

**THE WORLD OF INFORMATION:
OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES
FOR THE GIFTED AND TALENTED**



The 14th Biennial Conference
of the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children

BARCELONA 2001

Editors: Juan A. Alonso, Ed.D & Yolanda Benito, Ph.D.



CENTRO "HUERTA DEL REY"
WORLD COUNCIL FOR GIFTED AND TALENTED CHILDREN

The World of Information: Opportunities and Challenges for the gifted and talented



Edited by:

Juan A. Alonso Ed.D. "Huerta del Rey" Center

Yolanda Benito, Ph.D. "Huerta del Rey" Center & University of Valladolid, Spain

The World of Information: Opportunities and Challenges for the gifted and talented

EDITED BY

Juan A. Alonso & Yolanda Benito
CENTRO «HUERTA DEL REY»
Pio del Río Hortega, 10
Phone/fax.- 34 – 983 - 341382
e-mail: c_h_rey@correo.cop.es
<http://www.centrohuertadelrey.com>
47014 Valladolid
SPAIN

COVER DESIGN AND COMPOSITION

Arancha Lucas & Carlos Goicoechea

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MESSAGE FROM THE LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE CHAIR OF THE 14TH WORLD CONFERENCE ON GIFTED AND TALENTED CHILDREN

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On behalf of the scientific and organizing committee of the 14th World Conference on Gifted and Talented Children, we would like to express our sincere satisfaction of the obtained results: the 14th World Conference implied an important advance on the knowledge about giftedness and talent; for some countries, it implied an approximation to the reality of these students; in many countries, it implied the starting of an absent legislation or, in other cases, the revision of that legislation.

Plenary, Featured Speakers, Symposia, Individual, Posters, made a great Scientific Program with the participation of 54 countries that take part in the world of Education, Psychology, Paediatrics and related Sciences: Training Centres, Universities, Official Organisms, different National and International Educative Administrations, Associations, Parents, etc.

The Queen of Spain, S.M. D^a. Sofía, agreed to be the Honorary President of this important Conference, that got the institutional support from the following organizations: Ministry of Education and Culture of Spain, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of Spain, Teaching Department of the Generalitat of Cataluña, Barcelona Town Hall, Education Department of the Community of Madrid, Deputation of Girona, The British Council of Spain, Spanish Centre for the helping to the gifted development, Barcelona Convention Bureau, Iberia and Airtel.

The World Conference had an Honorary Committee formed by the following personalities: Jose María Aznar, President of the Government of Spain; Jordi Pujol, President of the Generalitat of Cataluña; Pilar del Castillo, Minister of Education, Culture and Sport of Spain; Ana Birulés, Minister of Science and Technology of Spain; Joan Clos, Mayor of Barcelona; Juan A. Gómez-Angulo, State Secretary for the Sport, President of the CSD; Carme-Laura Gil i Miró, Consellera of Education of the Generalitat of Cataluña; Concepción Dancausa, General Secretary for Social Affairs; Manuel Royes Vila, President of the Deputation of Barcelona; M^a Pilar Dávila, Director of the Woman Institute; Peter Sandiford O.B.E., Director of the British Council in Spain and Prof. Dr. Santiago Grisolia.

The Spanish Scientific Committee was composed by: Carmen García Colmenares, Professor, University of Valladolid, Spain; Yolanda Benito, Professor, University of Valladolid and Director of Huerta del Rey Center, Spain; Emilio Sánchez Miguel, Professor, University of Salamanca, Spain; Jesús Moro, Ministry of Health, Spain; Juan A. Alonso, Local Organizing Committee Chair of the 14th World Conference and President of Ficomundy; David de Prado, Professor, University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain; Jose Muñiz, Professor, University of Oviedo, Spain and María Ascensión Fernández, Professor, University of Valladolid, Spain.

We wish the readers that this Publication, result of the XIV World Conference, means an advance in the future research lines of gifted and talented children.

