



GET INTO... **Safer Internet Day**

8 February 2022 - Together for a Better Internet

Safer Internet Day (SID) is a large-scale international annual event that supports and promotes safe use of the internet among children and youth. The celebration brings together parents and caregivers, children, teachers and educators, policy-makers, media and industry representatives, and other key stakeholders to raise awareness, help empower young users, and build a better internet for them.

First introduced in the European Union in 2004, Safer Internet Day is now celebrated every February in many countries across the globe – from Ecuador to Ghana to Australia. SID activities aim to help tackle a range of crucial issues around online safety and wellbeing, digital identity and digital citizenship.

From basic IT skills to privacy, online safety and media literacy, library professionals have vast experience helping their communities navigate the internet safely and confidently. That is why SID offers a well-suited platform for libraries to further engage with these topics – while libraries' own experiences can make an invaluable contribution to SID discussions and celebrations.

How Safer Internet Day is organised

[Around the world](#), many Safer Internet Day Committees operate to help bring this campaign to their countries. In Europe, [country-level Safer Internet Centers](#) play a key role in mobilising action around Safer Internet Day – and throughout the year. The Safer Internet Day Coordination Team, based in Brussels, works on overarching campaign planning.

Many supporters and interested organisations also plan and carry out their own Safer Internet Day events and initiatives individually.

The SID website – saferinternetday.org – is a key hub for the latest updates and coordination. It offers a platform to showcase and highlight SID events taking place in different countries, as well as useful contacts and resources to help stakeholders organise their own activities.

[This comes to a head on the annual Safer Internet Day in February](#) (the date is announced on the SID website in advance). The stakeholders host their (individual or jointly organised) events to raise awareness and offer engaging learning opportunities for their communities. Each year, SID has an overarching theme and a set of core messages that stakeholders work to promote.

Every year, the day sees a wide array of activities – as you can see, for example, in the [2020](#) and [2019](#) public reports. These events range from games, quizzes and competitions to helplines and broadcasts – including, of course, library-based activities.

Alongside the central SID website, in many countries there are separate detailed listings of SID events taking place. For example, listings and maps from [Germany](#), [Latvia](#) and the [UK](#) all feature various events that took place in libraries in 2020.

Why engage with SID?

With the accelerating shift to digital in many spheres, it is crucial to make sure that our communities have the skills to take part, productively and safely. Libraries' traditional work around digital skills-building often includes learning opportunities tailored for young patrons or other groups more likely to be vulnerable online.





Safer Internet Day can offer opportunities to showcase and further boost the work of libraries in this area, by offering:

- A focal point for their year-round work to support the wellbeing, rights and safety of their young patrons online. SID is an opportunity to further build engagement with your community, raise awareness, or highlight existing library offerings which help address these.
- A network of like-minded stakeholders (local, national, or international) with whom libraries can collaborate to champion safe and responsible internet use among young people.
- A way to stay up-to-date and keep track of the latest developments and discussions on online safety and wellbeing. It can also help find inspiration and discover more good practices and ways to offer engaging learning opportunities around this topic.

Libraries in the Safer Internet Day campaign

Libraries in many countries have been actively supporting the SID campaign by organising their own activities and collaborating with various partners.

What kind of topics and user needs do library-based SID initiatives address? Over the past years, they have tackled and offered learning opportunities on a wide range of subjects: coding, cryptography, privacy, history of the internet, ways to avoid online scams and fraud - and find safe and trusted resources, news, media and financial literacy online, digital citizenship, mental health and the Internet, and many others.

Such library-based learning opportunities have taken on many different forms, both on Safer Internet Day itself and throughout the year. These include displays, exhibitions and signage, digital toolkits for young users, guidelines for caretakers, MOOCs, tests and quizzes (with prizes or completion certificates!), information sessions – such as lectures, workshops or drop-in sessions, technology 'petting zoos', film screenings, and more.



You can find out more about library experiences with internet safety and wellbeing interventions by exploring IFLA news stories about SID from [2017](#), [2018](#), and [2020](#) – as well as in-depth interviews from 2021 which describe library Safer Internet Day activities in [Latvia](#) and [Lithuania](#).

What can you do?

The 2022 Safer internet Day takes place on 8 February, focusing on an overarching theme "Together for a better internet". One of the [key messages](#) for this year's campaign highlights the vital role of learning and education in achieving this goal:

"Teachers, educators and social workers can help to create a better internet by equipping their pupils and students with digital literacy skills and by developing their critical thinking skills, which will allow them to better navigate the online world. They can empower them to create their own content, make considered choices online, and can set a personal example of positive online behaviour for their pupils and students".

There are many different ways libraries can participate to help deliver on this potential:

- Organise a thematic event for children or young adults. There are many types of activities and events which can also take place online: quizzes, games, competitions (e.g. picture, video essay, short story...), thematic storytimes, and more!
 - You can also explore the [SID resources](#) collection, which boasts a range of useful materials - from games to lessons plans - in various languages and tailored to different target age groups.
- Host an (online) event for parents and caregivers. Workshops, webinars, discussion groups – there are different activities you can organise to help adults tackle the tasks of keeping their children safe online.
- Reach out to relevant stakeholders in your area. You can work with civil society organisations to set up an event together, invite guest speakers to your SID activities, or get in touch with local schools to broaden your reach!

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- Take a look at the SID events and activities [in your country](#). You can get in touch with the national Safer Internet Day Committee or Safer Internet Center, if one exists in your country - and explore more ways to cooperate!
 - Raise awareness about the day and its key messages – for example, through social media. The [SID website](#) offers templates and visuals which you can use.
 - You can take part in online discussions to showcase your SID activities and share ideas, experiences and insights on how to make the internet a safer space for young users – join the conversation by using hashtags [#SaferInternetDay](#) and [#SID2022](#).
 - [Let us know](#) what you are doing!

