



IFLA Section
**Environment,
Sustainability and Libraries**

ENSULIB Newsletter



**Volume 3, Number 2
December 2023**

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Message from the Chair



Harri Sahavirta, ENSULIB Chair

The turn of the year is almost upon us, and as the Chair of the section, I can proudly look back on the past year. ENSULIB's success story has continued, and we are even stronger. This year's conference was held in August in Rotterdam, where the section was very visible. ENSULIB and Public Libraries Section, in collaboration with Bibliotheek Midden-Brabant, LocHal (Tilburg), organised a Satellite Meeting Libraries as Actors or Climate Empowerment. ENSULIB also enjoyed collaborating with Library Buildings and Equipment Section, the Regional Division Committee Asia-Oceania and the Science and Technology Libraries Section on joint sessions.

ENSULIB's main event, however, was the IFLA Green Library Award session. **The best green library award** was won by the **Columbian Biblioteca EPM, Cucuta** with their great project Education for Sustainable Development. This year, the IFLA Green Library Award was also divided into two parts. In addition to new or renovated libraries and extensive projects, this also gives an opportunity to competitors who focus on sustainable library services and social sustainability. The **award for the best green project** was given to the Canadian West Vancouver Memorial Library for the project of **Climate Writer in Residence at the West Vancouver Memorial Library**. More information about the Award and this year's winners can be found on our [website](#). Also, ENSULIB has produced an introductory video about the competition, where, in addition to this year's winners, you can get to know the organizers and judges of the competition.

ENSULIB's program at the conference was quite intensive, and the peak moment was experienced at the closing ceremony, where the section was awarded with The Dynamic Unit and Impact Award (DUIA) for Overall Achievement. It was stated that ENSULIB is a dynamic community of library professionals and advocates who are committed to integrating sustainability into library practices and raising awareness of environmental issues through library programs and services. We, the members of the section, consider the DUIA to be a great recognition of our work, and I may say the same for the Scroll of Appreciation which I was awarded on the recommendation of colleagues.

The cancellation of the upcoming WLIC in Dubai lead to new considerations regarding next year's activities. ENSULIB will mainly continue its existing projects, and the cancellation of the conference will not affect this. The award will also take place next year, although the conditions still need to be clarified. You can find out more about the events at the WLIC in this newsletter. We are delighted to have received many exciting projects from libraries all over the world, which we are pleased to present in this newsletter too. We wish you an inspiring read!

About the Editorial Committee

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WLIC Rotterdam 2023: Summaries of the ENSULIB joint sessions

This year, ENSULIB organized three sessions with other IFLA sections at WLIC. In each session, several initiatives and topics from around the world were presented and discussed with the participants.

1. Sustainability in practice: library design matters

ENSULIB's Co-organizer: Library Buildings and Equipment Section (LBES)

The joint session aimed at sharing knowledge about innovative practices following the implementation of sustainability in library building projects. The examples were from different continents giving a rich overview on libraries' work on sustainability.

Qiang XU from Shanghai Library introduced the Shanghai East Public Libraries project on how the library has worked on human continuous development and the SDGs. The new library, one of the largest in the world provides the cultural, learning, and social focus for the people of Shanghai.

Jay Woodhouse from University College London focused on how UCL has set a clear vision of ambitious targets for delivering sustainability across its estate – the Student Centre embodies these principles, setting the benchmark for future projects. Designed as a flagship for sustainability, the project has achieved the best levels of environmental performance. Going well beyond regulatory and planning requirements, an environmental assessment was carried out upon the building's completion resulting in the highest possible BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method) 'Outstanding' rating at final certification.

Finally, **Blessing Mawire**, from Integra Professional Solutions in South-Africa introduced the Thabo Mbeki Presidential Library and Center (TMPC), which will combine African design and sustainable construction. The architecture brings together continental African thought and form as a powerful means of tapping into collective memory, embedded within the intelligence of the African consciousness, now seen a typology of learning and a typology of sustenance materialized into form. The TMPC is intended to be a living library and museum narrating the story of former President Thabo Mbeki and other African leaders' work and impact within the larger context of African liberation. Its aim is to educate, inculcate, inspire, and activate citizens from all walks of African life to be dynamic agents of its Renaissance.

2. Decoding Citizen Science : Putting Libraries in the Public Sphere

ENSULIB's Co-organizer: *Science and Technology Libraries Section (STL)*

During this joint session, the STL and ENSULIB sections curated four case studies on the library community's role in citizen science.



WLIC Highlight

Neighborhood Science aims to provide **fun and engaging** activities and programs and **explain the science** behind **locally relevant** issues.

The kits **lower the barriers to entry** and allow the community to learn about these issues **at their own pace**.

Vivienne Byrd
Los Angeles Public Library, United States

IFLA Section Science and Technology Libraries

IFLA WLIC 2023 ROTTERDAM

Vivienne Byrd from the Los Angeles Public Library in the United States, shared her experience in transforming the library system's branches into neighborhood science hubs, empowering people in the neighborhood to take part in fun and engaging activities while also explaining the science behind locally relevant issues. The

neighborhood science kits the library offers lower the barriers to entry and allow the community to learn about these issues at their own pace.

Mohamed Boufarss, the head of library operations at House of Wisdom in the United Arab Emirates, emphasised that citizen science would not be seen as important to the community without tailoring the activities for local needs, as learned from the unsuccessful attempt with citizen science in the UAE some years ago. He also pointed out that in order to decentralize citizen science, libraries should be promoted as primary partners among the local scientific communities from the beginning.

Tara Cox, an assistant director of programs at the National Girls Collaborative Project in the United States, and the director of the National Citizen and Community Science Network (managed by SciStarter), showed how the library community promoting citizen science benefits everyone — increasing science literacy and public engagement for the general public, accelerating research by recruiting, training, and sustaining citizen scientists, and finally for libraries to offer locally relevant STEM opportunities for the community.

Maryam Moghadami, from the University of Tehran in Iran, reminded the participants of the importance of applying digital tools for high quality citizen science projects from her discovery in the Iranian context. The eight

key areas are: data management, data collection, data quality, data quality assurance, data documentation, data discovery, data integration, data preservation, and data analysis.

From these four stories, the library community has proven to be ready to be the local partner of citizen science. Head to the library nearest you today and have a chat about citizen science with the librarians! Be sure to check out the SciTech Section's webinars [here](#) as well!

3. [Asian-Oceania Responses to Environmental Challenges to the Sustainability of Library Services](#)

ENSULIB Co-organizers: Regional Division Committee Asia Oceania (RD C AO) & Evidence for Global and Disaster Health Special Interest Group (E4GDH SIG)

This workshop session examined the practices and case studies of library services responding to environmental challenges and improving resilience and sustainability in this region vulnerable to natural disasters. The 5 presentations from panellists from the wider Asia-Oceania region was followed by a brief, moderated panel discussion, then the panellists and audience discussed individual cases/topics in moderated interactive workshop groups.

Erlinda Naputi, President of PIALA (Pacific Islands Association for Libraries, Archives, and Museums), Northern Mariana Islands, examined in her presentation various islands in Asia-Oceania, specifically the Northern Mariana Islands, by highlighting the different approaches taken by libraries in response to environmental challenges. Island communities often face unique challenges such as limited resources, vulnerability to extreme weather events, and rising sea levels. This can have a direct impact on the operation and maintenance of libraries. These include green library practices, partnerships with local community groups, and implementing innovative technologies to reduce energy consumption. Libraries have a role to play in promoting environmental sustainability within island communities, and in educating and inspiring individuals to take action.

Edison Ricket from Sarawak State Library in Malaysia presented this library's exemplary practices in utilizing its resources and infrastructure as a beacon of support and resilience during disasters and calamities by effectively transforming into a multifunctional center that offers essential services to the community in times of need. He emphasized that during times of crisis, libraries can play a crucial role in fostering resilience and sustainability, providing support, and acting as a hub for community recovery efforts.

Malivan Praditteera from Rangsit University in Thailand focused on the definition of a green library building, the importance of being environmentally friendly, and other qualifications in order to serve the library services. The panelist shared how a safe, healthy environment, resource and energy measures, and a high level of comfort for users are managed and integrated into sustainable user services in Thai libraries.

Labibah Zain from [UIN Sunan Kalijaga Library, Yogyakarta Indonesia](#) provided a description of the implementation of green libraries in Indonesia and showed how the IFLA principles on green and sustainable libraries are implemented in the Indonesian context.

Prakriti Goswami, from [Developing Library Network, India](#) and **Debal Kar**, from [Galgotias University, and Vice-chair of the IFLA Regional Division Committee for Asia-Oceania](#), [gave an overview of challenges to sustainable library services in India](#). In India the condition of public libraries run by states and local bodies is unsatisfactory. There is varying information awareness among 1.4 billion people. Academic libraries are struggling to serve the expanding education sector. The National Library, the biggest government library, has limited resources. Special libraries attached to government and research establishments need networked connectivity. A National Commission on Libraries (recommended in 2007) is vitally needed. NGO's (like Read India) should

receive CSR funds. India needs more reading rooms for youth, involvement of local communities in library development, and inclusion of library services in the SDG-monitored 'national indicator framework'.

