



IFLA Section
**Environment,
Sustainability and Libraries**

ENSULIB Newsletter



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Message from the Chair



Harri Sahavirta, ENSULIB Chair

A hot and active ENSULIB summer ahead!

The new ENSULIB standing committee has now been active for about a year during which many new initiatives have been launched. You are reading the second newsletter. Our series of webinars has also been a success. A new social media group has been created and you will also notice ENSULIB becoming more active in that space.

IFLA WLIC is getting nearer and ENSULIB is well prepared for the coming events. ENSULIB has organised a satellite meeting in Cork just before the WLIC. This will be hosted by Cork University College Library. Our co-organisers are the Management and Marketing Section and the Preservation and Conservation Section. The programme has already been published and includes interesting case studies as well as themes like marketing sustainable libraries.

At the WLIC main conference in Dublin, ENSULIB will host an open session together with the Children and Young Adults Section. A fascinating range of speakers have been invited to talk about how libraries work with children and young adults when it comes to

sustainability. ENSULIB will also be holding a business meeting during the conference.

I am pleased that WLIC will once more take place in person this year (again), and I am delighted to welcome all to our WLIC events.

The shortlisted finalists for the IFLA Green Library Award 2022 have been published on the ENSULIB web page. Last autumn we updated the criteria and evaluation form for the award and now about twenty reviewers all around the world have tested the outcome. To my relief, the reviews went well and smoothly. Further improvements will be made to the application form in 2023 because some reviewers noted that several submissions lacked necessary information.

Nevertheless, I am very happy that we received many strong submissions from different continents. The short list presents the top ten green libraries and green library projects. We wish to introduce these on our web page and social media during the summer – but the winners will be announced only at the end of the ENSULIB satellite meeting in Cork. Thus, there is one more reason to join us at this summer's event!

About the Editorial Committee

The ENSULIB Newsletter is published twice a year (June and December). Please contact our editors for contributions:



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Introducing ENSULIB Standing Committee Members

There are 20 Standing Committee members in IFLA's ENSULIB Section. In this issue, we introduce 10 of them. Names are listed in no particular order.



Petra Hauke, Germany

University Degree in History of Arts and in Library and Information Science, Ph.D. in LIS. Lecturer - beside others - at the Berlin LIS School. Has edited and authored numerous LIS related publications and presented many papers internationally-wide at IFLA and other international and national conferences. Petra has served for IFLA since 2005 in different Sections and positions, since 2009 for ENSULIB. She is also a founding member of the German-speaking "Green Library Network".

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Eva Hackenberg, Poland

Eva Hackenberg works for the Goethe-Institut. It is the cultural institute of the Federal Republic of Germany with a global reach and a network of 157 Institutes in 98 countries. Since August 2021 she is working for the Goethe-Institut in Warsaw, Poland, as Head of Library and Information. She holds a Master's degree in library and information science (Humboldt University of Berlin). During her work in several countries over the last twenty years she has been organizing many cooperation projects in the field of library and information together with colleagues from libraries, library institutions and associations in these countries, also with several library experts from Germany. Due to her great interest in sustainability matters and the green library field she has been supporting ENSULIB in the past by doing translations and correspondence.



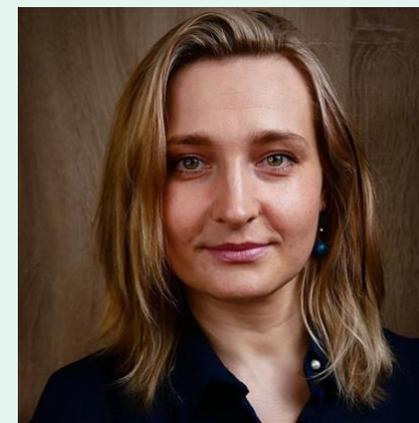
Jacqueline Breidlid, Gemany

Jacqueline Breidlid has been working at the German Libraries Association in the field of Political Communications since September 2019. Prior to this she lived in Brussels where she was responsible for social, educational and gender policies and regulations at the European Free Trade Association (EFTA). She has a Master`s degree in Political Sciences/ International Relations from the College of Europe in Bruges, Belgium. Jacqueline Breidlid has a keen interest in sustainability, copyright and cultural and educational issues.



Harri Sahavirta, Finland

Harri Sahavirta holds a Ph.d. and is the chief librarian in Arabianranta and Vallila libraries, Helsinki City Library. He has served as project manager in many national projects, like "Environmental Sustainability in Public Libraries 2020", "Changing soundscapes of Public Libraries" and "Public libraries as promoters for adult reading". He has also worked in environmental projects in Helsinki City Library. He has been active member of Environment, Sustainability and Libraries IFLA Special Interest Group (ENSULIB) since 2011 and was the convenor of the group 2015-2019 and secretary in 2020. He is the chair of the ENSULIB section 2021-2023.



Kristīne Deksne, Latvia

Kristīne Deksne is a Chief Specialist of the Library Development Centre of the National Library of Latvia. She creates and manages a professional portal in the field of libraries (www.biblioteka.lv, editor-in-chief) and the provision of support to Latvian libraries (organization of conferences and seminars, provision of consultations, lectures, etc.). Since 2018, she has been working to promote SDGs and understanding of the role of libraries and involvement in achieving SDGs among Latvian libraries. Kristīne is one of the organizers of the series of seminars "Libraries and sustainable development: we are building this world ourselves" (2019-2020) and summarizes the experience of Latvian libraries in relation to SDGs. She is also a member of the EBLIDA ELSIA (European Libraries and Sustainable development Implementation and Assessment) Expert Group.



Priscilla Pun, Macao, China

Priscilla Pun is the Head of Technical Process of the University of Macau Library. Her areas of expertise include collection development, metadata management, information literacy and library research support. She is the Chief Supervisor of the Macao Library and Information Management Association, Executive Member of Macau Documentation and Information Society, Member of Centre for Planning and Evaluation of Digital Resources of Library and Information Committee for Academic Libraries of Guangdong Province China, Member of the Information Literacy Professional Committee of Library Society of China, a Standing Committee Member of Environment, Sustainability and Libraries Section, IFLA.



Antonia Mocatta, Australia

Doctor of Business Administration, MBA. Antonia Mocatta specialises in higher education operations management. She has held senior positions with the University of Sydney Library since 2016 and is Director of Central Services, leading the delivery of business support services to the Library divisions including management of finances, strategy, projects, analytics and reporting, quality and compliance, and facilities. Throughout her career, Antonia has practiced her longstanding passion for environmental issues. In the University of Sydney Library context, sustainability projects led by Antonia have included coordinating energy saving initiatives across 11 library sites; working with vendors and suppliers to facilitate the recycling or on-sale of end-of-life library furnishings; and the recycling of de-accessioned print materials. 2021 Is Antonia's first year of involvement with IFLA ENSULIB.



