

## Extensive Reading Foundation Report for 2021

This year the ERF has achieved many things. This is a short list of some or activities in no particular order

### Language Learner Literature Awards

The winners and finalists of the 2021 Language Learner Literature Awards were announced as usual although there could be no in-person award ceremony due to the pandemic. The results are posted [on the ERF webpage](#).

Despite the pandemic, that LLL Award project is continuing as usual, although shipping restrictions have caused some publishers to supply electronic copies rather than the physical books. The call for teachers to review the finalist readers will be announced in February.

Cory Koby is taking over the management of the Awards from Marc Helgesen who initiated the awards in 2004. We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to Marc for his long service to the LLL Award.

### THE ERF Annotated Bibliography

The ERF Annotated Bibliography now has over 800 entries which are completely searchable for any word within the entries. Many include the URL for quick access to the complete article. Visit the bibliography and <https://erfoundation.org/bib>. The ERF thanks the Bibliographers for their work this year.

### RELO Grant

We have completed a grant from the Regional English Language Office of the U.S. Embassy in Jakarta to host a series of webinars and workshops around the Indonesian archipelago which were attended by well over 1000 teacher/participants. The workshops were coordinated by Dr. Fenty Siregar, the chair the Indonesian Extensive Reading Association and hosted by a university in each region. One workshop was held in Timor Leste, with the cooperation of the U.S. Embassy's Public Affairs office there. Post-workshop reading contests were held to encourage the participants to experience graded readers of various types. The winners in each region won one-year subscriptions to Xreading.com for up to 50 of their students.

### New websites

We created two new websites in 2021 targeted at those who cannot access graded readers either physically or via a web-based service such as Xreading.com

**FreeGradedReaders.com** offers a small collection of copyright-free graded readers, by authors who have kindly consented allow their use in this way. The site also contains pages of other websites that offer graded reading of short texts, such as those on the British Council and Voice of America sites.

**OR4F.org** (Online Reading for Fluency) offers more than 500 short graded readings, each using Google quiz forms for a short 3-item quiz. The questions were compiled with the assistance of Prof. Lal's students at the University of Kerala, India. Eventually we hope to create a site somewhat similar to MReader, which would allow students to be registered and for their progress to be tracked. This site will complement ER-Central.com which maintains the reading material on its own database. OR4F.org

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on the other hand, will have links to copyrighted material which is read *in situ*. After reading the content, they then take a quiz to record their reading progress.

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#### ERAW-2021 & ERAW-2022

The 2021 version of the Extensive Reading Around the World online conference featured around 100 presentations and attracted over 750 participants. The presentations that were automatically saved while being streamed are located at: <https://tinyurl.com/ERAW2021-channel>.

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#### Postponement of ERWC6 in Indonesia

Due to the current pandemic scourge, the ERF Board as decided to delay our bi-annual "Extensive Reading World Congress" in Yogyakarta until 2023, while holding yet another ERAW event from August 5-7, 2022. See <https://erfoundation.org/eraw/> for full information. The proposal submission process is now open! ERF Board members are strongly requested to present, attend or be involved in some way.

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#### ER-MOOC

The Extensive Reading Massive Open Online Course starts its third session on January 10, 2022 running for 14 weeks although, participants may study each module at their own pace if they so desire. The course provides a thorough introduction to the various components of an effective ER program. There are weekly Zoom chats to review the content. Participants who successfully complete the course are awarded a certificate of completion. See <https://er-mooc.org>

#### MReader

Due to the pandemic which has made it difficult for students to access physical copies of graded readers, MReader access has fallen to a little over 61,000 unique users during the 2021 calendar year, with slightly over 1,500,000 unique accesses. The country with the most accesses is Japan – no surprise there, but the next four (in order of accesses) are Oman, South Africa, Indonesia and Vietnam.

We continue to make improvements to the software. A new system of registering students will allow teachers to use an .xls or .xlsx file instead of an unformatted .csv file, while an error checking feature will allow smooth uploads with error-free data that will keep the system humming along, problem free. Another small tweak allows teachers who have more than one class to click through them sequentially by clicking "Next" or "Back".

#### Grants

Two "model school" grants were awarded this year, one to the junior and senior high schools attached to Seminary St. John Berkhmans on the island of Flores in eastern Indonesia. The students have so enthusiastically embraced ER that the principal has now included it in their standard curriculum. The second award went to Dr. Abdurahman Ahmed in Ethiopia. Unfortunately, the civil unrest there has delayed the start of the program.

#### Sponsors

We would like to thank our ERF and MReader sponsors for their support in the past – and in future years.

**Gold Sponsors:** BlackCat, Compass Media, National Geographic Learning/Cengage, Oxford University Press, Pearson, Seed Learning and Xreading.com

**Silver Sponsors:** Atama-ii Books, e-future, Eli Graded Readers, Halico, Helbling, Nellie's English Books and Usborne.

### **Affiliates**

Each ERF affiliate was requested to present their annual report at ERAW 2021. Their reports are here. No report was submitted from KEERA for the 5<sup>th</sup> year in a row. The ERF Executive is looking into what to do about this. All other affiliates seem active.

### **Forming affiliates**

The Thailand Extensive Reading Association (TERA) is likely to apply for full affiliate status in 2022. In 2021 they held several ER events and have made steps towards formal formation within Thailand probably through Chulalongkorn University. No progress has been made on forming VEERA, however Rob will be in Vietnam to pursue this in 2022.

### **ERF YouTube Channel**

The ERF YouTube channel now has over 1100 subscribers and lists over 200 videos on ER. 63 videos from ERAW2021 have been added.

### **ERF Executive Board Elections -- 2022-2024**

These ERF Board Members were elected for the next three-year period.

#### Chair:

Thomas Robb

#### Executive Board Members:

Doreen Ewert

Marc Helgesen

Cory Koby

Ann Mayeda

Willy Renandya

Rob Waring

We would like to thank Yuseva Iswandari for her years of service as a member of the Executive. She is now engaged in Ph.D studies at Ohio State University.

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