The summaries of the sessions from Anna Au (STL Section), Harri Sahavirta (ENSULIB Chair) were compiled by Sarah Foezon.

Summary: ENSULIB Satellite Meeting in Tilburg, Netherlands

A look back on the IFLA Satellite Meeting “Libraries as Actors of Climate Empowerment”

On August 19, the Environment, Sustainability, and Libraries Section (ENSULIB) and the Public Libraries Section (PLS) held a satellite meeting in collaboration with Bibliotheek Midden-Brabant at LocHal in Tilburg, The Netherlands. The event took place before the 2023 IFLA World Library and Information Congress in Rotterdam. The central theme of the meeting was "Libraries as Actors of Climate Empowerment," emphasizing the role of libraries in climate action and community engagement.

An engaging programme in an inspiring setting

The one-day conference provided a platform for participants to actively engage, share ideas and develop plans. It included a varied programme of keynote presentations, lightning talks, workshops and a panel discussion. This took place in the impressive LocHal library. The library's commitment to fostering a sense of community, both offline and online, exemplifies the central role libraries play in connecting people and ideas in our modern world. And then, of course, there is the architectural design, which is nothing short of awe-inspiring and sets a remarkable example for libraries worldwide.

Strategies & Challenges: Implementing SDGs in Libraries

Ton van Vlimmeren, President of the European Library Organization (EBLIDA), set the tone of the day with his keynote on “Libraries Building Sustainable Communities.” He highlighted how libraries can align with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to create sustainable, inclusive, and democratic societies.

This was followed by lightning talks that provided examples of developed strategies for implementing the SDGs, as well as insight into the challenges of doing so.

Minna Männikkö from Finland presented the Sustainable Library 2030 Roadmap

implemented by Oulu City Library. The roadmap focuses on environmental awareness and responsible construction, making sustainability an integral part of library operations. **Sarah Tribelhorn** from the USA shared how the San Diego State University Library has mapped its work to the SDGs, resulting in community engagement, partnerships, and climate awareness. **Nathalice Bezerra Cardoso** from Brazil, living in Germany, discussed the role of German libraries in addressing the SDGs, shedding light on services and actions developed to achieve them.

The three workshops aimed at practical engagement: The workshop "Inner Development Goals", led by **Beth Filar Williams**, explored a framework for personal growth and its connection to the SDGs. "SDGs Bookclub", run by **Liselotte Dessauvague**, focused on using books to discuss and explore the SDGs with children and adults. "MACK Framework", led by **Daniel Hackborn**, introduced a conceptual model for local libraries to analyze their potential for climate action.

Inspire & Empower: Examples Across the Globe

In the keynote by **Jantien Borsboom** and **Pieter Thijssen** from Bibliotheek Midden-Brabant, they shared how the SDGs became a guiding principle for the library, with an emphasis on community engagement.

In the two lightning talks that followed, **Priscilla Pun** from Macau, China gave examples of libraries promoting sustainable development and environmentally friendly practices, and **Tim Schumann** from Germany discussed the Berlin-Pankow Public Library's journey to become a Green Library. **Helena Öberg Carlsson** from Sweden led a workshop on using storytelling to inspire change and imagination in public libraries.

The last item on the agenda was a panel discussion with library leaders from around the world. They discussed the role of libraries in climate action and provided insightful perspectives under the theme "Climate Action - Count Libraries In!". **Harri Sahavirta** spoke about library sustainability efforts in Finland, **Arnold Mwanzu** gave insights into the work of libraries in Kenya, **Jane Cowell** shared examples from Australia and **Pieter Thijssen** offered the perspective of Dutch libraries.

The event concluded with a self-guided tour of LocHal, allowing attendees to explore the innovative library space and network over a social gathering.

The IFLA Satellite Meeting on "Libraries as Actors of Climate Empowerment" successfully brought together library professionals, advocates, and experts to explore the crucial role libraries play in addressing climate change and engaging communities. The diverse range of

presentations, workshops, and discussions showcased innovative approaches, best practices, and opportunities for libraries to contribute to a sustainable future. The event served as an inspiring platform for knowledge sharing, collaboration and collective action, reaffirming the vital role of libraries in building sustainable, inclusive and environmentally conscious communities.

Summary by Katharina Portugal, Austrian Library Association (BVÖ)

8th IFLA Green Library Award Winners Share their Stories

This award included two categories - The best green library award and best green library project. Below are stories from this year's winners or links to the winners.

The Best Green Library Award Winner: *Columbian Biblioteca EPM, Cucuta*

In Medellín-Colombia, is the best Green Library in the world: EPM Library. We are delighted because on August 22nd, at the

IFLA Green Library Award ceremony our EPM Library was granted the prize for the best large-scale Green Library since educating for sustainable development is our mantra. We are a sustainable universe, with free entry for all audiences, where children acquire valuable knowledge through adventures, young dreamers develop transformative ideas and adults discover new realities. We are also a traveling library, as we have built alliances that have allowed us to reach other territories, exceeding our spatial limits, and impacting many children and young people from several public and private educational institutions in the city and rurally. We achieve our purpose through various strategies.

In education we have activities from the first year of life, seeking to generate awareness in children about caring for the environment and its surroundings; where they promote sustainable initiatives in each of the places they live, managing to mobilize communities around their local environment and their contribution to making this a healthier and more habitable space. In addition, we provide inclusive and quality education, advancing the reduction of inequalities and providing free access to information for all types of audiences, through digital resources and more than 45,000 printed materials; corresponding to the specialty areas of our library with a focus on the environment and sustainable development. City residents can register as a member and borrow for free.

We offer information literacy processes to develop new skills that improve people's lives and work performance, helping them to reach their potential. This initiative is sustainable because it transforms and adapts on its own to any need. Likewise, we pursue strategies to encourage reading and writing, working collectively to encourage critical thinking with a view to reducing inequalities, while promoting the enjoyment of rights without discrimination.

Finally, we offer diverse cultural activities, promoting free access spaces where the public can actively participate; generating synergies with other institutions so that material and intangible heritage has greater relevance in the city and its societies. In this chapter we want to make known how our various strategies focus on contributing to each of the SDGs, recognizing the public library's role relevance as an active agent in the global agenda.

The EPM Library: Opened on June 2nd, 2005, it is a public, specialized and business library, focused on 4 areas of knowledge: science, industry, technology and environment, declared a sustainable tourist destination and recently awarded by IFLA as the world's best green library.

Submitted by: Andrés Felipe Corrales Jaramillo, Coordinador Biblioteca EPM

The Best Green Library Award 2nd Place: "Illyés Gyula" Library of Tolna County, Hungary: Library at the Gates of Cultures & Gemenc

A short story of a library greening: the environmental crisis, climate change, the loss of biodiversity affects us all at global and local levels. As opinion-shaping institutions, libraries also have a responsibility to help their communities facing the inevitable challenges. Libraries can help to develop an eco-conscious mindset.



Our story as a green library began during the COVID lockdowns. Realizing that the „new normal” is ultimately the very consequence of habitat loss, and the ecological crisis is basically a crisis of our current civilization, a small group of committed librarians saw that the only strategy that a library can follow is a green one. The other catalyst for the green library

plans of the Illyés Gyula Library, was the promise of a new library building, designed in accordance with the principles of sustainability. The town's wider, unique natural environment and the obligation to nurture our cultural heritage have also reinforced this interest.

The Eco-working group, founded in 2020, took a complex approach to library greening, building on the work of the previous decade. We identified three major fields on which we could start before moving to the new building: ecological document collection, green services and programs for sustainability, raising awareness and promoting eco-conscious lifestyles. At that time we already had programs and practices that were in line with the SDGs, such as the Baby Raisin Club, the Bird Friendly Circle, along with the other mind shifting activities based on recycling („Let's DIY from waste!") in the Children's library. Since the introduction of the new strategy, environmental education has been given even greater prominence in the Children's Library. Book presentations, storytelling and interactive lectures help to deepen the love of nature and raise environmental awareness.

Social justice, equal rights and access are core values of a public library: a good example is the Home in the library program that aims to integrate disadvantaged children. The utilization of second-hand books and the organization of penny book

fairs are traditional solutions of sustainable management that many libraries pursue.

One of the first steps of the green team was the establishment of the virtual eco collection, which links the ecology and sustainability-related documents together under the subject heading „greenlibrary" in the electronic catalogue. In our current buildings eco-shelves present the most recent titles of that special collection. Although sustainability themed lectures were held previously, the Eco-evenings in the library launched in 2020 have made these presentations a regular feature on a great variety of topics. We developed services with the help of local and NGO partners that highlight the importance of individual consumer choices, showcasing elements of eco-conscious lifestyle, recirculative material usage, and sustainable eco-farming. In 2021 with the help of donations we established a seed library to support and promote eco-gardening. By preserving, sharing and providing access to the local varieties the practice of seed lending fits the mission of our library, supports healthy slow-living practices and helps to maintain biodiversity.