Per Eide, Norway

Per Eide has a degree in Library and Information sciences from Oslo Met and Copenhagen University. He has been working for over 10 years in Norway's second largest library with library development, specialized in user participation, technology and youth programs. In the last couple of years he has been a head of department where he has established two new libraries based on user participation, and where 90 % of the interior is reusable materials or plastic picked up from nature nearby the library. He has experience with establishing different conferences about library development, is a board member in Norway Children Institute, has a position in Norwegian Film Institute and is active in a selection as a part of the Norwegian Library Association.



György Drucker, Hungary

György holds qualifications in law and political sciences, and prior to joining the Hungarian National Széchényi Library (NSZL) in 2016, was engaged in management consulting.

As a management consultant György advised several companies and governmental bodies on a range of energy and climate issues for the EU market, including the use of renewable energy sources and energy efficiency solutions. In this period, he took part in the international team advising the EU/Energy Community on implementing the Third Energy Package in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In 2013 he also participated in preparing the report, “The impact of structural changes in the energy sector of CEE countries on the creation of a sustainable energy path” (2003) for the European Parliament.

For the NSZL, the focus has been on a large-scale IT project supporting the digital transformation of the library system (new generation integrated library software, digitization centre, relevant IT infrastructure), György joined the Environmental Sustainability Working Group under the Quality Assurance Council of the NSZL in 2017, having been appointed chairman of the WG since 2018. He currently works as Head of Project Management Office and CISO of the NSZL.



Camille Delaune, Peru

Camille earned a Master of Library Science from the ENSSIB in France. Camille is French but she is currently living in Peru. Camille is a head librarian of the French Alliance library in Lima Peru. Since 2016, she is working to promote SDG as advocacy member of the advocacy committee of the National Association of French Librarians. She has been active member of Environment, Sustainability and Libraries IFLA Special Interest Group (ENSULIB) for several years. Since 2020, she takes daily English classes to improve her level and be able to exchange with international colleagues.

Planning and Developing Green and Sustainable Libraries with the IFLA ENSULIB Section

Priscilla Pun & Petra Hauke, IFLA ENSULIB Section



The IFLA Environment, Sustainability and Libraries Section (ENSULIB) has recently published an updated definition of a “green library”. The concept of “green library” has been discussed since the 1990s. Since then, libraries have been undertaking various activities to minimize the negative human impact on the natural environment, and a green library is associated with the concept of a sustainable library working toward this aim.

In this new definition from ENSULIB, a green library is a synonym for a green and sustainable library, which takes into account environmental, economic and social

sustainability in libraries. Green and sustainable libraries may be of any size, but they should have a clear sustainability agenda, which includes green buildings and equipment, green office principles, sustainable economy, sustainable library services, social sustainability, environmental management and commitment to general environmental goals and programmes – see our [Green Library Definition webpage](#) for details. This definition is translated into 10 languages at present, and more to come.



ENSULIB members in a business meeting.

The United Nations 17 [Sustainable Development Goals](#) for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for human beings and the planet, and the [Paris Agreement](#) on global warming limit and climate change represent important global guidance and commitments.



IFLA Green Library Award Logo

To increase awareness and encourage the activities of green libraries, ENSULIB initiated the [IFLA Green Library Award](#) in 2016. The prize is awarded in two

categories: (a) Best Green Library: To be successful in this category, environmental and sustainable work should involve the whole library, (b) Best Green Library Project: To be successful in this category, the relevant project is limited in scope, time and budget. It should be significant in advancing environmental and sustainable goals.

Special recognition additionally goes to a project delivered with limited resources, that has had a big impact. About 30 submissions have been received for the 2022 Award and they are currently being reviewed. We invite you to explore selected global [green libraries and green library projects from 2021](#). These examples serve as benchmarks for developing and enhancing green library initiatives locally, regionally, and worldwide. The 2022 longlists and submissions will be released on the Award website in April. If you are ready to showcase your green library or library project, please consider entering the IFLA Green Library Award in 2023.

[Award evaluation criteria](#) were published in 8 languages. These can also be referenced for guidance. By following the criteria, libraries can understand more about the principles used to develop green and sustainable libraries.

The [Green Library Checklists](#) are also freely available online in 27 languages to guide green library planning, construction and library operations. [LEED certification](#), a

globally recognized signifier of sustainability achievement and leadership, provides a framework for healthy, efficient, carbon and cost-saving green buildings, including green library buildings. A [calculator](#) (available in 8 languages) was developed by Nathalice Cardoso, a supporter of and advisor to the ENSULIB Standing Committee. It provides insights into green library metrics and encourages librarians to consider and implement actions in libraries. Information about green libraries is continuously added to the IFLA ENSULIB [Green Library Website](#).



IFLA WLIC 2022 Logo

The IFLA 2022 World Library and Information Congress (WLIC) is coming in July. ENSULIB is co-hosting an [Open Session](#) with the Libraries for Children and Young Adults Section. The session title is *Climate Action in Libraries: Creating a more sustainable future by engaging and inspiring youth*.

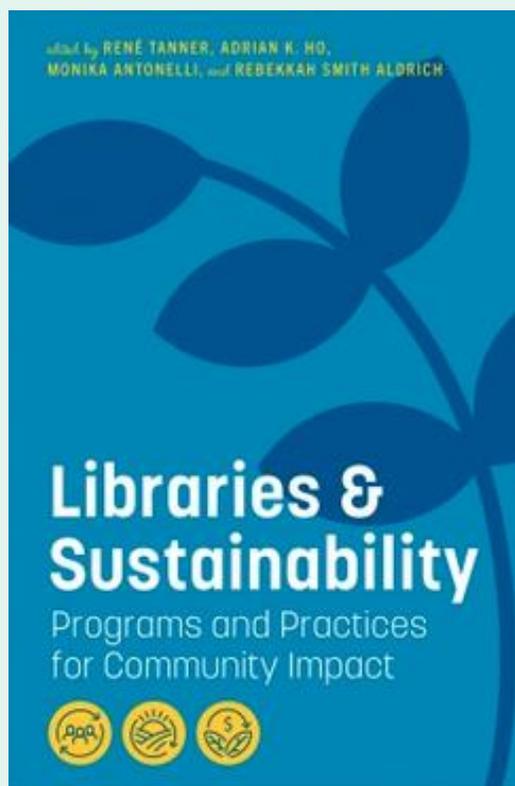
A [Satellite Meeting](#) will be held in Cork right before WLIC, with the theme *Inspired and Engaged on Sustainability*. It will be co-hosted by ENSULIB, the Management and Marketing, and Preservation and Conversation Sections. We look forward to seeing you and interacting in person in Cork and Dublin this summer.

