IFLA presents

Youth and Environmental Emotions project: 
Public libraries supporting youth to treat and express their emotions and views concerning environmental issues

Veera Visuri

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Organizers:
Environment, Sustainability and Libraries Section (ENSULIB) with Libraries for Children and Young Adults Section
Youth and Environmental Emotions project

Public libraries supporting youth to treat and express their emotions and views concerning environmental issues
Why was the project launched?

• Climate change is one of the factors creating uncertainty – today and in the future.
• It's confirmed through different studies that young people experience significant amount of climate anxiety, but how to help young people?
• What kind of events and actions do the youth want from libraries? What is the role of public libraries?
The project was a national development project (2021–2022) managed by the Helsinki City Library and funded by the Ministry of Education and Culture. In the project, we cooperated with four different cities in Finland – Helsinki, Mikkeli, Oulu and Turku.

The partners’ task is to participate in the planning and implementation of the project, to organise regional events, test develop and implement new practices and ways of working as well as deploy them in libraries.
Target groups

The main target group of the project was young people aged 13–20.

Second target group was the library professionals.
Implementation

Survey → Distribution → Activities based on the survey
Events and activities in upper secondary schools

Book talks (video)

Guidance on information retrieval and source criticism

Author visits
Events and activities in libraries

- Clothing workshop
- Rubbish collection event
- Climate Talks tour
- Clothes recycling rack
- Nature tent
- Documentary presentations
- Future games
- Street festival
- Youth and Biodiversity event
- Plant caring
Event at the youth center
Nature Dialogue
Social media

We published information, thoughts and event tips related to the environment and climate on social media with a low threshold and in a light-hearted way.

Environmental emotions
Library services
Reading tips
Event tips
Information

TikTok
Instagram
Twitter
Facebook
YouTube
Campaigns

Young people ask, experts answer videos

8 experts; researchers, experts, an author and youth climate delegate.

TikTok campaign

3 social media content creators
Conclusion

• Provide information on eco-topics (book tips, include experts, authors etc.), organize events, and go where the young people are (social media and schools).

• Libraries and youth centres are leisure time vs. school activities are mandatory

• Libraries should collaborate with many different actors to reach different audiences on different platforms.
What about the future?

A practical guide to the events and activities
Will be in Finnish, English and Swedish

Webinar for Finnish library professionals