Forest walks, organized hikes are also a tradition in the library. Thanks to the natural environment of the city the various ecological walks play an important role in our activities. We consider it our mission to disseminate environmentally conscious sensitizing knowledge, and to provide our readers with up-to-date reliable information

on the climate crisis. Our awareness-raising activities (eco camps, gamification, garbage collecting actions) aim to set positive examples for the recently established youth club, helping members to become responsible adults living in harmony with nature.

Inspired by other Hungarian green libraries we constantly expand our knowledge. Our green study trip experiences have led us to the idea of a Hungarian green library cooperation, to strengthen the role of the libraries in the environmental movement with a positive example of community-based action. As a county library that raises awareness of the principles of sustainable development, a county-wide green collaboration seemed a logical step. We believe that sustainable development goals can only be addressed in partnership through networking. Hence we initiated the creation of the Hungarian green library cooperation to strengthen the role of the libraries in the environmental movement.

We are honored that our efforts have been recognized by the IFLA Environment Sustainability and Libraries Section with a second place in the IFLA Green Library Award in 2023. The recognition confirmed that we were on the right track. Our hope that we can reduce the negative impact of the institution's operations on the environment in the new green sustainable building. The building of the Szekszárd Knowledge Center is based on ecological

principles (insulated glass walls, air exchange tempering, automated operation system, solar energy production), therefore providing the ground for sustainable operation, while paving the way to a library of the future.

*Submitted by: By Norbert Kovács, Illyés Gyula”
Library of Tolna County, Szekszárd, Hungary*

The Best Green Library Award

3rd place: *Vietnamese-German University Library, Thoi Hoa ward, Socialist Rep. of Vietnam: Vietnamese-German University Inclusive Library for Sustainable Development - [See website for more information!](#)*

The Best Green Library Project

Winner: *West Vancouver Memorial Library, BC, Canada: Climate Writer in Residence at the West Vancouver Memorial Library: A Novel Solution - [See website for more information!](#)*

The Best Green Library Project

2nd place: *Biblioteca Civica Villa Valle, Valdagno, Italy: The Seed Library*

My name is Marta Penzo and I am the director of City Library “Villa Valle” in Valdagno, in the province of Vicenza, Italy. I work with four librarians and together with a group of citizens we have founded the Library of Seeds. Valdagno is a lovely city of

about 26,000 inhabitants, lying at the foot of the Piccole Dolomiti (Dolomite Mountains), one and a half hours from Venice.

Our library opened in 1957. It is located in a beautiful villa built in the seventeenth century and contains about 60,000 documents, including books, magazines, dvds, audiobooks, cds, table games. Moreover, we provide 15 living books, who make up our Human Library catalogue. Our library is part of the Vicentine library network comprised of 106 libraries, which has a common catalogue of one million six hundred thousand documents, together with a shared digital library of 4 million items. Villa Valle Library organizes a great variety of daily initiatives: workshops with schools, courses, labs, reading groups, crochet and knitting groups, gaming, digital assistance, contests and meetings.

Founded in 2018, the Valdagno Library of Seeds project promotes a culture of the land, active citizenship, sustainability, knowledge and care of the environment. The seeds are stored in a filing cabinet placed in the main hall of the library, inside small envelopes for each variety, with sowing and harvest information on them. Users can borrow the seeds which are returned after the plants have produced their own. In order to expand our “catalogue” – presently 135 species with about 150 borrowing transactions a year – we also accept donations of seeds.

Along with involving many users of all ages in a fruitful exchange of seeds, our library supports the sharing of knowledge, thanks to a special section of books on the topic, both for adults and children, as well as a great number of related events. There are meetings, laboratories, local field trips, and courses on sustainable practice, horticulture, pruning, beekeeping and wild herbs. Thanks to the Library of Seeds Valdagno has become a “bee-friendly city”, with an educational apiary in our public park, as well as sixteen flowered lawns, appreciated by pollinating insects. Many of these lawns are near schools which have been involved in the project from the start.

I want to thank all the libraries, the jury, all the people involved in the Green Library Award, which makes us feel part of a big family that works together for the growth and quality of life of the communities. We are very proud to be part of it and we want to express our joy for this important international recognition that IFLA has dedicated to our library by including it in the short list of the [Best Green Library Projects 2023](#) together with the West Vancouver Memorial Library and the Seoul Metropolitan Library, to which we express our compliments on their projects.

Libraries as a place of culture, without generational boundaries, promote everyday opportunities for socialization, information and growth for the entire community. We strongly believe that making culture today

means knowing how to read the present, the interests and sensitivities of people and responding to these with concrete and quality proposals. Our Library of Seeds is also part of this commitment, which was born, and still lives today, thanks to the participation of the people who have cultivated and made this project grow with their passion, their competence and their attention to the environment.

We believe in the strength of libraries to promote Agenda 2030 of which our Library of Seeds project complies with six goals:

- 2 Zero hunger
- 3 Good health and well-being for people
- 4 Equal and quality education
- 11 Sustainable cities and communities
- 12 Responsible consumption and production
- 15 Life on earth

We thank IFLA, the jury and all the people who worked on this project which addresses the central and urgent issue of attention to the environment—an issue on which each of us is called to contribute with commitment and responsibility. Libraries are aware of this and put it into practice every day. We want to greet you with a quote from a song by a great Italian singer, Ivano Fossati. We chose it at the beginning of our library-of-seed adventure and it has accompanied us since:

“People say there is a time for sowing
and a longer time for waiting
I say there was a dreamt dream
we all needed to dream”

*Submitted by: Marta Penzo, Director of City Library
“Villa Valle” in Valdagno, Italy*

The Best Green Library Project

3rd place: *Seoul Metropolitan Library, Seoul, Rep. Korea: Eco Project in Seoul Metropolitan Library for SDGs - [See website for more information!](#)*

Other Conference Summaries

Localising the Sustainable Development Goals through Museums and Libraries II

On 27 September 2023, the conference “Localising the Sustainable Development Goals through Museums and Libraries II” was held online, organised by the Latvian Museum Association, the Library Association of Latvia and the Latvian National Commission for UNESCO, with the support of the UNESCO Participation Programme & British Council Office in Latvia.

The conference highlighted museums and libraries as community centres where cooperation, accessibility and various

activities are implemented by using cultural heritage and viewed through the prism of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) not only locally, but on a wider scale. The participants from Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania, Moldova and Georgia exchanged information about current trends and successful projects, where museums and libraries are working with a wide range of sustainable development topics, including environmental degradation, climate change, reduction of social inequality and the resilience of communities.



*The organisers and partners of the conference.
Photo by Valters Lācis*

The conference was organised in three thematic blocks: environmental sustainability, social sustainability and resilience. The event was a reference point and summary of extensive and comprehensive work carried out over several years, emphasizing memory institutions as part of a larger ecosystem, promoting the exchange of experience and

providing museum and library staff with various educational tools, to foster the understanding of the SDGs among cultural sector professionals. The promotion of transnational, cross-sectoral cooperation is also an important part of this initiative.



*The process of the conference.
Photo by Valters Lācis*

The “Green Libraries” project of the Georgian Library Association, the animal rehabilitation centre and educational programmes of Klaipeda Sea Museum, as well as the “Sustainable Museum” certificate created by the Estonian Museum Association, demonstrated how a library can initiate the greening of a degraded city environment, involving communities; whereas a museum can warn about the pollution of the Baltic Sea and the possible consequences, and become a model of sustainable practice. The Audio-Sensory Library of Lithuania and the project of Cēsis regional museum “A Prescription to the Museum” were proof of the readiness of

libraries and museums to engage in reducing the risks of health, inequality and loneliness. On the other hand, the support provided by the Librarians’ Association of Moldova to refugees from Ukraine and annual media literacy training for librarians, provided by the National Library of Latvia, highlighted the unique potential of the libraries to strengthen the resilience of communities in politically difficult circumstances. The campaign of the Estonian Librarians’ Association for the support of SDGs is an excellent example of how the Global Goals can be explained to a wider public.



Henry McGhie runs the workshop. Photo by Valters Lācis

After the conference, a master class by Henry McGhie, an expert of SDGs in the field of culture, was held at the British Embassy in Latvia, during which the partners continued working on the handbook “Localisation of Sustainable Development Goals in Museums and Libraries”.

Afterwards, the partners attended a reception held by Paul Brummel, the British Ambassador in Latvia.