To follow the progress and activities of the ENSULIB Section, we invite you to subscribe to our newsletter. Previous editions and information about contributing [can be found here](#).

Book Review

Libraries and Sustainability: Programs and Practices for Community Impact

Authors: Rene Tanner, Adrian K. Ho, Monika Antonelli, and Rebekkah Smith Aldrich (Eds.)



Libraries and Sustainability Book Cover

Reviewed by Beate Hoerning, German Green Library Network

This book was edited by four members of the Sustainability Round Table (SustainRT) of the American Library Association (ALA). Events such as the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the inception of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the inclusion of sustainability in the ALA Core Values of Librarianship and the establishment of the Sustainable Libraries Initiative (SLI) coincide with the nine-year-existence of this Round Table. In her introductory remarks, co-editor Rebekkah Smith Aldrich discusses the 2021 IPCC report which clearly shows what efforts need to be made in all areas if the climate targets for this and the next decade are to be met. Libraries play an important role not only in raising awareness for this topic (“to step into the necessary role as leaders on the topic of sustainability”), but also as actors for climate protection and sustainability (“but to transform the world in a way that combats climate change and builds community resilience”). These thoughts sum up the main concern of the book.

The work is divided into four parts, each with three chapters: Part I “Leadership”, Part II “Planning”, Part III “Programming” (case studies, best practice examples) and Part IV “Transformation” (theoretical

considerations). 22 of the 25 authors come from different library fields or have (additionally) teaching assignments; two work in senior positions at an institution and one is an architect. What all of them have in common is that they have to do with sustainability in the library context. Due to the different backgrounds (including often practising a resource-efficient lifestyle), there is a considerable range of essay topics available.

The contributions in Part I are intended primarily for the management of library facilities. Using a medium-sized academic library as an example, one of the articles reports on how the staff, guided by a sustainability committee, undergoes a successful learning process. These include energy saving, waste reduction and waste separation. Explicit attention is given to the reuse of compostable waste and how to use one’s own experiences through public relations in the sense of Community-Based Social Marketing Approach. Another chapter in this section is about disasters and their consequences, such as power outages or pandemics, and about the extent to which libraries can help people cope better and more sustainably with such events.

Part II deals with the planning of projects, programmes and events. One article points out that – regardless of “whether it is a small

storytime event or a large library conference” – the sustainability aspect plays a decisive role from the beginning of planning. A further article discusses the creation of a permaculture garden in a rural area, directly adjacent to the library building. This now opens up the possibility of a variety of nature-related events. Another article in Part II deals with three case studies which impressively demonstrate how public libraries can succeed in implementing sustainability strategies despite very different structural conditions. Specifically, the following constellations are involved: Renovation of a historical library building, extension of a historical library building and construction of a new library building.

Part III deals – in connection with the presentation of various programmes – with different aspects, including the central question: How can repair cafés, climate protection or seeds events contribute to building a culture of sustainability?

All these developments and upheavals in society and the economy are accompanied by changes in the professional fields of activity of library staff. This is discussed in Part IV. It also addresses the question of why it is impossible to speak about sustainability in libraries without also talking about racism. The final chapter, written by the editors themselves, deals with the question of how libraries can make a significant contribution to ensuring that a new economic way of thinking will prevail

better than before, namely an awareness of the planetary and social limits of growth. This is discussed on the basis of Kate Raworth’s book “Doughnut Economics.”

Detailed information about the authors and a comprehensive index follows. All articles contain references but no abstracts or keywords. The book is recommended for libraries of all sizes and types – both because of the food for thought and the many practical suggestions for implementing sustainability goals.

Social and Environmental Responsibility: What Skills for Library Professionals? (France)

Reine Bürki, Enssib

Enssib is the French National Library and Information Sciences School. Based in Lyon, it trains current and future library managers, through initial and lifelong learning, and delivers university degrees in library and information sciences. On May 12, 2022, Enssib organized “Le Printemps des métiers”, a new annual event covering the evolution of professions and skills. This 2022 edition was devoted to the skills induced by the challenges of sustainable development and social responsibility in libraries.

On this occasion, Enssib presented the results of a survey carried out in April 2022 among libraries to better understand the skills needed by the teams to support the sustainable development strategies of their establishments. An [infographic](#) (in French) was extracted from this survey and is available in the Enssib digital library.

The introductory conference made it possible to situate the challenges of environmental and societal transition in the landscape of French higher education and research, and particularly the implementation of a national reference

system allowing to engage in a labelling integrating the 2030 Agenda’s SDGs.

The University of Bordeaux then presented its approach, favouring transition at the level university level, with the collaboration of the university library.

The Library of the University of Angers is committed to a policy of welcoming users concerned with student well-being. It has set up animal mediation actions and offers training in mental health to staff welcoming the public.

A round table combined the experiences and thoughts of librarians involved in sustainable development and environmental management strategies, with exchanges relating to the mobilization and the improvement of the skills of the teams: from Paris La Canopée la fontaine public library “Green Library” guide, translated into several languages, to the Condorcet Large documentary equipment (Aubervilliers) whose building operates in an eco-responsible way, and to Venelles public library, located in the south of France, fully integrated into a sustainable development and social responsibility territory project.

Petra Hauke from IFLA’s ENSULIB section shed an international light on this program with a focus on the commitment of libraries in the 2030 Agenda.



Panel discussion at the conference

The conclusion of this day was entrusted to Guylaine Beaudry, Chief Librarian of Concordia University, who provided a moving account of her own experience in Quebec in EDI and Reconciliation with indigenous peoples’ issues.

The sustainable development and social responsibility online resource guide designed by Enssib for library professionals remains available on its website.

Enssib will meet its community again in 2023 for the second edition of this event on the evolution of professions and skills!

See the [conference videos](#) and on the Enssib Digital Library.

Green Library Meeting in Szekszárd (Hungary)

Szilvia Dombai, Europe Direct Tolna

A two day-long conference for green libraries was organized by the Gyula Illyés County Library and Europe Direct Tolna.

In her online plenary Ms Petra Hauke (IFLA-ENSULIB) emphasized the importance of collaboration between green libraries.

Speakers and workshop participants spoke about the popularisation of the library greening processes and their experiences in this area. That afternoon, a possible framework for cooperation was covered, as well as the benefits of networking, and the professional tasks that make green libraries.

The next day the speeches focused on the role of green libraries and their sustainability. More than fifty participants came from various parts of the country.

In her speech IFLA European Committee Member Prof. Dr. Ágnes Hajdu Barát, President of the Association of Hungarian Librarians outlined the international background of the green library movement, its achievements in Hungary and the prospects for its development.

