in the course units and in mutual support, and are very pleased about the enrichment of the trainer landscape!