Juan A. Alonso
Valladolid, Spain

THE PRESIDENT OF THE GOVERNMENT

Madrid. 25 July 2001

Dr. Juan A. Alonso
Member of the Executive Committee
World Council for Gifted and Talented Children
Centro "Huerta del Rey"
Pio del Rio Horteaga, 10
47014 Valladolid

Dear Friend,

I am writing in reply to your letter on the occasion of the XIV World Council of the World for Gifted and Talented Children to be held this summer in Barcelona.

I wish you every success for the events that will be taking place during the course of the conference and I would like to offer my support for the work being carried out at your centre for the education of these children.

Kind Regards

(Signature of the President)

José María Aznar

THE PRESIDENT OF THE GOVERNMENT

ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE GOVERNMENT TO THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE XIV WORLD COUNCIL FOR GIFTED AND TALENTED CHILDREN

It is a pleasure for me to be given the opportunity by the organisers of the **XIV World Council for Gifted and Talented Children**, being held in Barcelona, to greet all those taking part, to congratulate them on their work and to encourage them in their efforts to develop the talent of the most gifted and talented for the benefit of society.

Although it may seem somewhat contradictory, gifted children require close attention from parents and educators if they are to reach their potential, a fact well appreciated by the organising committee of this conference, which has introduced two areas of research: 1. a programme aimed at parents and 2. a programme for new technologies.

The first of these two areas, dealing with parents, offers an educational programme for gifted children, thus making it easier for parents to cope with the special needs of their children, both in the personal and family environment as well as in the academic and social environment. Parents can share their knowledge and experiences at this conference and can also find answers to many of the problems encountered.

The second area, which incorporates the advantages of new technologies, offers a “cybercorner”, specifically designed to explore the Internet under the guidance of expert supervision.

These innovations are aimed at integrating gifted children into society as well as avoiding the frustration and alienation these children may suffer.

With regard to new technologies, I feel it important to point out that these will play a key role in this conference, which has proposed the study of “**The World of Information, opportunities and challenges for the gifted and talented**” as a key issue.

During the working sessions, debates and lectures, experts will have the opportunity to share the results of their work, exchange scientific opinions and gain an insight into the changes that this crucial area of education has undergone in recent years.

The use of computer technology will enable the spread of what has come to be known as “education without frontiers”, overcoming localised prejudices in favour of a more global and caring approach to problems shared by all civilised societies.

The *XIV Barcelona Conference* will run at two levels, which differ and yet coincide as regards content, time and place. The first level, which was previously mentioned, deals with the debate amongst the experts, and the second will involve meetings between children and young people during the conference under the title “Together, building a new world”.

This will be an excellent opportunity for people of different ages, opinions and viewpoints to come together so that gifted children's abilities are not wasted as a result of inadequate or insufficient teaching.

I feel sure that the warm atmosphere of Barcelona, a city always open to productive debate, will serve as an ideal setting for the working sessions and will offer participants its traditional cordial welcome for the time devoted to rest and relaxation.

(Signature of the President)



L'Alcalde de Barcelona

June, 15, 2001

I am glad to welcome all attendees to the XIV World Conference for Gifted and Talented Children in Barcelona.

Our city is proud of receiving this Conference. Barcelona is a city committed to Education, an essential and basic right that not only allows the social integration but helps and promotes the diversity and the equality of opportunities. Barcelona works over this base to introduce constantly, incorporating as the ideas that appear from the own school and civic community through spaces like The City Educational Plan, as the contributions from other cities through the International Association of Educator Cities.

This Conference allows us to confirm again the essence of Barcelona, a place for the meeting and the argument. With this spirit Barcelona will hold The Universal Forum of the Culture in 2004, an event in which culture, education and life together will be key elements that will allow to share experiences and to analyze the challenges raised by the XXI century.

I hope you to find this space for the argument and the consensus in Barcelona, and you to enjoy yourself in this city that receive you with open arms.

Joan Clos
Major of Barcelona



United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
 Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'éducation, la science et la culture

**Message from the Assistant Director-General for Education of UNESCO to the
 14th World Conference of the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children 31
 July - 4 August 2001, Barcelona**

It is a great pleasure to address my warmest greetings to you.

