

## **PRESS RELEASE**

Dr. Hannelore Vogt receives the Karl Preusker Medal 2019

The umbrella organization of library associations, Bibliothek & Information Deutschland (BID) e.V., awards the Karl Preusker Medal 2019 to the director of the Cologne Public Library, Dr. Hannelore Vogt. With this award, the Federal Association honours Hannelore Vogt's innovative thinking and action, which has made the Cologne Public Library one of the most attractive cultural and educational institutions of its kind in Europe. She has thus given important new impulses to the entire German library sector. The award will be presented in Cologne on October 31, 2019.

In its reasoning, the jury emphasizes that Dr. Hannelore Vogt's enterprising and unconventional approach initiated many innovative developments, resulting in a large resonance with users, whom she sees as participants. For example, young people function as "junior experts" and pass their knowledge on to adults. For her, civic involvement and active participation are in the foreground.

She initiated Germany's first STEM Festival and established the first Makerspace, a publicly accessible experimental laboratory, in a German library. In particular, the collaborative approach of the Makerspace initiative has had a great impact on the entire public library sector and has been implemented or further developed at many locations. Newly conceived event series such as STEM Storytime Volunteers, virtual reality courses or "Science Slams" also courageously go beyond traditional learning formats while focusing on digital education.

With the Kalk Public Library Branch she has achieved an ideal "third place", a feel-good place with a high degree of comfort that attracts attention far beyond Germany's borders. With participatory offerings and digital services, Dr. Vogt incorporates media and social developments and positions the Library as a public place in the heart of urban society.

Hannelore Vogt breaks new ground by entering into collaborations with unusual partners such as FabLabs or the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). In 2015 the Cologne Public Library was awarded the distinction "Library of the Year" for its groundbreaking strategic work. In the same year Hannelore Vogt herself received the title "Cultural Manager of the Year" from the Cologne Cultural Council. Under her leadership, the Würzburg Public Library was also previously honored as "Library of the Year" and distinguished with the cross-sector "Bayern Online Prize". As a tireless ambassador for cultural and educational work, as well as for lifelong learning, she has served worldwide as, among other things, a speaker at the Goethe-Institute and as a strategic consultant for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

By conceiving of "library" differently and proactively implementing new ideas, Dr. Hannelore Vogt has made an outstanding contribution to the development of the German library sector. She will receive the Karl Preusker Medal on October 31, 2019 in Cologne. The laudation will be given by Louwrens Langevoort, artistic director of the Cologne Philharmonic.

The Karl Preusker Medal commemorates Karl Benjamin Preusker (1786-1871), who founded a school library in Großenhain, Saxony, on October 24, 1828, from which a short time later the first public library in Germany originated.

Since 1996, the award has been given to individuals and institutions who outstandingly promote and support the cultural and educational mission of the library sector. Among the distinguished honorees

are former Federal President Horst Köhler, Ranga Yogeshwar and the Alliance of Science Organisations.

Further information on the Karl Preusker Medal can be found on the Internet at [https://www.bideutschland.de/de\\_DE/karl-preusker-medaille](https://www.bideutschland.de/de_DE/karl-preusker-medaille)

Bibliothek und Information Deutschland (BID) e.V. (Library and Information in Germany - Federal Union of German Library Associations) is the umbrella organization of all institutional and personal members' associations of German librarianship. BID represents the joint interests of its members at national and European level, and on international committees.

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