



## Project shares free resources to improve children's literacy

A Europe-wide project, involving researchers from Staffordshire University, has discovered creative ways to improve school pupils' literacy skills through using ICT.

Research from the National Literary Trust has shown that more than a fifth of children and young people (22%) rarely or never read in their own time and nearly a fifth (17%) would be embarrassed if their friends saw them reading. In addition, many school students lack knowledge of national and European literature.

The two-year project, *AMORES, discovering a love for literature through digital collaboration and creativity*, found that creating e- artefacts such as films, comic strips and online books could be used to increase students' engagement with, and knowledge of, literature and the results are being shared as a free online resource for teachers across Europe.

Janet Hetherington, Senior Researcher in the Creative Communities Unit led Staffordshire University's involvement in the project. She commented, "We have shared our learning across Europe, from a conference in Tallinn to a workshop in Stoke-on-Trent. The findings and resources have been universally well received. Although we are working in different contexts, the use of ICT to engage students and forge links is relevant for teachers and researchers across the continent."

The project worked with 10 teachers and 400 students to develop the free methodology and resources, which has already proved successful. Schools involved in the AMORES project saw increased uptake of literature with students engaging with national literature, creating animations and short films, and sharing these with their peers in other countries through videoconferences.

Staffordshire University was one of three UK universities involved in the project along with universities, primary schools and other educational institutions in six countries - Greece, Croatia, the UK, Sweden, Denmark and Poland.

For more information and access to the free teaching resources visit the [Amores project website](#).

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