The representative of the Gödöllő City Library showed how important it is to align

with organisational strategy to justify the adaptation of library spaces to the changing needs. They also emphasised that the self-education of librarians is indispensable.

The director of the Ezüsthegy Library, (IFLA Green Library Award runner-up, 2020), demonstrated the power of a supportive community which propelled the library even amidst the COVID crisis. She highlighted that a large staff is not required to implement a complex project.

In his speech the head librarian of the County Library in Tatabánya (IFLA Green Library Award runner-up, 2018), showed that it is not the building itself, but the commitment, the holistic approach and its continuous practice that are essential to winning the award.

The head of Collection Management at the University Library of the University of Pécs pointed out how difficult it is to carry out a process of consistent change of attitude in an intricate network like that of a university with its many faculties and institutes. The practice achieved by Pécs in such an environment can have an inspiring effect on the operation of public libraries.

The deputy director of the Bács-Kiskun County Library showed that even decades-long successful practices need to be renewed regularly. The broad network of contacts developed around their library supported and secured this renewal.



Attendees of the Green Library Meeting

Finally, the Director of the library hosting the event highlighted sources of inspiration for the Hungarian green library practice, expressed hope in networking and the continuation of the conference next year.

The two days of the workshop and conference were permeated by a shared sense of responsibility and the idea that humanity must provide a cultural response to the ecological crisis. Therefore, becoming a green library is not only a necessity but also an opportunity for all libraries. The cooperation of libraries as a network of public institutions has been recognised by the IFLA as a good way to spread and deepen eco-conscious thinking. All of this must be authenticated by the libraries' own practice. This idea is the basis of the green library movement.

The Faro Convention and Sustainable Development Goals: Crossed Destinies (Italy)

Giuseppina Rubinacci, AIB Campania Regional Section

The conference titled The Faro Convention and Sustainable Development Goals: Crossed Destinies, was organized by Centro Universitario Europeo per i Beni Culturali (CUEBC) and by the Italian Library Association (AIB), and hosted in the lovely city of Ravello, located in the Amalfi Coast in South Italy, on 10–11 June 2022.

The conference promoted a constructive public reflection about possible perspectives of development and integration of activities for the implementation of the Faro Convention and about the value of cultural heritage for the improvement of the quality of life. The recognition of the value of culture for reaching the Sustainable Development Goals is a main feature that the Agenda 2030 shares with the Faro Convention.

After the opening session with official greetings, the first session introduced some key issues in the Italian debate on the common good and welfare, progressing a perspective that considers culture and human knowledge as a new kind of common resource, and focusing on some experiences related to the Convention. A

fruitful interaction with the territorial regeneration emerged as a key point from those experiences. As a first crucial point, cultural assets in state of decay require restoration. The outcome of this first session was the need for training and increasing consciousness about these topics and for enhancing relationship networks.

The second session focused on the role of libraries when applying to the principles of the Faro Convention and 2030 Agenda, particularly in underlining the most important aspects of the cultural heritage in relation to human rights and democracy; in promoting a broader understanding of the cultural heritage and its relationship with the community and the society.

Sustainability, digital culture, enhancement and access to cultural heritage were the main topics of the third session, presenting the concept of a digital ecosystem that could be fair and sustainable across the world.

The conference closed with the organizers stating their intention to promote a permanent working table on these topics and a programmatic document.

During the conference, some activities organized by regional sections of the Italian Library Association were displayed on site. AIB-Emilia Romagna curated an exhibition based on their initiative Library, voices from a moving garden, a contest for young illustrators in which the library is conceived

as a garden, an open space constantly evolving.

AIB-Campania also coordinated a display by a local artist who converts old books in beautiful sculptures. AIB-Campania looked after the setup of two information points dedicated to their projects. The first was about Words in Circulation, which facilitates the donation books to whoever you want; and the second was about Mamma Lingua, Stories for All in which nobody is excluded and integration through reading is promoted.

The full conference programme with abstracts (in Italian) is available [via this link](#).

Sustainability and the Environment at the XXIII Conference on Information Management (Spain)

Rosario Toril Moreno, National Center of Environmental Education



The [Conference on Information Management](#) organized annually by the Spanish Society for Scientific Documentation and Information ([SEDIC](#)) was held in Madrid, the capital of Spain, on April 27, 28 and 29. The conference took place in the National Library of Spain and the workshops in the Royal Botanical Garden of Madrid. That the program was printed on seed paper already said a lot about the theme of the conference.

The theme of the conferences was sustainability in libraries, archives and museums, and it was held in person after having been canceled on several occasions due to the COVID pandemic. With the title of the conference *Sustainability and the Environment in Cultural Institutions, are we very green?* SEDIC wanted to emphasize the involvement of libraries, archives and museums in the topic of the climate emergency.



National Library of Spain

At the National Library of Spain, the day of the 28th began with an opening presentation by Mercedes Martín, meteorologist of the Antena3 Television channel. She made us reflect on the importance of data and its conservation for subsequent analysis and research. Petra Hauke, Secretary of IFLA's ENSULIB,

then explained what a green library is and the resources of the IFLA [Environment, Sustainability and Libraries Section](#) to address the SDGs of the 2030 Agenda. Here is the [video](#) of Petra's presentation.

Three round tables were then held: Sustainability in information units, Activism that communicates and Environmental Culture: Appealing to emotions. They focused on the need for information units to launch initiatives that encourage citizen participation, and activities that favor reconnection with nature and environmental commitment. It is necessary to know the communication channels that give voice to local and global groups, opening our spaces to citizen participation. We must promote a change in narrative in which we introduce the climate emergency as part of our discourse and actions. Culture and art are good allies.

There was also an awards section to the conference. [The XVI National SEDIC Award for Quality and Innovation "Carmen Rodríguez Guerrero"](#) went to the Network of Environmental Information and Documentation Centers (RECIDA). The VII SEDIC University Prize was awarded to the most innovative university projects in the field of information and documentation management and the Diploma to the Honorary Member of SEDIC.

As alliances are important for SEDIC, the day at the National Library ended with a presentation by Paul Ronald Pajuelo Aguirre, President of the Association of Librarians of Peru, with whom collaboration agreements will be established.



Royal Botanic Gardens, Madrid

The workshops in the Royal Botanical Garden (April 27 and 29) began with one about Library challenges, conducted by Oskar Hernández, Vice President of SEDIC. In this workshop, the participants put forward proposals to solve four challenges related to sustainability and the environment and having to do with social community, collections, professionals and Spaces. In the afternoon, the guided visit to the Royal Botanical Garden Library was a delight for the attendees.

