

A Student-run Library and How It Can Be Done with Limited Resources

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Main points

1. Extensive Reading (ER), its benefits, and why it is not popular
2. A student-run library and how it can be done
3. Results of the Project

1. Extensive Reading (ER), its benefits, and why it is not popular

Extensive Reading

“generally involves **rapid reading of large quantities** of material or **longer readings** (e.g. whole books) for **general understanding**, with the focus generally on the **meaning** of what is being read than on the language.”

Carell & Carson (1997, pp.49 - 50)

Principles to build a successful ER program

1. Students read large amounts of material
2. Students usually choose what they want to read
3. Reading materials vary in terms of topic and genre
4. The material students read is within their level of comprehension
5. Students usually take part in post-reading activities
6. Teachers read with their students, thus modeling enthusiasm for reading
7. Teachers and students keep track of student progress

Benefits of Extensive Reading

1. enhanced language learning in such areas as spelling, vocabulary, grammar, and text structure
2. increased knowledge of the world
3. improved reading and writing skills
4. greater enjoyment of reading
5. more positive attitude toward reading
6. higher possibility of developing a reading habit

(Renandya & Jacobs, 2002, p. 298)

Why is ER not popular?

Teachers believe that intensive reading only is sufficient to improve students' reading skill

(Day & Bamford, 1998)

Teachers do not have enough time in class.

(Renandya & Jacobs, 2002)

Teachers are not aware of benefits of ER and there is not assessment for ER.

(Macalister, 2010).

In SFL - TNU

1. Teachers are not aware of ER or they believe that ER is not important to students.
2. There is not enough time in class and space in the syllabus for ER.
3. Materials for ER are not available.
4. Students are not enthusiastic in reading.

2. A student-run library and how it can be done

Context

School of Foreign Languages – Thai Nguyen University

English Language, English Language Education, English – Chinese/French/Russian, and other languages

Students: female, from rural areas, little English competence

No similar library, no ER programs

Project description

Goals:

- to provide easy and interesting materials to encourage students and teachers to read extensively
- to serve as a source of authentic materials for teachers to use in the language skill classroom and projects
- to provide support for research on Extensive Reading

Facilities

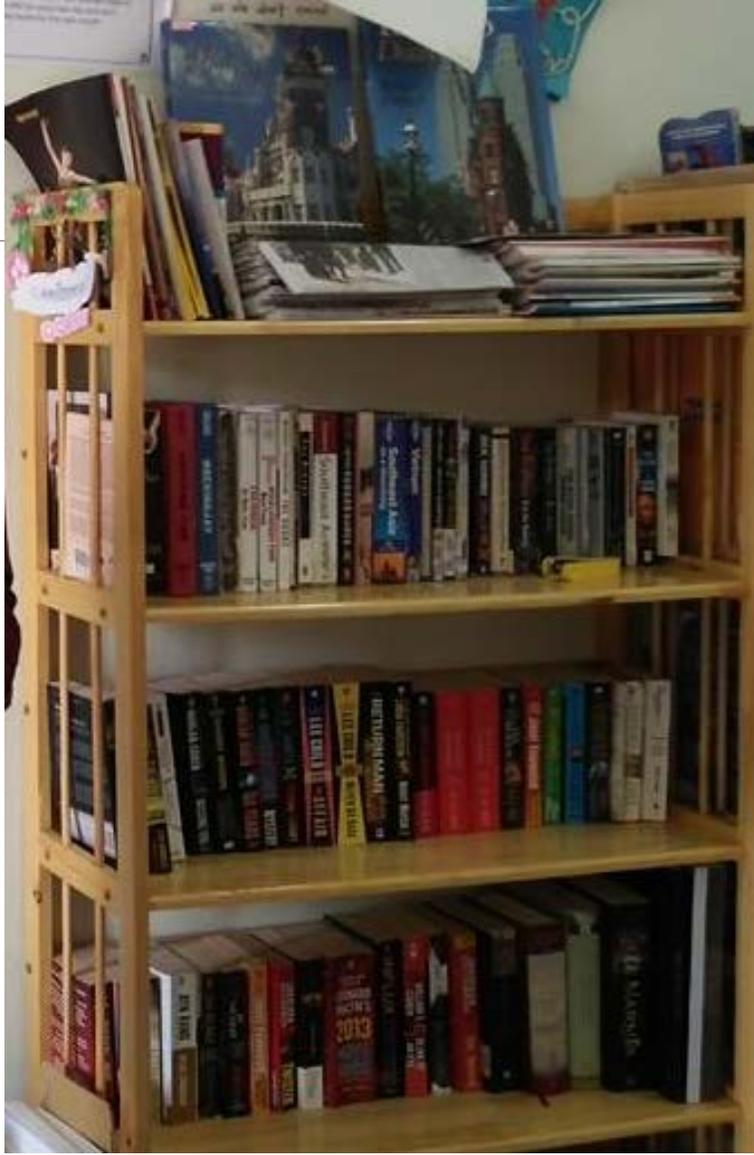
Books and funding:

From the Department of English

From individual sponsors

Reading room:

The Departments office



Operation

A group of students volunteer to operate the project.

The library opens for students and teachers to borrow books

Activities and events are designed and held by students.

Regular meetings are held online or face-to-face, with or without teacher's supervision.

Reading materials are coded for management and borrow times are recorded.

Other characteristics

Economical and sustainable

Does not require extra space in the syllabus or curriculum

The project has most characteristics of a successful ER program.

1. Students read large amounts of material ✓
2. Students usually choose what they want to read ✓
3. Reading materials vary in terms of topic and genre ✓
4. The material students read is within their level of comprehension ✓
5. Students usually take part in post-reading activities ✓
6. Teachers read with their students, thus modeling enthusiasm for reading ✓
7. Teachers and students keep track of student progress X

3. Results of the Project

Do students borrow books from the library?

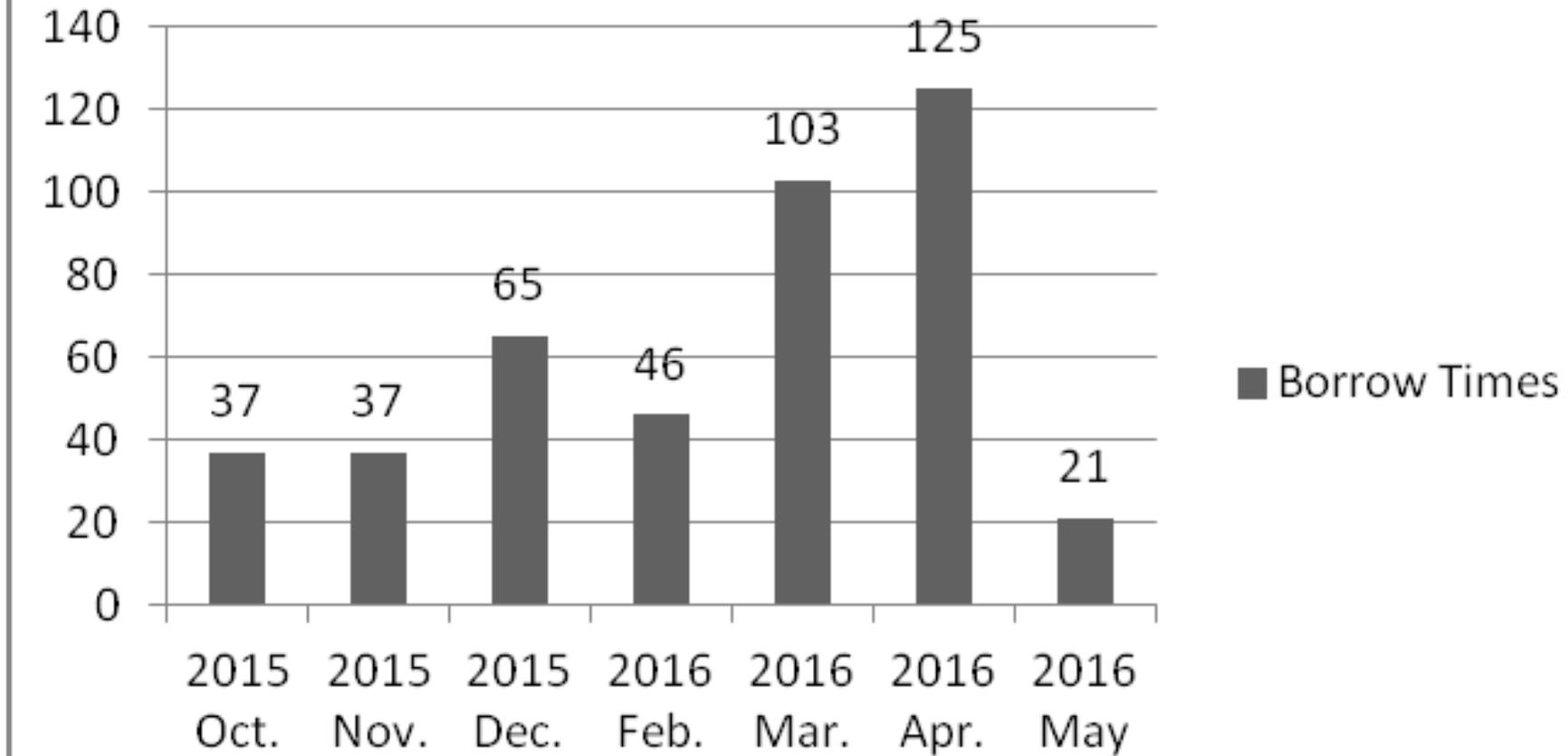
7 months, 103 days

Reached approximately $\frac{1}{3}$ of students

434 borrow times

4.21 times/day

Borrow Times



Borrow Times Each Month

What type of books are students interested in?

Category	No. of Books	Borrow Times	Borrow Times per day
Graded Readers (Fiction and non-fiction)	45	210	2.03
Children books (nursery – K7-8)	74	49	1.53*
Novels (Contemporary and classic)	86	93	0.90
Others (magazines, brochures, etc.)	48	82	0.80
Total	253	434	

* As children books were donated in April, its borrowing frequency was calculated by the total divided by 32 open days in April and May, while others were divided by 103 open days in 7 months.

=>

More and more students are borrowing books from the library.

Graded Readers are students' favorite type of reading materials.

Students are interested in children's books.

What benefits does the project bring to students and teachers?

8 students and 4 teachers were interviewed.

Students: Students who borrow the most from the library. 7 female, 1 male.