Baiba Moļņika, Secretary General of the Latvian National Commission for UNESCO, emphasizes that “People everywhere in the world are currently facing global challenges, and, when facing them, there is no better solution than wide partnerships. The conference reaffirmed that memory institutions are able to identify environmental, social, as well as economic problems and to offer innovative solutions to them.” Significant support in the creation and execution of the conference was also provided by the team of the British Council Office in Latvia. Kristīne Ļeontjeva, Community Development Consultant for this organisation, also one of the conference participants, states: “Museum and library staff have an opportunity to play an essential role in the implementation of sustainable social changes in local communities - to be the ambassadors of change and opinion leaders, who introduce new ideas, educate and activate the population. Museums and libraries can be community centres, where the residents meet, create a dialogue and gain inspiration to participate in the life of the local community, to identify the challenges and opportunities in their community, as well as to implement initiatives that improve their living environment and strengthen their sense of belonging to it.”

On 26 and 28 September, the conference guests had an opportunity to get acquainted in person with the latest initiatives in the work of the Latvian museums and libraries, by meeting their colleagues at the Latvian National Museum of Art, the National Library of Latvia, Žanis Lipke Memorial, Valmiera Integrated Library, Valmiera Museum, Eduards Veidenbaums' Museum "Kalāči" and Valmiera Regional Council.

So far, the conference has been viewed online by a total of more than 1000 people, and the recording of its proceedings is available to everyone on the Youtube channel of the Latvian Museum Association.

Conference materials:

[Messages from the conference](#)
[Video recording of the conference](#)
[Conference program](#)
[Conference speakers and topics](#)
[Photo gallery of the conference](#)

The Conference theme was "Museums, Libraries and Sustainable Development Goals: Adapting of Common Approaches to Local Scale", implemented with the financial support of the UNESCO Participation Programme. The stories of experience included in the conference programme are a result of collaboration on projects relating to the UNESCO Participation Programme "Museums, libraries and the Sustainable Development Goals: tailoring common approaches to local settings", jointly implemented by the Latvian National

Commission for UNESCO, the Latvian Museum Association and the Library Association of Latvia. In this project framework, museum and library specialists of Lithuania, Estonia, Georgia and Moldova had an opportunity for exchange visits, to discover examples of good practice, particularly focusing on ways of facilitating reaching of Sustainable Development Goals by using approaches adapted for specific regions, countries and cities. To provide workable tools and frameworks which could help museums and libraries to plan and assess their work in the area of Sustainable Development Goals, a handbook is being prepared by Henry McGhie using the UNESCO Participation Programme project framework, dedicated to the localisation of Sustainable Development Goals, community needs and the local situation.

The conference was a continuation of the first Baltic conference dealing with the Sustainable Development Goals for Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian museum and library staff "Localising the Sustainable Development Goals through Baltic museums and libraries" which was held online on 23–24 September 2021. Find more information about this conference in the [first IFLA ENSULIB Newsletter](#) (Dec 2021 p. 38–39).

This conference widened museum and library partnerships outside Baltic state borders to Georgia and Moldova, strengthened the importance of museum and library specialists as players in the

achievement the Sustainable Development Goals using culture as a main focus, as well as giving confidence that new partners are needed from other countries and cultural sectors – to unite GLAM (Galleries, Libraries, Archives and Museums) sector efforts to achieve Sustainable Development Goals through culture.

Submitted by: Māra Jēkabsons, Member of the Library Association of Latvia, Director of the Jūrmala Central Library. Zane Grīnvalde, Head of the Latvian Museum Association, Head of the Educational Department of the Madona Local History and Art Museum. Inga Surgunte, Member of the Latvian Museum Association, Culture Programme Director at the Latvian National Commission for UNESCO

Green, Sustainable Libraries & Projects

South Africa

Sustainability as a social practice: Green Libraries Project

There is a commonly known expression that goes "When an elder person passes a way, a library burns to the ground". In many African cultures, elder people play a vital role in the community: they are the custodians of tradition, the rock of the family unit and the bearers of wisdom. The library is of similar importance. It is a public space

where knowledge is housed and created, and a place where people go to learn. A core principle of a library is that it is accessible and relevant to the context in which it exists, otherwise it may not attract the people for whom it is intended. Libraries do not have to be framed as the place of deafening silence and stringent rules. They can be a meeting ground for curious minds, a space of innovation and reflection, a place of learning and growing. What form can the library take? What role can it play in its respective neighbourhood and community? What does sustainability look like in such a place and why is that even important?

A project conceived and implemented between Goethe-Institut and the French Institute of South Africa with the support of the Franco-German fund sought to explore the very question: how can libraries practice sustainability? The project started with an open call to local libraries across South Africa to apply to participate in the project and to receive funding to implement ideas that address sustainability. A total of six projects were chosen from different parts of the country, all different from one another, yet they all shared one crucial element: community orientation.

Kula Travel Library is one of the six and based in rural Eastern Cape, South Africa. The founder is Yolisa Mdiya working with Lona Ngxema to implement a rotating book club that uses containers to store the books and move them among different groups of

school learners. The idea is to promote reading for pleasure and by so doing, increase the rate at which learners read to understand.

The second project Creche Food Market, run by Bakoena Manoto and Maureen Lekoa, is based in Orange Farm and the Vaal in Gauteng with the aim of teaching children in creche in the townships (historically disenfranchised) about how to grow their own food in limited spaces.

The third project Writing Our Own Future is based in Walmer High School in Gqeberha, Eastern Cape, where the learners are invited to participate in writing workshops on climate change and the works will be published. The project is run by Zolisa Mcaciso and Laura Klapper from Masifunde organisation.

The fourth is Love Our City Klean Library, based in Johannesburg, Gauteng, which is an organisation that specialises in responsible waste management. The founders Keitumetsi and Zwelihle Magwaza received so many discarded books that they decided to open a community library.

The fifth project chosen is the Multi-Sensory Garden for Literacy and Storytelling, an outdoor reading garden intended for children in creche that appeals to all five senses (taste, smell, touch, hearing, and sight). The founders Martina Jordaan and Christine Nel work with Early Childhood Development practitioners in the Pretoria area, in

Gauteng, to engage with children and teach them about how to plant healthy food.

The final project called One School One Library, run by Black and Bookish founded by Thato Rossouw, Nomsa Sekonyela and Ratanag Seleke, which renovated already existing libraries in two primary schools in Klerksdorp, North-West province, to make the libraries attractive spaces for learning.

The project opened in June with the Green Libraries Lab where the different projects were invited to Johannesburg for a three-day intensive workshop addressing the multi-faceted topic of sustainability and the ways in which it is shaped in the various contexts. Following the Lab, the project leads were given funding to bring their ideas to life or continue the work they had long started doing. The Green Libraries is about to come to an end in late November and it has been a success. The hope is that what is accomplished this year will make way for the next iteration the following year.

Sustainability is not just a convenient buzzword, it is a way of thinking, living, and connecting that is holistic and all inclusive. It is a reminder that nature and society are interconnected and inextricable from one another. It is a call for communities to build, grow and care.

Submitted by: Sibongile Oageng Msimango, Project Co-ordinator and Community Manager Library-Gamebox-Hub Goethe- Institut South Africa

Central Eastern Europe

“The green side of libraries”: A regional project by Goethe-Institutes in Central Eastern Europe

In 2023, the libraries of the Goethe-Institutes in Central Eastern Europe placed a special focus on sustainability issues. The objectives were to promote professional exchange, to build up a network of experts in the field of sustainability in libraries and to inform interested librarians and the public about outstanding projects realized in the different countries of this region. The topics covered in this series of lectures and activities were very diverse.

In September, three events took place: At the Goethe-Institut in Prague, Ms. Katalin Szépvölgyi, Director of the Ezüsthelyi Library in Budapest, spoke about her library’s concept as a Green Library and various activities in a presentation “Library in the garden, garden in the library”. At the Goethe-Institut in Riga, Ms. Anna Sawa, librarian from Lublin, Poland, presented the activities and projects of the “Bioteka”, which is a branch of the Hieronim Łopaciński Municipal Public Library. The “Bioteka” addresses environmental issues with a positive approach and draws the attention of users to the protection of nature. Additionally, Ms. Vita Ozola, Head Librarian of the Pārventa Library in Latvia, presented methodological material that can be used by any library that wants to offer a workshop to

young people on the topic of waste in combination with the Makey Makey constructor. At the Goethe-Institut in Bratislava, Ms. Olga Grundāne, expert in a Zemgale region human resource and competences development centre in Jelgava, Latvia, spoke about recycling and educational programs as well as activities in the field of the production of environmentally friendly cosmetics. After the talk and discussion, the interested public could participate in a workshop to create plastic-free packaging from beeswax to keep food natural, fresh and for longer.



Image Copyright Goethe-Institut

The first event in October took place at the Goethe-Institut in Budapest: Ms. Michaela Výbohov, librarian from the Ľudovt Štr regional library in Zvolen, Slovakia, presented the seed bank of this library at a conference where experts from Hungary were also giving a talk. At the Goethe-Institut in Warsaw, Ms. Barbora Baronov, literary

documentarian, writer, journalist and editor from Prague, Czech Republic, gave a lecture on topics of “slow publishing” and “bibliodiversity” which many students and representatives from the publishing sector attended.