To close the conference, the following workshops were held: "How to prepare a digital breakout for your institution, without knowing how to program, with your own resources and at zero cost", "Environmental information in times of climate emergency: main sources for documentation professionals" and "Narrative, reading clubs and sustainability".

The commitment to sustainability from the professional associations of libraries, archives and museums must be firm and involve citizens, since we all live on this planet, and it is our obligation to take care of it for the sake of our health and well-being.



Members RECIDA with their SEDIC Award

Spotlight on Green Library Education in Germany

Libraries and Sustainability Online-seminar series: German Libraries Association (dbv)

Jacqueline Breidlid, German Libraries Association

On 30 March 2022 the dbv started a series of online lectures on “libraries and sustainability”. The lectures take place approximately every two months in the year 2022 and will focus on the following three topics:

- Environmental sustainability in libraries
- Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) through libraries
- Sustainability in (cultural) politics

The idea behind the lecture series is to inform interested participants about different aspects of sustainability in libraries, to encourage discussion and to clarify practical questions. In addition, the organisers aim at looking beyond the library field by focusing on the role of sustainability in (cultural) politics.

The first online seminar on March 30th, 2022, focused on how libraries can develop and implement climate strategies. It consisted of a presentation by Dr. Sebastian Brünger from the German Federal Cultural Foundation on the pilot project “[Carbon Footprint in Cultural Institutions](#)”, followed by a presentation by Tim Schumann from the Heinrich-Böll Library, who spoke about how his library had implemented the climate strategy. The seminar showed that libraries can reduce their carbon footprint by taking certain practical measures and that it is indispensable to have the library staff on board when implementing such measures. The video of the seminar and interviews with the speakers are available [here](#).

The second seminar held on the 4th of May 2022 focused on library buildings. The central question was: Is it more sustainable to re-use existing buildings or to build new (environmentally friendly) buildings? The panel of experts included Stefan Schlicht, architect at Schlicht Lamprecht Architekten, Jochen Usinger, architect at UKW Innenarchitekten, Maria Bedas-Rätsch from the City Library of Mannheim, Bianca Grübbel from the Reasl Estate Management of the city of Mannheim, as well as Olaf

Eigenbrodt from the State and University Library Hamburg. While Mr Schlicht and Mr Usinger presented the advantages of re-using existing buildings and showcased practical examples, Ms Bedas-Rätsch and Ms Grübbel presented the plans for the new building of the City Library of Mannheim. Mr Eigenbrodt summarised the different perspectives and provided some final food for thought. The video of the seminar and interviews with the speakers are available [here](#).

The next two seminars on May 18th and on June 8th focused on funding opportunities for libraries in the field of environmental sustainability, as well as on best-practice examples for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) through libraries, respectively. For information about future seminars, please check the dbv-website at www.bibliotheksverband.de. The seminars are held in German.

Library trainees as future thinkers! Multi-day workshop on "Green Library" in Berlin

Janet Wagner, Freie Universität Berlin, German Library Network

Premiere in Berlin: the public district libraries of Berlin Mitte and Berlin Pankow enabled their trainees to participate in a workshop on "Green Library". Janet Wagner from the Green Library Network, herself a FaMI, trainer and current graduate of the master's program "Education-Sustainability-Transformation" facilitated the workshop and set the thematic focus. The topics were: Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), the 2030 Agenda and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), best practice examples in Berlin, and current Berlin position papers for education, library development and the Berlin Energy and Climate Protection Program (BEK 2030) .

The profession of "Specialist for Media and Information Services" has existed since 1998. Since then, the training has not been updated to reflect the profession. The reasons for this are complex, a dilemma for the next generation of professionals!

It is more important than ever to keep the practical training in the libraries up-to-date and to convey content, knowledge and motivation, to position libraries as actors for climate and resource protection.

The "Green Library": in January 2022, the IFLA ENSULIB updated the characteristics of a green library. This was a good starting point to for the workshop content.

To encourage collaboration, a comprehensive padlet was provided. This included workshop content and goals, a collection of links and tasks. In and a topic table with material on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

Beforehand, the trainees were given a preparatory task. The presentation of the results in the plenum was left open, allowing for a variety of presentation approaches. All trainees were well prepared and gave insights into the topics. These included: Berlin Energy and Climate Protection Program 2030; Agenda 2030 and libraries; guidelines for sustainability; international examples from the "Library map of the world"; definition of the "Green Library"; best practice examples in Berlin libraries; the "Singapore Central Public Library" as the greenest library in the world; sustainability in figures and the "Library of Things". Critical in adding to the discussion were the short presentations which gave a good introduction to the topic. From these it became evident that the individuals presenting all perceived libraries to be key actors for climate and environmental protection.

A first step has been taken! A chance conversation with Stefan Rogge, head of the

Berlin-Mitte municipal libraries, led him to immediately sign the Libraries4Future principles. In the final round, Janet Wagner asked the specific question, "What do you take with you as an idea when you're back in your training library on Monday?" All trainees named their ideas but were at the same time cautious about implementing them due to the time and space required.



Participants and Janet Wagner (right)

During the three days, there were many practical examples, time for critical exchange and commitment from the training management that future the trainees should pursue the topic "green library" during their practical learning.

The opportunities presented by intensive workshop days remain exciting, but how sustainable area they? Janet Wagner plans to follow up in the autumn/winter of 2022. The connection to the public libraries in Berlin stands...and will be further developed!

Green, Sustainable Libraries and Projects

Australia

Australian Libraries: working towards a better more sustainable future

Anne Reddacliff & Katalin Mindum, ALIA Sustainable Libraries (SIG)

The ALIA Sustainable Libraries (ALIAGreen) SIG was formed in 2010 and launched its “Green Libraries Guide” at the ALIA Access Conference that year. The group started with a small core of people passionate about sustainable libraries, who worked to inform libraries and individual librarians on greening libraries news, project and resources and maintained an active Facebook and Twitter presence. Interest and involvement have grown over the years, especially recently, and in mid-2020 ALIAGreen started publishing a monthly blog aligned with the ALIA SDG-aligned motto “think global, act local”. The blog promotes sustainable library practices and well as individual actions.

At a national level ALIA has engaged in several projects in recognition of the danger that climate change poses to Australian libraries and the communities they serve. These include, the ALIA Board Statement on Climate Change, which pledges that ALIA will be carbon neutral by 2030 and committing ALIA to minimizing its environmental impact and maximising its use of sustainable resources. ALIA’s International Relations Advisory Committee (IRAC) has published stretch targets to assist the library and information sector to align with the SDGs for literacy, open access, copyright reform, access to services, cultural respect, climate change, wellbeing, diversity, learning and international engagement by 2030. Many Australian Libraries are actively working towards achieving these, and ALIA with ALIAGreen will work to ensure that libraries are supported and on track to succeed.