The World Council for the Gifted and Talented Children and its member organizations have carried out important work over the past ten years in undertaking research and disseminating information. It is indeed encouraging to us to note that non-governmental organizations are playing an increasingly active role in forming alliances for education together with governments and other partners for it is through these alliances that education systems can become more responsive to the diversity of learner populations. UNESCO is proud of its association with you.

In the light of UNESCO's own action in the fields of inclusive education and communication, the pertinence to us of the theme "The world of information: opportunities and challenges for the gifted and talented" to be discussed at your Conference need hardly be stressed. Our mission is to contribute to a better and more equitable life for all, where human rights are respected and diversity celebrated. Information, its content and equitable dissemination is a challenge in our contemporary world. Education has a major role to play both in promoting the opportunities of information but also in pointing out and addressing the challenges.

The Salamanca Statement and Framework for Action, adopted at the World Conference on Special Needs Education in Salamanca, Spain 1994, states *"that schools should accommodate **all children** regardless of their physical, intellectual, social, emotional, linguistic or other conditions. This should include disabled and gifted children, street and working children, children from remote or nomadic populations, children from linguistic, ethnic or cultural minorities and children from other disadvantaged or marginalized areas or groups"*. It is evident that the challenge of developing more inclusive schools is enormous but not impossible. More efforts are needed to develop a rich and stimulating environment to meet the aspirations and dreams of all learners and to develop their untapped resources.

UNESCO takes an interest in your Conference and I will follow closely its outcome and proposals for creating a more sensitised, informed and welcoming society where diversity is accepted as a fact of life and where living together in harmony will be the goal of education in the twenty-first century.

I wish you well in your endeavours.

John Daniel

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT

Spanish Royal Family

Queen Sofia of Spain, Honorary President of 14th World Conference. The organizers of the 14th World Conference are grateful for the Queen's support of this most important event on gifted and talented children, celebrated every 2 years and being held for the first time in Spain.

Council of Europe

Walter Schwimmer, Secretary General of the Council of Europe. Mr. Walter Schwimmer is pleased to be a member of the Honorary Committee of the World Conference and grants his patronage. He sends his wishes for every success with the organization of the 14th World Conference.

HONORARY COMMITTEE

Jose María Aznar, President of the Government of Spain

Jordi Pujol, President of the Generalitat of Catalunya

Pilar del Castillo, Minister of Education, Culture and Sport of Spain

Ana Birulés, Minister of Science and Technology of Spain

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Headquarters

Dennis Stevens & Sheila Madsen
 18401 Hiawatha Street, Northridge CA, USA 91326
 Tel: 818-368-7501 Fax: 818-368-2163
 e-mail: worldgt@earthlink.net www.worldgifted.org

Website Administrator

Dennis Freitas
dcfreitas@aol.com

Gifted & Talented International

Joyce VanTassel-Baska, Editor
 College of William & Mary
 P.O. Box 8795
 Williamsburg, VA 23187-8795 USA
 Fax: 757-221-2184
 e-mail: jlvant@facstaff.wm.edu

WELCOME

On behalf of the Executive Committee of the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children, I want to welcome you to the 14th World conference. The theme of this world conference is "The World of Information: Opportunities and challenges for the Gifted and Talented". Together we will enjoy 4 days of professional sharing and the excitement of ideas brought to us from all over the world. You will have the opportunity to participate in a rich and full schedule of presentations, panels, workshops, and other events all focused on enriching your knowledge and experience of the world of gifted learners.

More than the planned program is available to you for you can become a part of a community of educators who have accepted the challenge of finding solutions to the problems of nurturing our brightest learners and supporting their intellectual and educational development. Here are the professors, researchers, teachers, parents, and other interested colleagues who, like you, want to minimize the waste of talent in our world, and optimize the unique abilities of the world's children and youth. Separately we bring a vast array of knowledge that will help us together discover a wider range of alternatives, strategies, theories, and practices to help us meet our individual goals.