In addition to the events, the experts who had travelled to the country for their presentations had the opportunity to visit local library partners active in the field of sustainability. This contributed to the professional exchange of knowledge.

In addition to these lectures, the libraries of the Goethe-Institutes offered other activities in the field of sustainability. In June the library of the Goethe-Institut in Krakow organized four upcycling workshops led by Ms. Sabine Schmidt from „moutare. Filz- und Textilwerkstatt“ in Berlin. The aim of the workshops was to show the participants ideas for creative work with old textiles and ways of upcycling worn T-shirts and jeans, thereby encouraging a sustainable approach to clothing.

Library of things at Goethe-Institutes in Central Eastern Europe

This regional project also gave the opportunity to further expand the libraries’ collections of their “Library of Things” with objects which users can borrow. The first “Library of Things” that opened was the one in Bratislava in 2014, followed by Prague 2017, 2021 in Riga and 2022 in Budapest.

The last opening was in Warsaw in October this year – a special event combined with a Repair Café which the Goethe-Institut offered in collaboration with the organization Polish Zero Waste Association. The number of items that can be borrowed in these five “Library of Things” is between 30 and 50. The collections are to be expanded in the coming years.

Submitted by: Eva Hackenberg, Head of Information and Library at the Goethe-Institut in Warsaw

Croatia

"Go Green": Promoting Sustainable Development through the Innovative Program of the Bjelovar Public Library

The Public Library "Petar Preradović" is the oldest cultural institution in the city of Bjelovar, founded in 1832. Building upon its rich history, the Library continues to evolve by introducing new services and programs for the local community while staying attuned to current trends and developments in the field. In this context, the Library has designed a comprehensive package of services aimed at promoting the United Nations SDGs. The program, aptly named "Go Green," is actively endorsed within the community and encompasses a range of workshops, exhibitions, and lectures designed to cultivate green literacy among the citizens of Bjelovar. The program encompasses a diverse set of activities:

1. Documentary Film Screenings: Three thought-provoking documentary films were screened, each addressing the significance of environmental protection and sustainable development. The films screened were "In Transition 2.0", "The Disobedience" and "Stay Safe and Speak Out."

2. Zero Waste Workshops for Adults: In collaboration with the Zero Waste Croatia initiative, the Library hosted two workshops, focusing on crafting soap and natural cosmetics, as well as producing plant-based milks and spreads.

3. Children's Workshops: A variety of engaging workshops were organized for children, including themes such as "Bats - Night Rulers of the Sky," "Voice for Earth's Salvation," "How Do Plants Grow?," "Her Majesty, the Mountain," and "Struggle for Survival: Native Strictly Protected or Invasive Foreign Species," among others.

4. Lectures and Workshops for Adults: The Library curated a series of five informative lectures:

- Let's Preserve Biodiversity
- Climate & Weather Extremes: Then, Now, and Soon
- Ecological Gardening Workshop
- Biological Food Cultivation
- Women's Health After 40



Image: Workshop for children



Image: Ecological Gardening Workshop

5. Virtual Exhibitions: The Library introduced two virtual exhibitions:

"From Book to Plate" - Showcasing the library's collection of books related to agriculture, horticulture, gardening, and dairy farming, available for borrowing at the library.

"Virtual Green Shelf" - A comprehensive collection of books from the library's holdings, encompassing subjects related to green practices, sustainable development, permaculture, renewable energy sources, preservation of natural biodiversity, and organic food.

The exhibitions [can be accessed here](#).

6. Seed Library: The focal point of the "Go Green" program is the Seed Library, inaugurated in 2022 as the first of its kind in Croatia. This initiative seeks to provide free access to natural seeds for planting, serving the entire community of Bjelovar and its environs, irrespective of their membership status with the Library.



Image: Seed Library is very popular among library users

In alignment with the SDGs, the Bjelovar Public Library is increasingly recognizing its pivotal role in addressing environmental and social issues through its services. Moreover, the library is located at the heart of the city and community, making it accessible to all citizens. Beyond promoting information literacy, the Library actively fosters green literacy through a range of programs and events, providing its users with insights into sustainable practices and behaviors. As an institution deeply intertwined with local communities, the Library assumes a significant role in raising awareness about sustainable development and encouraging active citizen participation in reducing our carbon footprint.

Submitted by: Neda Adamović & Tihana Lončarić, Public Library "Petar Preradović" Bjelovar, Croatia

India

The Role of Academic Libraries in Advancing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Academic libraries like school, college and university libraries can play a very important role in achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) through various ways. The primary objective of a library is information dissemination and libraries act as information hubs which can help the users in accessing a wide range of resources such as books, journals, and databases.

Libraries can disseminate information about the SDGs to increase awareness about the importance of sustainable environment. Libraries of Higher Ed Institutions (HEIs) support research activities in the organisation for the faculty, research scholars, and students. Libraries can facilitate research activities on sustainable environment issues by helping the faculty, research scholars, and students to access the relevant information and promoting the sustainable development goals. Academic libraries can organize seminars, workshops and interactive sessions for capacity building among students, research scholars, and faculty members on issues of environment and sustainable development. Libraries can organize awareness programmes and events in the library to educate students and faculty members. Libraries can display posters, and design multimedia presentations to highlight the significance of each goal and how the community can contribute towards them. Libraries can organize sustainability challenges for students and faculty members where the students and faculty members may come up with innovative ideas for sustainability issues in their institution. Their innovative initiatives can help in achieving various SDGs such as SDG 7 (Clean Energy) or SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption).

Librarians can give suggestions to the faculty members of the core curriculum

committee to integrate topics related to SDGs in the curriculum. This will help to ensure that students are aware about the concept of sustainable development and its practices across all the disciplines. Libraries can support and encourage the use and creation of Open Educational Resources to make educational materials more accessible to everyone. This aligns with the SDG 4 which is Quality Education to eliminate educational disparities.

Libraries can play a very significant role in ensuring access to digital resources in order to achieve SDGs to promote equity and access to information for all. Libraries are able to provide infrastructure to access digital resources to bridge the digital divide. Libraries can work as community hubs for SDG related discussions, film screenings on sustainable development issues. SDG 15 (Life on Land) and SDG 13 preserving the indigenous knowledge, are SDGs that Libraries can work toward through preserving and disseminating this knowledge.

Libraries around the world are setting examples by adopting energy efficient buildings, green libraries etc. Libraries can work as a focal point to contribute to SDG monitoring by collecting, storing and disseminating relevant data and preparing reports according to the requirements of various target groups. Academic libraries

with the support of their resources, expertise and as a service provider for their communities can contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.



Miranda House Library (*pictured above*) is an academic library the esteemed institution Miranda House, India's no. 1 college (NIRF Ranking 2023) for a consecutive seven years. Many projects have been completed and many are currently being worked on for sustainable development in the college. Miranda House Library is delivering initiatives towards the SDGs with a commitment to sustainable environment and social responsibility. The Library is promoting digital resources and trying to reduce paper usage by providing the digital infrastructure, while also working towards the SDG 4 to meet the goal of Quality Education. Miranda House is committed to standing as a benchmark of how academic institutions can play an important role in achieving SDGs

while enriching and providing quality education to its students and community.

Submitted by: Ms. Pramod Sharma, Librarian, Miranda House, University of Delhi

Spain

Spain: Step by step: small tasks to contribute to the SGDs in the CIEDA Library

The Centro Internacional de Estudios de Derecho Ambiental (CIEDA-CIEMAT) is a research centre for Environmental Law, part of the Research Centre in Energy, Environment, and Technology (CIEMAT). It is situated in Soria (Castille and Leon, Spain), known for its' beautiful natural landscapes, but also one of the most sparsely populated regions, making this centre vital for rural areas communities.

The CIEDA library contributes to sustainability in several ways. To reduce paper waste, we encourage our users to opt for digital versions of documents rather than printed copies. Additionally, we actively seek second-hand books through donations or exchanges and donate books to local libraries, giving older books a new lease on life.

Our library is pursuing a hybrid approach, currently focusing on implementing a Discovery Service aimed at facilitating access to various environmental law

resources for a broader audience, with an emphasis on the digital dimension. We offer case law, articles, and legal materials, delivering high-quality information to our users.

We engage with the community by participating in collaborative networks. We belong to the CIEMAT library system, mostly used for interlibrary loans. We are also part of the RECIDA network, a Spanish network comprising over 150 environmental information units. This network enables us to connect with other professionals, participate in events, create resources, etc., mainly focused on environmental issues, sustainability, and the promotion of Sustainable Development Goals, with an interdisciplinary focus.

In line with these efforts, we manage and publish an online, open-access journal, [Actualidad Jurídica Ambiental](#). This journal is free of charge for both authors and readers and compiles current legislation and case law from various official bodies in different countries, primarily Spain but also Portugal, Chile, Argentina, and others. Our researchers provide summaries and brief comments on these current developments, and the journal also includes articles and comments from external authors. The library staff is responsible for the "Agenda" and "Bibliographic References" sections, which

inform readers about events, courses, seminars, and categorize the latest publications in terms of monographs, theses, and journal articles by topic.

This commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals influences every aspect of our mission and is a core value of the library. In addition to the journal, we organize educational activities in close collaboration with our centre's researchers and with other research units, universities, and libraries. These events cover various aspects of environmental law, including crimes against biodiversity, energy, urbanism, and water management.

The library is a vital pillar of CIEDA, supporting both our internal researchers and external users. While there is room for growth, we remain committed to our digital projection with a strong focus on sustainability.

Submitted by David Mercadal Cuesta, Centro Internacional de Estudios de Derecho Ambiental (CIEDA-CIEMAT)

Turkey

Promoting Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through Library Subject Guides

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have become a focal point of global efforts to address pressing issues such as poverty, inequality, and environmental sustainability. Koç University Suna Kıraç Library Sustainability Committee is actively continuing its work to raise awareness and promote the 17 SDGs set by the United Nations. Following our successful Textbook Swap¹ campaign, we are taking SDG awareness to the next level by creating a [dedicated Subject Guide](#).

This comprehensive guide delves into each of the 17 SDGs, providing in-depth information and insights. Many libraries have guides introducing their collections and services related to sustainable issues. With this guide, we aim to not only offer comprehensive information on each of the 17 SDGs but also ensure that users can easily navigate and explore the content in a way that suits their interests and needs. Users can access fundamental knowledge about sustainability while exploring the specific details of each goal, allowing them to become well-informed about these crucial objectives.

The guide breaks down each SDG individually, making it accessible for anyone interested in learning about these goals. Whether you are a student, researcher, or

¹ For detailed information about the SKL Textbook Swap, you can see the IFLA ENSULIB June 2023 Newsletter.

community member, you can gain a thorough understanding of the SDGs by exploring this guide.

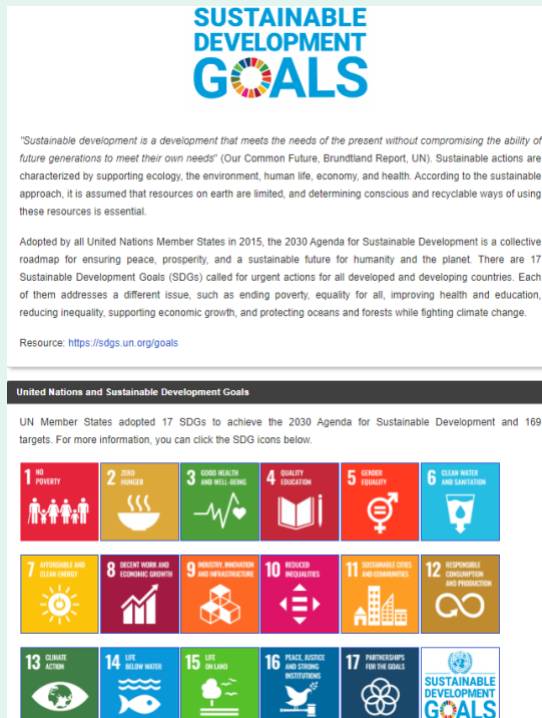


Image: Suna Kiraç Library Sustainable Development Goals Subject Guide

Our commitment to sustainability and the SDGs does not stop at a single guide. We have also enhanced our existing subject guides to align with the SDGs by adding relevant tags and icons. When users explore these guides, they can also see which goal each guide serves and how it contributes to one or more of the 17 objectives.

By simply clicking on the SDG icons and tags within the guides, users can access specific information about each goal, helping them better understand how the content aligns with the SDGs. This enhancement ensures that our library resources are not only informative but also contribute to global sustainability efforts.

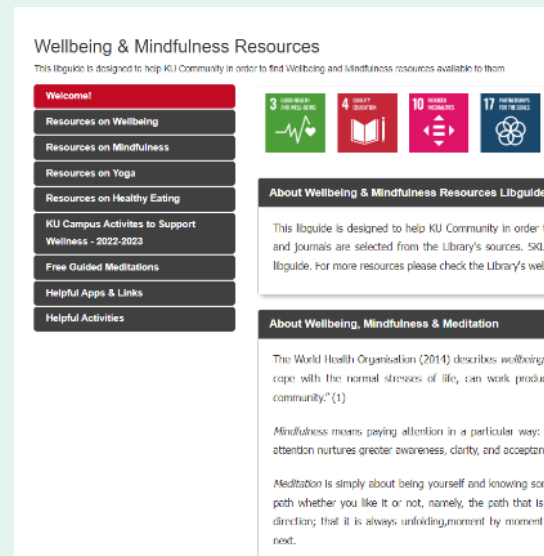


Image: Suna Kiraç Library Subject Guides with SDG tags and icons.

At Suna Kiraç Library, we are proud to actively support the SDGs and promote sustainability through our library services. If you wish to explore our guide, you can access it through the following link. <https://libguides.ku.edu.tr/sustainable-development-goals/about>

Submitted by: Suna Kiraç Library Sustainability Committee

Italy

Best Practices in Sustainability at the Luca Pacioli Library, Italy

The Luca Pacioli library of the State General Accounting Department (RGS) is part of the Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF) founded in 1869, one of the oldest state institutions located in Rome, Italy. During the social distancing mandate caused by the Covid health crisis, the library connected with its users, predominantly approx. 6000 dependents of the Ministry, through the creation of videos featuring presentations of free access electronic volumes and some physical volumes from its own collection. Including interviews with the authors, the videos aimed to promote staff professional development and learning despite the lack of physical access to the library.

These videos can be viewed asynchronously on the eLearning platform Campus RGS where the Library has its own page. The initiative brought users to the virtual library and supported their professional development despite the crisis. The Alliance for Sustainable Development, an association created in Italy in 2016 to promote the development of sustainable practices at all levels, has recognized the project with a Best Practice Award and has published news about this activity on its page

dedicated to Culture: <https://asvis.it/gruppo-cultura-per-lo-sviluppo-sostenibile-best-practice/>

Given the growing success of the project, the practice has been continued despite the end of the Covid crisis. In 2022 there were over 600 views across the 8 video presentations, which have now been created.

Furthermore, this best practice is advantageously low budget since it uses technology already provided by RGS and the videos are created by librarians who are already involved in the formation and professional development of RGS dependents. Additionally, it encourages the use of free access resources. Indeed, authoritative institutions like RGS often publish works on economics and accounting in free access format, providing a source of well evidenced grey literature.

Submitted by: Paola Maddaluno

Germany

Contributions of the University Library to the Goals of the Climate Emergency Declaration of Freie Universität Berlin: “Let’s scan”!

Starting point

In December 2019, Freie Universität Berlin declared a climate emergency. Among other

things, this entails a resolution to consider the impact on the climate in all decisions and planning.



Image by ©UB/Frank Beier, Key visual

The university library comprises 13 locations, one central library and 10 faculty libraries. In 2020, it drew up a [strategy](#) to 2025 for the first time. In addition to a vision and mission, common values were formulated. Coherent with the climate emergency declaration is the value on sustainability and responsibility: "We acknowledge our duty toward future generations. This is why we weigh our decisions with regard to ecological, economic and social sustainability and coordinate our actions accordingly".

Working group and communication campaign

One important contribution is scanning instead of copying in all libraries. In terms of sustainability, this service replaces the fee-based printing and copying services.

The project started in the first wave of the 2020 pandemic. In addition to shifting to high-quality book scanners, there was a lot to do in the area of communication work.

A permanent working group under the leadership of Andrea Tatai tackled the changeover and had to clarify various technical and legal issues in addition to tendering procedures.

In many decisions including for communications, the aspect of sustainability was at the top of the list. The main arguments were:

Ecological - "Scanning instead of copying" is a simple way to reduce your own ecological footprint. By copying documents and going paperless, each individual makes a small contribution to resource-saving studying, research and teaching - and thus to achieving the climate goals of Freie Universität.

Sustainable - in both senses of the word: digital reproduction guarantees the permanent availability of documents. Thanks to automatic text recognition (OCR), digital copies stored in PDF format are searchable; they can be further processed, annotated and shared with others in fully digital form. Exported as a high-resolution image file, the scans also offer better reproduction quality than any conventional copy. They are ideal for maps or photo documents.

Free of charge - Unlike the previous multifunction devices, the use of the new book scanners is free of charge for all library users. Page-by-page billing and chargeable miscopying are now a thing of the past. Also, a copy card (Campuscard / Mensacard), which has to be charged in advance, is no longer required.



Photo ©Mark Bollhorst/dbv, scan tent, Philological library

Conclusion

Considering the holistic changeover in all libraries of the Freie Universität, the saving on printers and copiers, toners, paper and energy costs, we communicate this proactively as an important contribution to the goals of the climate emergency declaration. In addition, we are following a nationwide trend: free, independent scanning is now standard in many German libraries.

