

## **The Online Waldorf Library Project** **Sponsored by The Research Institute for Waldorf Education**

For the past eleven years, David Alsop, a former Waldorf school class teacher and administrator, has served as Chairman of the Association of Waldorf Schools of North America. When he announced his intention to retire from that post, he was asked by Robin Dulaney if he would be willing to take on a new project: to develop, implement and manage a comprehensive online resource for Waldorf teachers and others interested in Waldorf education. Through conversations with Roberto Trostli, Susan Howard, and Robin Dulaney, David developed the vision of the project described below. Robin Dulaney's generous pledge of financial support has ensured that the project will begin in August, 2001.

The Online Waldorf Library Project will address a growing need within the Waldorf school movement to provide resources on Waldorf education for teachers, parents, researchers and anyone interested in Waldorf education by creating and publishing a comprehensive **Online Catalog** of available resources addressing Waldorf education. Such resources include books, magazines, journal and newsletter articles, academic theses, bibliographies, videotapes, audiotapes, and internet sites.

The starting point for the project will be the creation of a comprehensive **Database of Publications** available from the numerous presses such as the Anthroposophic Press, Rudolf Steiner Press, Mercury Press, Hawthorne Press, Steiner Schools Fellowship, Rudolf Steiner College Press, AWSNA Publications, and WECAN Publications. This database will enable an individual to access information of all the existing books in print on Waldorf education in one place, as well as to provide links and information about purchasing the books or requesting them from the Rudolf Steiner Library.

A second aspect of the project will be to create a **Journals** section that would provide comprehensive information about the numerous journals addressing Waldorf education. This section would include an index of articles in *Renewal*, *Paideia*, *Research Institute Research Bulletins*, *Child and Man*, etc. Exemplary articles would be posted and made accessible on the site.

A third element of the project is the **Clearing House**. This would provide the opportunity for teachers to post and find the most practical kinds of resources for their preparation and teaching. A thorough review would be done of the existing back-issues of the old Waldorf Clearing House Newsletter to select and post useful materials contained there. Many schools have "Resource Books" for each class that are updated and expanded each year by the class teacher. Ways could be found to access such materials. More than just a catalog, the Clearing House would actually contain such items as articles on specific aspects of the curriculum, child development, working with parents, plays on curriculum subjects, verses and poems, syllabi, bibliographies, science demonstrations, etc. This would be an invaluable resource to all Waldorf teachers and home-schoolers interested in using a Waldorf approach.

Another section of the site, perhaps to be included in the Clearing House area, is a **Waldorf Education Message Board**. This feature would enable individuals to communicate within specific subject areas or on more general themes by posting comments, suggestions, questions, and new discoveries. Project staff would serve as the moderators for this feature.

Yet another major element of this project will be to create an **e-library**, which would have e-book versions of some of the many books, pamphlets, and articles that are currently in danger of disappearing because so few copies remain or because the books are out of print and there are no plans to bring them back into print. This activity will be undertaken in close collaboration with the Rudolf Steiner Library, the Rudolf Steiner Archive, and the English-language presses, and will be mindful of copyright and other limitations. These materials would be available for reading, and perhaps downloading, through the website.

Clearly, there are many specific details that will need to be addressed as the project progresses. A significant amount of time and resources will need to be spent in developing an overall site plan, developing the site itself, solving issues around web hosting and services, etc. In addition, it will be necessary to compile, in collaboration with the various presses and libraries, the data that will be available on the site. Regular communication to and from practicing Waldorf teachers will also be very important.

It will take some time to create the Online Waldorf Library, but when it is fully operational, it should become an invaluable resource to anyone wishing to engage in research in or communication about many different aspects of Waldorf education.

Comments and suggestions are welcome. Please contact  
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