At the same time many Australian libraries have been working on exciting projects as they increasingly work towards “greening up”. Although there has been little

coordination across the Australian libraries, there has been much activity by individual libraries and library networks with sustainability projects a of varying sizes being undertaken. Some libraries have guided their staff towards small individual actions such as using keep-cups and reusable crockery. Others have been working a larger scale, encouraging sustainable catering for events, recycling weeded books through the James Bennet Sustainability Project, recycling electronics (including DVD/CDs), repurposing furniture. Some libraries maintain community gardens, and a few have seed libraries which their members can access. Many public libraries also run climate change and sustainability awareness education programs and engage with their communities on a range of related projects. There has also been a strong move toward green renovations and sustainable building projects across most library sectors, with additions of solar panels, water tanks, passive heating and cooling, double glazed windows and use of low VOC paints just to name a few.

ALIA's [Greening Libraries Research Report](#), released in early 2022, showcases a number of these activities and will provide support for libraries looking to become more sustainable. The report aims to highlight examples of best practice and inform the creation of a toolkit for libraries to help them support environmental action, further the greening libraries movement as well as exemplify sustainability practices that are consistent with United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.



ALIA Greening Libraries Logo

Austria

Lunch Hour @ the Library: New online lecture series launched in Austria

Katharina Portugal, Communication and Publications, Austrian Library Association

The Austrian Library Association (BVÖ) is an umbrella organisation representing the interests of Austrian Public Libraries. The Association of Austrian Librarians (VÖB) represents the academic librarians. But BVÖ and VÖB not only share the same letters. Both offer services, information and training opportunities related to public and academic librarianship. The joint network, which spans the entire country of Austria, also particularly promotes young professionals in the library field.



Graphic of the online lecture series "Lunch Hour @ the Library"

Together, the online lecture series "Lunch Hour @ the Library" has been launched. The lectures are in German, can be listened to live, with the option of asking questions via chat. However, they will also be recorded and made available Open Access afterwards.

The first event on June 22 focuses on the topic of sustainability, which Debora Messerli has explored in depth in her 2021 bachelor thesis. She has developed a comprehensive catalog of measures to implement the 2030 Agenda in public and academic libraries.

In her lecture, Debora Messerli will present her scientific approach, give an overview of sustainable library initiatives and present examples from public and academic libraries in more detail.

The planned 2022 dates for Lunch Hour @ the Library are as follows:

- June 22, 2022 (1 to 2 p.m.) on sustainability
- October 19, 2022 (1 to 2 p.m.) on the VUCA concept
- November 30, 2022 (1 to 2 p.m.) on accessibility

Czech Republic

2021 – The first year of The Sustainability in Libraries Initiative

Ondřej Hudeček, Sustainability in Libraries Initiative

In the beginning, there were a few people interested in sustainability issues that were lucky enough to meet UN Prague Information Officer Michal Broža. At the very first meeting, we agreed that libraries by definition, contribute to SDGs and that there are opportunities to widen and deepen their impact. We therefore conducted a survey, where more than 300 libraries of all kinds responded. The survey confirmed our hypothesis that librarians are not aware of their contribution and not equipped enough to bring sustainability issues to their libraries and users given its complexity. At that time sustainability was not considered to be an issue libraries should tackle. That changed!



A Sustainability in Libraries meeting

Online webinars

Based on the insights we got from the survey we released a yearlong programme, unique in Czech librarianship. Group of librarians of various kinds from different regions and backgrounds together went through a series of expert education, practical discussions, and workshops to become pioneers of SDGs in libraries. We gained official auspices from not only librarian associations but also from ministries, UN Office in Prague (Michal Broža still plays an active role in the team) and Czech Commission for UNESCO. Sustainability was appointed to be the 2021 main communication topic for libraries and the new Library Development Strategy 2021-2027 – national strategic plan – was grounded in the Strategic Framework Czech Republic 2030 and linked to SDGs.



Workshop attendees

Knowledge base for libraries

With the budget covering just the costs of workshop lectures, investing hundreds of hours of voluntary work, we managed to build a solid foundation for the SDGs becoming an integral part of the Czech librarianship. Besides a few dozen pioneers, [more than 200 libraries got involved](#). Expert talk recordings were made, we produced a comprehensive knowledge base, established communication channels and collaborations. In 2022 we will add library-tested tools and best practices.

Finland

Bringing environmental awareness of public libraries to the 2020s in Finland

Harri Sahavirta, Project Lead

Bringing environmental awareness of public libraries to the 2020s was a Finnish national project, which focused on the environmental awareness of libraries. The project was the largest research, education, and development project in the library sector on this subject so far and funded by the Ministry of Culture and Education. The project was led by Helsinki City Library but in addition 7 city libraries across the country participated. During the project, new information was obtained through a survey and carbon footprint measurements of libraries. Also, the project outlined what is meant by the carbon handprint of libraries and how libraries can meet the UN SDGs. In addition, three webinars on environmental issues were organized and Green Library pages and social media groups were established.

The project objectives were to map the development of public libraries' environmental awareness, to gather information on the library best practices, to develop new environmental measures suitable for library work, and to organise nationwide training on to reflect the findings.

In line with these objectives, a public libraries environment network was also created as a platform for discussion, peer support and sharing of best practices.

The project started with the calculation of library carbon footprint – this was the first carbon footprint calculation carried out jointly by an expert and the participating libraries. Thirteen libraries of different sizes from different parts of Finland participated in the carbon measurements in autumn 2020. The work consisted of data collection and four workshops, and consultation sessions were arranged to support the work. The carbon footprint measurements were limited to the energy consumption of the premises, waste, material transport, mode of staff travel to and from work, as well as material and other purchases. Only paper and ebooks were considered within the materials category.

Thereafter the carbon footprint was calculated for the participating libraries. The emissions of the entire Finnish library sector were also estimated on the basis of the data received from the participating libraries in proportion to all Finnish public libraries. With this calculation method, the carbon footprint of Finnish public libraries is 32,000 tCO₂e, which corresponds to the annual emissions of approximately 3,100 average Finns. When considering the carbon footprint of public libraries, it is significant to note that the emissions from library operations are relatively low. Material purchases account for only 5.6% of emissions, and material

transport, or logistics, accounts for 6.4%. This is only 12% of total library emissions.

The carbon footprint measurements showed that the climate emissions of Finnish public libraries are quite moderate and consist largely of emissions from buildings and electricity consumption. These are emissions which libraries themselves cannot influence to a great extent.

The survey aimed at defining the present state of Finnish public libraries' environmental work and attitude towards it. The survey showed the recent and significant leap in environmental work at these libraries compared to a survey conducted in 2012.