It remains challenging for large library units to provide sustainable services across the board. With the switch to scanning has succeeded at this point.

On the part of the students and users of the libraries, there were and are very few complaints or objections that we are aware of. The arguments for more savings in terms of sustainability seem to be convincing.

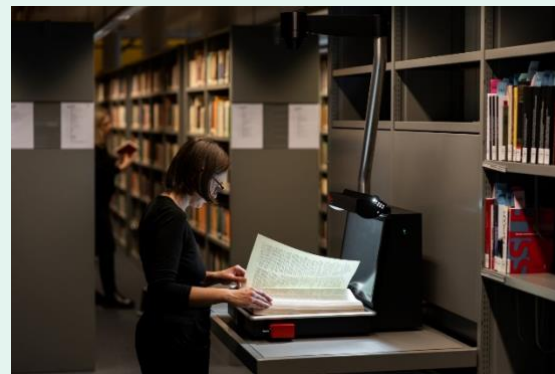


Photo by ©Mark Bollhorst/dbv, scanner, Philological library

Submitted by: Janet Wagner

USA – Alabama

Utilizing Outdoor Spaces at a Public Library: A Sustainability Success Story

Connecting with nature and getting time outside is known to benefit both mental and physical health, acting to reduce depression, anxiety, and stress levels (Cox et al, 2017).

In urban areas, however, there can be limited opportunities for exposure to natural elements such as plants, native animals, and sunshine. For this reason, providing inviting outdoor areas with lush vegetation at libraries and other public institutions can increase community well-being (White et al, 2013). If done well, these nature areas can also make a library space more eco-friendly and improve sustainability.

Programs held in open air areas are also less likely to spread contagions among attendees and can extend programming space as Auburn Public Library in Auburn, AL has found. In this article, we'll highlight some of the successes of utilizing outdoor space at Auburn Public Library, an urban library in Auburn, AL, USA.

Outdoor spaces for library programming

Usable outdoor space can be as simple as placing a bench under a tree or having a lawn which invites picnics. It can also involve large-scale renovation. In 2019 the Auburn Public Library expanded its outdoor space to include an amphitheater referred to as the "Literacy Theater". This was a significant undertaking which was done with sustainability in mind. The 140-capacity ADA accessible amphitheater features a large path and programming area paved with permeable paving stones and incorporates a pollinator garden planted with native and edible plants. Between the amphitheater and the parking lot you'll find a stormwater

garden to help sustainably manage water runoff and trees line the edges of the amphitheater providing shade as well as a place for songbirds and squirrels to be seen.



Image source: City of Auburn, AL, 2023

The outdoor amphitheater was key in restarting in-person story times and other programming after the COVID-19 pandemic shut down in-person programming in 2020. Being able to be in the open air and having enough room to allow for social distancing made this area perfect for those early days of transitioning back to normalcy. Now that the Auburn Public Library is fully open and back to regular programming, the outdoor amphitheater continues to be an important location. Utilizing the amphitheater space and the lawn around it welcomes upwards of 400 people to participate and enjoy the library's larger programs like the Ghoulish

Gala Halloween Costume Contest or the Summer Learning Kickoff Party.

Outdoor spaces for community



Image source: City of Auburn, AL, 2020

Sometimes, though, it is the small moments that really make an outdoor space shine. In addition to library sponsored programming, the amphitheater and other outdoor areas at Auburn Public Library serve as a community area. Parents often sit while children play,

teenagers study together under the shade of the trees, and pictured here is a local art student working on her project in the amphitheater. The library's wi-fi extends to the amphitheater and other yard areas so patrons can connect to the internet while sitting outside and even when the library is closed.

Conclusion



Image source: City of Auburn, AL, 2020

Nature and outdoor spaces play an important role in supporting human health and well-being. Public libraries are uniquely positioned to provide these essential resources to their communities. By utilizing nature and outdoor spaces local libraries can help to create a healthier and more vibrant community for everyone.

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Submitted by: Daisy Griffin, Auburn Public Library, Auburn, AL

Ireland

Press Release, Wicklow County Council: Inaugural Reading Goals Ambassador Ceremony At Greystones Municipal District

Eight students from Greystones schools who read over 20 books as part of a special reading project were rewarded at a special ceremony in the Greystones Municipal District offices on Tuesday last (Sept 26th).

The students were taking part in the inaugural “Reading Goals” book club, a specialised children’s book club that read books connected to the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The book club is based in Greystones Library.

The club was established in February 2021 and coincided with “Ireland Reads”, an initiative of the Government of Ireland, supported by public libraries. Since that first meeting the children involved have read extensively. “Reading Goals” incorporates elements of education, for the SDGs, into everything they read from:

- Fiction
- Non fiction
- Graphic novels
- Short stories
- Literacy books.

To date, the children have read over 20 books and covered topics from each of the 17 Goals.

As the children are now in sixth class, they will become Ambassadors for the Goals, and share their knowledge with families, school friends and in their social and sporting communities. This is the first year of the Ambassador programme and it will become an annual initiative.

The children were presented with a special certificate, United Nations SDG bags and

pins at the ceremony by Cllr Mark Barry, Cathaoirleach of Greystones Municipal District; Cllr Lourda Scott and Director of Services, Michael Nicholson. The bags were sponsored by Codling Wind Farm whose Pamela McCann spoke about how proud the company was to be involved in the project.



Back row: Pamela McCann Codling, Cllr. Lourda Scott, Cathaoirleach Mark Barry, Michael Nicholson DOS Wicklow County Council, Catherine Costello, Greystones Library, **Middle Row:** Greta Desmond, Eimear Scanlon, Taylor Quinn **Front Row:** Oliver Costello, Kima Nutley, Cillian Barrett, Una Cooper, Casey Mullally.

Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, praised the initiative, saying: “The children have learned the art of listening, allowing each person to express their unique opinions and perspectives”.

Cllr Mark Barry, Cathaoirleach of Greystones MD, added: “As they move forward, these young ambassadors will become the torch bearers of knowledge,

spreading the lessons they've learnt about the SDGs to their friends, classmates, and the wider community through their various clubs and activities”.

Emer O’Gorman, Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council, said: “What is truly commendable about this programme is how it has nurtured diplomacy and open-mindedness among these young ambassadors. Our 8 new reading ambassadors will be a local link to the UN Sustainable Development Goals and encourage positive reading habits in children”.

The SDGs are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and improve the lives and prospects of all people on the planet. The 17 Goals were adopted by all UN member states in 2015, as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

They set out a 15-year plan to achieve the Goals. With a deadline of 2030, we are now halfway through the term.

The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022 paints a worrying picture of progress across almost all areas. It said that “cascading and interlinked crises are putting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in grave danger, along with humanity’s very own survival”.

Submitted by: Catherine Costello, Librarian, Greystones Library, Mill Road, Greystones, Co. Wicklow A63 KN52

Australia

A Sustainable Library Garden at the University of Sydney

The University of Sydney’s main campus is situated on the traditional lands of the Gadigal People of the Eora Nation. In acknowledgement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and connection to Country, The University Library continues to prioritise a strategic program to embed cultural competence in all we do, across our spaces, services, and collections.

In late 2022 work commenced to refurbish a large roof terrace atop Fisher Library, the university’s main Library. The terrace had been disused since the 1970’s due to changes in the building code and safety regulations. The project to upgrade the terrace to comply with current building specifications was an also an opportunity to create a space that contributes to a memorable on campus student experience. Envisaged as a space to relax, collaborate, and study outdoors, the Fisher roof terrace takes in commanding city, district and campus views and is reopening to the community in November 2023.

An important consideration when designing the space has been its Indigenisation. A Gadigal language name has been proposed for the terrace, and the Library is currently consulting with Aboriginal stakeholders to seek their endorsement. Placemaking signage is being prepared to tell a story to visitors as they look out over the three aspects visible from the terrace, about the cultural and historical importance of the land to the Aboriginal community.

A key feature of the roof terrace design has been to install an Indigenous Garden. The Library engaged a local Aboriginal landscape design company and nursery called Indigigrow. They supplied and installed a sustainable garden that features species belonging to the Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub (ESBS) that was once common in the Sydney basin bioregion. ESBS is predominantly a coastal sclerophyllous heath or scrub community that grew in the area for millennia prior to colonisation. It once covered 5,300 hectares between North Head and Botany Bay and is now critically endangered due to development and the planting of introduced species. Only 146 hectares of ESBS remains. ESBS includes species such as banksias, she oaks, tea-trees, grevilleas, grass trees, sedges, herbs and low growing eucalypts and wattles. It has significant Aboriginal cultural significance and is home to many animals.

The New South Wales State Government is making efforts to conserve and regenerate ESBS, and the Library recognised the refurbishment of the Fisher roof terrace as an opportunity to contribute. It is hoped that the ESBS garden, that includes a variety of nectar-rich flowering plants, will attract and support insects and birdlife such as lorikeets, honeyeaters, wattle birds, as well as smaller wrens, silvereyes and finches. Excitingly, the Library is the first of Indigigrow’s clients to be given Midgin Berry plants which produce sweet, edible “bush lollies”. This species has never before been commercially propagated.