Thank you for your presence here and for the part of your knowledge and experiences you will share with all of us. The success of this conference depends on your contributions, and your interactions. The experience we will all take with us will reflect your good will, your inquiring intellect, and your finest vision of what can be.

Welcome to the 14th World Conference of the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children.

Barbara Clark, President, World Council for Gifted and Talented Children.

It is not the first time that I have been involved in the preparation of a conference, however each time it is most exciting not knowing in advance exactly what the outcomes will be. In spite of all the long-term planning, the competent people working diligently and even in spite of an excellent host city, only half of a guarantee for a successful conference can be provided.

You, the participants; your expertise, your spirit, your good mood, and your communication must provide the other half. You can importantly contribute to a prosperous and productive international get-together that inspires all of us both academically as well as personally.

Welcome to Barcelona at the beginning of a new millennium. All of our mutual and shared “Responsible Createlligence” is needed to provide a peaceful and liveable future for all children in the world.

Warm regards,

Klaus K. Urban, President-Elect, World Council Conference Committee Chair.

Welcome to the 14th World Conference for Gifted and Talented Children.

As chair of the Local Committee for the 14th World Conference and as President of the Iberoamerican Federation of the WCGTC, it is a pleasure and honour for me to welcome you in the name of Organizer and Scientific Committee of this conference.

It seems to us like only yesterday when we presented our proposal for the local site of this 2001 World Conference. Four years have passed since we gave the first message: BARCELONA 2001 MOVES FORWARD. During these past 4 years, we have noted a great interest in this important event, evidenced by the high number of proposals submitted to the Call for Papers received from all continents. And in particular I want to emphasize the attendance of many and good Iberoamerican friends.

With this conference an important and productive relationship with notable institutions such as UNESCO and The European Council is being opened.

So, we are all present at one of the most important events for the education of gifted and talented children, held every two years, and for the first time in 24 years celebrated in Spain.

It is our hope that each of you feel at home and among friends while you are with us.

Welcome!

Juan A. Alonso, Chair, Local Organizing Committee, Member of the Executive Committee of the WCGTC

This publication includes the most relevant information of the XIV World Conference: "*The world of information: opportunities and challenges for the gifted and talented*" organized by the Huerta del Rey Center and the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children.

After a difficult selection of the papers presented in the Conference, 50 contributions by distinguished authors from nearly 30 countries offer a global vision on the topic in this publication, being an obligatory reading for all professionals, researchers in the psychology and education field.

This publication is organized in three big parts:

The **first part** presents **the definition and identification of gifted children**. This part contains 9 papers about topics such as Neuroimaging the gifted brain; Concept, Identification and Selection; Screening test for the early identification; Giftedness and TS; Metacognition and Expanding the conception of giftedness, among many others.

The **second part** is about **the emotional and social development of gifted and talented children**. This part contains 14 papers about topics such as Aptitudes; Cognition, emotion, and achievement; Social stands; Gifts emerge from prison; Gifted children with learning disabilities; Social myths; Moral reasoning; Family-professional relationships; Gifted women and Parent of gifted children, among other many topics.

The **third part** is about **the educational interventions for gifted children**, and it is divided into 5 different parts. The first one is titled Educational Policy, and it is about the international educational policy for gifted children, examining in detail, as an example, the Korean Presidential Decree. The second one is about Educative Programs and deals with topics such as Acceleration, Enrichment programs, Mentoring, Logical thinking, Mathematically gifted and some experiences in different countries: Brazil, Spain, USA, Australia, Switzerland, Kazakhstan, Mexico and Denmark. The third part is about Education and creativity development and presents topics such as Fostering creativity at different teaching levels, until at university level. The fourth part, with the heading of Teacher Training, presents Essential characteristics of the gifted teacher and Teacher teams, curriculum and assessment from pre-school levels to Secondary school level. And the fifth and last part deals with the Present and Future of the gifted and talent education with a range of papers from a humanistic position to a critical overview of international research, ending up with the topic Who will be the gifted of the future?

Juan A. Alonso & Yolanda Benito

*Valladolid, Spain
February, 2003*

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