The results of the survey showed that increasing numbers of public libraries have an environmental program or environmental objectives. In some cases these are defined by the library itself but quite often the library has adopted a program or objectives from its municipality, or more general ones (like the SDGs). This has been influenced by the change in opinion in society: countries, cities, towns, and municipalities are committed to enhanced environmental and climate agreements and targets. This has meant that libraries no longer do environmental work alone, but in cooperation with others. However, more cooperation is still needed, since the main obstacle to the environmental work of libraries is still seen to be old buildings and

outdated technology, the replacement of which is decided elsewhere. This was confirmed by the carbon footprint calculations.

However, another significant change in the environmental work of libraries is that sustainable development no-longer only means the energy consumption of library buildings or saving paper and recycling waste. Alongside the principles of green buildings and the green office, new concepts have emerged, such as the carbon handprint and the circular and sharing economy. Libraries' environmental work now focuses more on what kind of library services we provide and their environmental impacts. With the SDGs, the social aspect has also become more important.

The survey also included questions about the future trends and themes which are regarded as significant for public libraries. To everyone's surprise, the result revealed that libraries perceive technological development, demographic change and the economy as the main drivers of change, while environmental factors lag behind. The result seemed to undervalue environmental values; therefore another survey was undertaken with a focus on values. It did not address the drivers of change, instead asking about but the core values of public libraries. According to this value survey, libraries value the social aspect of sustainable development, such as equality, the most, although environmental factors are

valued more than technical and economic values.

It also became apparent that libraries are not fully aware of all aspects of sustainability, like the circular and sharing economy. Although libraries have traditionally circulated their materials and offer shared facilities and equipment to customers, the circular and sharing economy is not seen as a fundamental pillar of library environmental work and was valued less than environmental or social sustainability.

The value survey also touched on the question of whether public libraries should curate their collections – the alternative being that libraries provide environmental information and disinformation on an equal footing. According to the survey, the accessibility and reliability of materials, as well as non-discrimination and democratic values, are leading values of library staff. This could be interpreted as libraries being expected to provide reliable information for everyone. However, this is less clear when considering that all respondents also considered freedom of expression to be important a value, and 70% of the respondents also included tolerance among the most important values. In this respect the survey just opened the discussion.

It is planned that the calculation of library carbon footprint will continue with new project. This will allow an assessment of whether the any changes have occurred

since 2020. Work on the SDGs should also be continued and deepened. In addition, the carbon handprint of libraries still requires modelling and subsequent customer education and involvement. A link to the English summary of the project report can be [found here](#).

Germany

Let's meet online! Idea-Café events organized by the German Green Library Network

Janet Wagner, Freie Universität Berlin, German Library Network

The Green Library Network promotes networking, information, and exchange between libraries and with other cultural and educational institutions.

It is important to us to find out which topics are important and what concrete steps are being taken by libraries on resource protection and climate justice. There are many collaborations between local partners and libraries that can be inspiring for other libraries.

Our network actively and permanently researches examples: in the areas of social media, specialist library literature, video portals and not least in personal exchange.

We regularly present national and international [examples in social media](#).



Facebook post May 2021

The first ideas exchange took place at the end of June 2020. Without a concrete topic, we first wanted to find out what level of interest there was and what thematic wishes participants had for further meetings.

By the second meeting in October 2020, members were making short presentations on work being done towards sustainability. Two participants reported on sustainability teams at their libraries. Tim Schumann provided exciting insights into projects starting at the Heinrich Böll public library in Berlin and cooperation with possible partners. Local associations of libraries in a federal state are an effective step towards setting common priorities. Patricia Fasheh and Susanne Brandt reported on a joint meeting with libraries from Schleswig-

Holstein (a federal state in the north of Germany)

The participants in the Ideas Café came from public and academic libraries. This mix made the subsequent discussion, which always follows the short presentations, very valuable.

In 2021, we set the dates and topics in advance. Through suggestions from the past idea cafés and from the network members' own ideas, the following three online events were planned:

- Mask, distance, outside: outdoor offers of libraries?
- Education for sustainable development in anthrough libraries.
- Green IT in libraries? Sensible re-use of IT hardware.

There were over 100 registrations for the well-attended first event. In the lead-up, Beate Hörning provided [a useful compilation](#) of national and international examples in an extract from the "Bibliography Green Library" maintained by the network:

It was very exciting to learn how many creative outdoor offerings libraries have developed and implemented. Most inspiring were the examples of where and how readings, workshops or guided tours can be held outside library physical spaces, at a distance and under applicable hygiene regulations. Many libraries have also

successfully transferred read-aloud sessions, craft afternoons or picture book cinemas into online formats during the lockdown months.

Outlook 2022

The last two years have been challenging for libraries worldwide. The topics of sustainability, environmental protection, resource conservation, and health in the workplace are broad fields in their own right, and it is not always easy to find examples in one's own library. The Green Library Network's idea cafés are intended to encourage and facilitate the exchange of experience, mutual motivation and joint reflection, and to strengthen libraries in their role as actors for sustainability.

In the meantime, the German-language Ideas Café has become very popular among librarians. Regular invitations in library mailing lists and via social media are often answered by new participants, but there are also many "repeat offenders" who are regular participants. Although many librarians attend the meetings in their spare time, we see a lot of enthusiasm and a spirit of optimism. At the end of an idea café, there is almost always a 'wow!' feeling about what libraries are already doing in the area of sustainability and also about how much potential libraries still have there.

There are already meeting dates planned for 2022 in February, June and autumn.

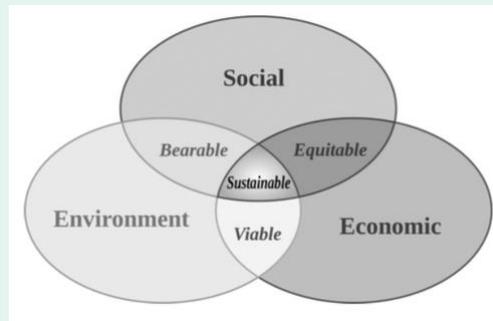
Indonesia

Green Library Concept at the National Library of Republic Indonesia for Sustainable Development

Dwi Indah Perwati, National Library of Republic Indonesia

Environmental issues have become popular in recent decades. Currently the building sector consumes 40 percent of total global energy. It is predicted that by 2040, the world's total energy consumption for buildings will increase by 80 percent. One way to reduce carbon dioxide emissions in buildings is to apply the concept of green building. The concept of green building has been widely applied to public buildings, including library buildings. In libraries, the concept of green building is important to implement. Not only in relation to buildings—there are other aspects in the field of librarianship that are applied to the green concept, so it is called a green library.

