



International Association of School Librarianship
(IASL) Inc., Zillmere, Queensland, Australia

MEDIA RELEASE

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IASL School Librarianship Award

Maria José Vitorino has been awarded the IASL School Librarianship Award for her service in the development of school libraries in Portugal and the promotion of school librarianship in Europe.

The award recognises outstanding contributions to the national development of school libraries and services within the recipients own country or internationally. Maria José Vitorino has been recognised for her significant achievements in the development and establishment of the following organisations:

- BAD Association of Portugal – Librarians, Archivists and Documentalists
- RBE – Portuguese school libraries network
- THEKA – Teacher’s training for school library development Gulbenkian Project
- ENSIL – European network for school libraries and information literacy

Maria José is particularly commended for her work in establishing the profession of school librarians in Portugal.

In announcing the award, IASL President James Henri noted that Maria José has been tireless in the development of libraries in schools and promoting professional learning throughout Europe to develop all school librarians. Maria José is an example of a true lifelong learner who continually seeks new ways to contribute to her professional learning community.

Luisa Marquardt, a past IASL Award recipient, has noted the passion and drive of Maria José. “She has promoted effective and stimulating local, national and international meetings: she has facilitated the exchange of inspirations and experiences. She constantly contributes with bright ideas and passion to the discussion about the role of school libraries and school librarian/information specialists in a rapidly changing world.”

The International Association of School Librarianship, which promotes and administers this award, is committed to enabling young people to develop literary and cultural appreciation and to use information effectively through the improvement of school libraries and school library programs as a vital component of education.

Information about membership and the awards program is available from the IASL Secretariat:

PO Box 83, Zillmere QLD 4034, Australia

Website: www.iasl-online.org

PO Box 83
Zillmere QLD 4034 Australia
Email: iasl@iasl-online.org
Fax: + 61 7 36330570