

MagazineFactory –publishes International Electronic Magazines for School Communities

MagazineFactory facilitates genuine international collaboration with a foreign school. The first version of the web tool called Tidningsfabriken was launched in November 2002. The first magazine ever made was called BOKIT. It was produced by an enthusiastic and excited group of students representing the Swedish speaking minority in Finland. MagazineFactory is a popular and versatile concept for developing web magazines for various purposes and contexts. The web magazine may be a single project, or a magazine which is edited continuously throughout the school year. MagazineFactory is a free, easy and enjoyable publishing tool which provides the teachers and the pupils an opportunity to work as editorial staff in the class and to publish a web magazine of their own. The teacher is the editor-in-chief, while the pupils are journalists.

Multilingual version facilitates international cooperation

MagazineFactory includes collaborative features suitable for international cooperation, it facilitates genuine international collaboration with a foreign school. In the future, the schools participating in the European eTwinning school partnership programme have an opportunity to use the multilingual MagazineFactory web tool together with their European partner schools.

Cooperation with the Nordic Schoolnet and the Nordplus junior programme

Magazinefactory is now also available to all Nordic schools on the Nordic Schoolnet. The purpose of the Nordplus Junior programme is, through Nordic school partnerships, to stimulate interest in, knowledge about and understanding of other Nordic cultures, languages and ways of life, so strengthening the Nordic dimension in compulsory schools and upper secondary schools in the Nordic countries and autonomous areas. Schools are able to seek funding for student and teacher mobility in the Nordic region. The programme is targeted at compulsory schools/primary and lower secondary schools and at upper secondary schools. The funding only takes the form of travel expenses. The activities must be educational and based on school work, and students' work must be carried out here on the Nordic Schoolnet.

Cooperation with the European Schoolnet

In October schools participating in the European eTwinning school partnership programme have an opportunity to use the multilingual MagazineFactory web tool together with their European partner schools.

Recognition for MagazineFactory

2003 MagazineFactory (Tidningsfabriken) was awarded for the best media-educational idea of the year in the national Media & Message competition (SATU ry, Association of Independent Producers in Finland).

2004 MagazineFactory (Tidningsfabriken) was awarded the best Finnish product in the e-Inclusion category in the World Summit Award contest.

2005 MagazineFactory (Tidningsfabriken) represents Finland in the World Summit Awards Contest in the UN summit in Tunisia in November. The aim of the competition is to choose the best information society applications of the world.

The statement of the World Summit Award Finland:

"Tidningsfabriken provides the pupils an excellent platform and an inspiring co-author community in the world of web publishing. For its part, Tidningsfabriken diminishes the

digital chasm outstandingly, by changing the young people from consumers in the information society into its authors.”

Further information

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Production

Finnish National Board of Education

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