Photo by: Dr. Antonia Mocatta

As well as sustainable plantings, the Library ensured that the planter boxes used have a sustainable, self-wicking watering system to conserve water and encourage root grown down through the sandy soil. Visitors to the roof terrace will be able to scan a QR code and learn more about the project and plant species they are seeing.

Those who worked on this project look forward to the opening of the roof terrace to visitors and seeing them take delight in these beautiful plantings.

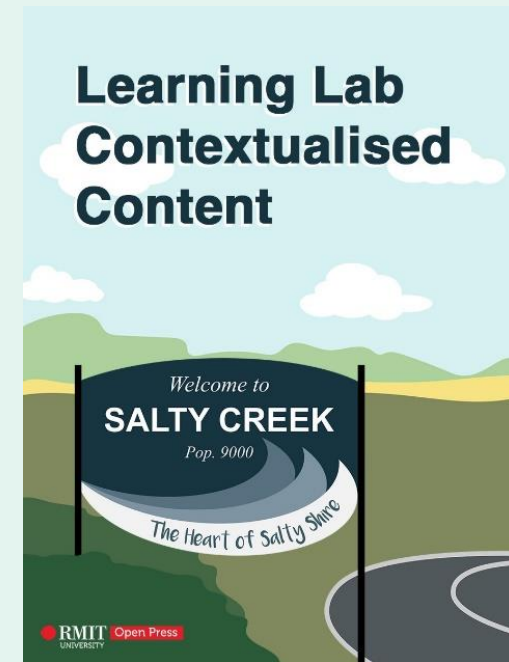
Submitted by: Dr. Antonia Mocatta, Director Central Services, University of Sydney Library

Australia

Empowering underserved students and supporting educational equity through an innovative open educational resource

Introduction

Earlier this year, the Digital Learning Team at the RMIT University Library in Melbourne, Australia, developed an open educational resource entitled [Learning Lab Contextualised Content](#) (LLCC). The project was designed to further the aims of UN SDG 4: Quality Education, by improving tertiary education support for students from traditionally underserved backgrounds, and by providing educators with high-quality instructional materials that are free to use and adapt.



Project description

The LLCC is an online suite of resources developed around the foundational skills that students need to be successful in their university studies. The project was funded through the Higher Education Participation and Partnerships Program, an Australian federal equity initiative designed to increase educational aspiration and attainment for students who are traditionally underrepresented in higher education, namely those from Indigenous backgrounds, low-socioeconomic status households, or regional and remote communities in

Australia. Students from these cohorts are less likely to enrol in tertiary study, and when they do, they often face a number of barriers to success. With that in mind, the LLCC was designed to show students from the target cohorts that not only do people like them attend university, but that there is value in tertiary education, and should they decide to enrol, they will be supported along the way.

Problem-based learning approach

To inspire tertiary study, the LLCC utilises a problem-based learning approach to show students how the skills acquired through university study are relevant to careers and everyday life. The resource imagines the fictional Australian town of Salty Creek, where a group of young adults is planning a community festival. Students follow the planning committee members as they use the skills and knowledge they have acquired through their own university studies, from visual communication and writing to physics and mathematics, in order to solve problems and bring the festival to life. Exploring principles of sustainability is part of the festival as well, and in the section on [running a sustainable festival](#), students can learn about waste management, eco-friendly art practices, fast fashion, and how the UN SDGs can be incorporated into their lives. Each activity links to further support materials on the library's [Learning Lab](#) website.



Photo of festival planning committee

Open Educational Resource (OER) implementation

The team decided to publish the LLCC as an OER on the Pressbooks platform as another way to incorporate principles of equity into the project. Not only do OERs remove a financial barrier for learners, but they also support educators, since free, high-quality instructional materials can make lesson planning easier. The LLCC contains a [teacher's guide](#) that maps each activity in the OER to subject and skill areas, and offers several approaches for how the activities can be incorporated into lessons.

Conclusion

Education beyond high school is limited to a privileged slice of society in many parts of

the world, but it will be impossible to achieve the equity targets at the heart of UN SDG 4: Quality Education without making tertiary education accessible to all. The LLCC aims to contribute to a sustainable future by supporting essential skills development through relatable characters and authentic activities. Young people from underserved backgrounds are supported in their pursuit of higher education, and educators anywhere can adapt the resource to meet the needs of their learners.

Submitted by: Kelly Ann Smith, Digital Learning Resource Specialist, RMIT University Library

What is a Green Librarian? A French Librarian Perspective

The theme of ecological transition has rapidly taken center stage in the world of libraries. It is disrupting not only our work habits but also the entire library's mission. Inevitably, it is reshaping the role of librarians. It seems to us that this transformation of the profession resembles a change in professional posture. Here are perhaps its most prominent facets:

1. **A professional in the Product-Service System (#sharing, #recycling)**

Formerly professionals in the mediation of cultural content, librarians are becoming

professionals in the product-service system within the cultural domain. The product-service system prioritizes the use over the sale of a product. Librarians are well-equipped for loaning, organizing barter, and participating in the circular economy.

They loan various types of documents and even non-documentary items, either within the cultural domain (musical instruments, DVD players, pico-projectors) or extending beyond it (drills, lawnmowers, etc.). They could also loan these items to associations.

They facilitate the sharing of items on-site for their patrons (computers, pianos, televisions, video games, etc.) and within their internal processes (VR headsets, cargo bikes, traveling exhibitions, etc.).

They host exchange services within their libraries, such as seed banks, tool libraries, and periodical exchanges.

2. A professional in territorial networking (#local, #biodiversity, #associations)

Formerly involved in cultural animation, librarians are transforming into *professionals who focus on territorial networking.* They organize cultural or peri-cultural events with local associations seeking to reach a wider audience in different ways. They establish structural partnerships to strengthen this network of associations. The library is at the heart of a community and its population,

serving as a vital link for green initiatives in the vicinity, including DIY workshops, community gardens, composting, zero-waste workshops, and more.

Encouraging participation (in line with the deployment of participatory budgeting at the city's scale) is a path to consolidate shared approaches to enhancing our "Surviving Together."

3. A professional in storytelling for a desirable future (#renunciation, #play, #mindset)

Formerly information experts, librarians are becoming *professionals in crafting narratives for a desirable future.* The library serves as one of the many outlets for the themes, issues, and solutions related to the current crisis. It can document, promote, support, and experiment with issues in a variety of ways beyond traditional books.

For adults, librarians offer innovative ways to engage in changing mindsets through their collections and lectures, as well as films, workshops, games, murals, seed banks, infographics, stories, plays, walks, among other things.

For children—and their families!—they aim to raise awareness by tapping into sensory experiences (gardening workshops), emotions (presence of animals), imagination (offering fiction to convey information), playfulness (various challenges),

empowerment (taking action to change the world).

4. A model of a joyful transition (#eco-gestures, #low-tech, #eco-design, #slow)

Formerly educated civil servants, librarians are becoming *enlightened and model civil servants.* They practice eco-friendly habits in their daily lives without complaint. They carefully consider eco-friendly methods for organizing exhibitions, creating websites, transporting books, printing communication materials, hosting events, and inviting speakers. They have incorporated carbon cost analysis into every activity to avoid excess.

Instead of chasing constant growth and expansion (trying to keep up with all the technological or societal trends), they redirect their strategy and policies toward low-consumption, carbon-cost-effective, and less ostentatious solutions. This allows them to focus on supporting their missions healthily and calmly, taking care of their tasks without seeking to follow every trend—and they thrive in doing so!

Submitted by: Pascal Krajewski Deputy director in charge of the western libraries and the ecological transition, Library of Lyon, France

International Days Observed by the United Nations

January–June 2024

January

24 International Day of Education

February

20 World Day of Social Justice

March

01 Zero Discrimination Day

03 World Wildlife Day

20 International Day of Happiness

21 International Day for the Elimination of
Racial Discrimination

21 World Poetry Day

21 International Day of Forests

22 World Water Day

23 World Meteorological Day

April

05 International Day of Conscience

06 International Day of Sport for
Development and Peace

07 United Nations' World Health Day

22 Earth Day

May

02 World Tuna Day

11 World Migratory Bird Day

15 International Day of Families

16 International Day of Living Together in
Peace

16 International Day of Light

20 World Bee Day

21 World Day for Cultural Diversity for
Dialogue and Development

21 International Tea Day

22 International Day for Biological Diversity

29 International Day of United Nations
Peacekeepers

June

03 World Bicycle Day

05 World Environment Day

08 World Oceans Day

17 World Day to Combat Desertification and
Drought

21 International Day of the Celebration of
the Solstice

26 International Day Against Drug Abuse
and Illicit Trafficking

29 International Day of the Tropics

*Above are taken from Annual International
Days: List of the official annual international
days, that are observed or declared by the
United Nations*