Student	P.T.	H.N.	N.T.	L.T.	C.T.	N.Y.	L.C	V.Y.
Gender	F	F	F	F	F	F	M	F
Year	3	1	2	2	3	1	1	4

Teachers: Those who have borrowed books from the library or have used books from the library in their class.

To students: Benefits of an ER program and more

1. Improve students' vocabulary and language skills

“I feel like my English has improved, I learn the language, new expressions, vocabulary, word use, and grammar When I read, I understand it [the text], I don't need to translate it into Vietnamese to understand.”

(C.T)

2. Expands students' knowledge of the world, of cultures, and of books.

3. Positively change students' attitude toward reading

“I myself also had a good feeling with [reading] books while I did dislike it before.”

(P.T.)

4. Students could find enjoyment in reading with the project: relax (N.C.), quiet reading room (V.Y.), interesting books(N.T. – a teacher)

5. Develop a reading habit in its volunteers

“I usually read books when I’m on my shift at the reading room”

(L.T.)

6. Develop 21st century skills and other benefits: team work and problem-solving (H.N.), work under pressure (P.T.), become more active and confident (N.T.)

To teachers

A source of authentic materials for teaching:

T.S. and N.T.: Magazines as sample in their magazine project class

T.Y. and T.T.: Graded Readers as a source of stories for students to write dramas in English.

What do teachers and students suggest for the project to improve?

- buy more books
- have a more spacious reading room
- hold more events and activities
- have more activities to promote for the project
- have co-operations with other book clubs
- provide support in technology
- open for a longer time every day

Conclusion

An alternative approach to traditional Extensive Reading programs, an independent library of authentic materials, operated by students like an English club

Useful and appropriate for SFL- TNU, possible for other regional universities

Graded Readers and Children's books are students' favorites.

Reference

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Thank you for your
attention!
