



GET INTO... **Global MIL Week**

Global Media & Information Literacy Week 2021

The goal of Global Media & Information Literacy (MIL) Week is to raise awareness of the need for an international effort towards helping citizens become informed consumers and creators of information and media. **UNESCO** and the **Global Alliance for Partnerships on Media and Information Literacy (GAPMIL)** invite global stakeholders to come together to discuss and celebrate progress achieved towards MIL for all.

Global MIL Week 2021 is hosted by South Africa and will take place from **24-31 October**. Global MIL Week 2021 and the [Feature Conference](#) will centre on the theme: *Media and Information Literacy for the Public Good*.

Building off last year's focus on disinformation, Global MIL Week 2021 will explore how media and information literacy competencies can advance the public good. In the face of complex and often contradictory messages and meanings, equipping people with these competencies is an important step in empowering the public to benefit from information and communication opportunities.

Why Should Libraries Get Involved?

Libraries are a key component in achieving MIL for all. As hubs of information, libraries and library professionals are both champions and teachers of the skills needed to find information, evaluate it critically, and use it ethically.

Libraries are uniquely positioned within their communities to help grow MIL skills through resource sharing, learning opportunities/skills training or on-the-spot advice/support, specialised programming, and more. Doing so is an essential step towards developing informed, participatory societies. Especially with this year's focus on MIL competencies for the public good, the involvement of libraries is essential for connecting these opportunities to the public.

There are benefits for libraries as well. You can find out more about the key discussions in MIL theory and practice, keep up to date on current challenges and approaches to MIL education, exchange good practice and get inspiration for new activities and ideas, advocate for the role of libraries in MIL education, and find out more about global (and local) stakeholders and projects that libraries can get involved in.

How to Register for Global MIL Week

The 2021 UNESCO Global MIL Week Feature Conference will take place online and bring together select government representatives, experts, and practitioners to discuss the role of MIL competencies in advancing the public good.

The programme also features a Youth Agenda Forum, bringing together young people to examine the topic, "Media and Information Literate Youth for the Public Good".

While registering for the Conference, you can choose from various Parallel Sessions that may be of interest to you.

Some that may be of interest to LIS professionals include:

- *Media and information literacy for people with disabilities*
- *Early and late starters: Media and information literacy for children and elderly*

- Cultural expression and freedom of expression: Bridging the gap with media and information literacy

See the full programme here: [Global MIL 2021 Feature Conference](#)

Register here: [Global MIL Week 2021 Event Registration](#)

Plan a Global MIL Week Side Event

Beyond attending the Conference, UNESCO and GAPMIL are inviting libraries around the world to get involved in Global MIL Week by holding side events. These events will be featured online on the UNESCO Global MIL Week Map.

Side events can be in-person or virtual. All events promoting MIL and Global MIL week are welcome – no matter how small. Featuring library events on the map will help highlight the work already being done in libraries to build MIL competency.

What Can You Do?

Below are several no/low-cost “Side Events” that libraries can organise to get involved in Global MIL Week. Keep in mind, each of these ideas could be done virtually using your library’s online platforms.

Curate and share a selection of books, e-books, and children’s stories from your collection

- Choose themes that can help all levels of readers understand misinformation and how to address the challenges it raises.
- Consider using your website, mailing lists, and social media to share.

Compile educational resources into an online resource (such as a toolkit or libguide) on MIL in general, or a specific topic that is relevant to your community

- For inspiration, here are a [few examples](#).
- Consider using openly available resources for preparing such a guide, such as:
 - IFLA infographics

- [How to Spot Fake News](#)
- [How to Spot Fake News – COVID-19 Edition](#)
- [Online Lessons](#)
- [Videos](#)
- [Games](#)
- [Curricula](#)
- [Exhibitions](#)
- [In-depth articles](#)
- [The UNESCO Global MIL Week Platform](#)

Team up with local media professionals, educators, community groups, and other stakeholders

- Start building a network in your community that brings stakeholders together to discuss ways in which building media and information competencies can empower the public
- A local university or youth-focused community groups might be a good place to start identifying potential collaborators

Host a (virtual) event – live or pre-recorded

- A webinar
 - Invite LIS professionals to share expertise on teaching MIL to other educators who want to learn how to help educate their communities
 - Invite LIS professionals and other stakeholders to share tips and advice on being a savvy media consumer
- An interactive workshop, Q&A session, or quiz
 - Involve staff, community, and/or students
 - This might discuss MIL and community empowerment in a local context
 - Share tips and tools participants can use to promote MIL in their own networks
- A (virtual) panel discussion
 - You could invite guest speakers from local MIL networks- academics, journalists, fact-checkers, civil rights activists, etc.
- Story-times for children
 - Feature a story that can help young learners grow media and information literacy skills

Engage with your community on social media

- Use social media to raise awareness and start a dialogue with your community throughout the week.
- Tag #GlobalMILWeek to join the global conversation

Get involved with MIL on Wikipedia

- Host a virtual [edit-a-thon](#)
 - Get started: [How to Run an Edit-a-thon](#)
- Work on creating, updating, and/or translating Wikipedia entries on MIL topics like critical thinking, health literacy, political communication, history of advertising, news media, news literacy, science literacy, fact-checking, and many others.

Next Steps

Get in touch with IFLA to let us know that you would like to plan a side event. We are ready to support you.

Contact:

claire.mcguire@ifla.org

Register your Side Event

Help demonstrate how libraries promote MIL for all by registering your Side Event. It will be featured on the official website of Global MIL Week 2021.

[Register Here](#)