¹ American Library Association, Social Responsibilities Round Table, n.d..



Relationship of the Elements in Sustainable Development

IFLA (2018) states that libraries have consequences in the role of humanity in climate change and the idea of sustainable development. The American Library Association (ALA) in its Report on Libraries Build Sustainable Communities ¹ discussed green libraries. ALA offers concrete suggestions on how libraries can support sustainable development efforts. The report states that the three fundamental elements of sustainable development are economic, environmental and social (Figure 1).

When viewed from the efforts towards environmental sustainability, the green library concept can meet the Sustainable Development Goals Number: (3) Good Health and Well-Being; (7) Affordable and Clean Energy.; (8) Decent Work and Economic Growth.; (9) Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure; (11) Sustainable Cities

[The Dynamics of Sustainable Communities. Economy, Ecology, and Equity.](#)

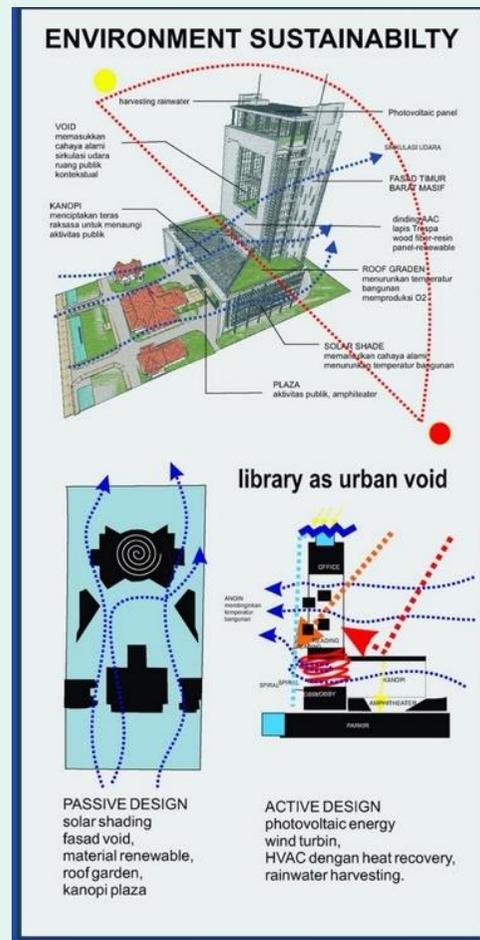
and Communities; (12) Responsible Consumption and Production; (13) Climate Action.; (15) Life on Land.; (17) Partnership for the Goals.

The National Library of the Republic of Indonesia as a non-ministerial government institution that carries out government duties in the field of librarianship which functions as a foster library, reference library, deposit library, research library, preservation library, and library network centre. To fulfill these duties and responsibilities, on 15th of September, 2017, Indonesian President, Joko Widodo inaugurated a service facility building that has Information and Communication Technology (ICT)-based facilities equipped with a collection data centre with Tier 3 technology and telelift (automatic book transportation system), exhibition hall, theatre, hall with a capacity of 1,000 seats, teleconference room, and discussion rooms. In fact, the entire collection management on each floor uses radiofrequency identification (RFID). With these various facilities, the National Library of Indonesia becomes a representative in terms of service and access to collections, but on the other hand it results in additional energy use.

Supporting sustainable development from the environmental aspect, the National Library of Indonesia Service Building facility

adopts the green building concept (Figure 2.). The green building concept has received a performance assessment from GBCI. Based on research by Dwi Indah Perwati (2019), she concludes that conceptually the design of the National Library of Indonesia Service Building fulfills some of the prerequisites for each GREENSHIP category from GBCI. For the implementation of the Green Library concept identified using the green library checklist, the National Library of Indonesia Service Building got 39 points out of 58 maximum points.

In libraries, the concept of green building is important to implement, because the library building as a learning centre, the library must be a place where people can learn more about sustainable development, both in philosophy and practice. Libraries have a role in transforming library buildings into buildings that represent efficient use of energy; environmentally friendly; healthy; comfortable; and a place of production to live, work, study, and conduct research. In addition to being a centre for teaching and learning, the library also provides an example for communities who want to study sustainable development.



Green Building Concept at National Library of Republic of Indonesia

Japan

Libraries and the UN SDGs: IFLA supporting libraries to achieve the SDGs

Ikuoko Shiraishi, National Diet Library

The National Diet Library recently held a webinar entitled Libraries and the UN SDGs: IFLA supporting libraries to achieve the SDGs, in which IFLA President Barbara Lison talked about the IFLA strategy, examples of initiatives taken by libraries in some countries, and international cooperation from the perspective of achieving the SDGs.

A video of the webinar is now available [on the NDL's YouTube channel](#).

I hope this video will help illustrate how libraries can achieve SDGs.



The National Diet Library webinar

Slovenia

Green Literacy

Kata Laštro, Brina Zabukovnik Jerič

The educational project under the name 'Zelena pismenost' (Green literacy) is aimed at preserving cultural heritage, natural (herbal) heritage, and language.

Collaboration between Kata Laštro, the project's author, and Knjižnica Velenje (City Library Velenje) began in 2014.

The project's goal is to connect people to nature and create a caring culture leading to green literacy – literacy for life – by combining plants and alphabet letters.

First readers and children's primers are among some of the most read books in the world, enjoyed by people on all continents. They are a way for both children and adults to learn first words and concepts, mostly taken from our surroundings. Through them they gradually master literacy, which is the foundation for our continued success in this material world. In most of these books the letters are represented by a physical object. Very few of the books have green covers and there are no letters that are brightly coloured or decorated with flowers.

The project's author envisioned new green alphabets: herbal alphabet, bees' floral alphabet, herbal magic alphabet, floral alphabet for the soul, gnomes' wacky green alphabet, where all the letters are associated with something from the world of plants.

Readers of all ages can enjoy her work in the form of books for original green first readers: *Zeliščna abeceda*, *Čebelja cvetna abeceda*, *Zeliščarica Kunigunda in rastline iz davnine*, *Moje prvo zeleno berilo*, *Cvetna abeceda za dušo po kapljicah*, *Dežela Škratovnja in zelena zmešana abeceda*, are part of the 'Zelena nit' collection, published by Narava, Kranj.

The books encourage reading culture and literacy through a simple and innovative approach. The flower art can be understood and recognized despite the text being written in Slovenian language. Having seen these plants in the books, readers can easily spot them in nature and create alphabets in their native language.

Together with seven other public libraries we recommend this reading to our younger readers and school children in the first four grades of school as part of *Pikina bralna značka* (Pika's reading badge) project.

Each year Zelena pismenost holds around 20 green literacy events. Since 2014 we have organized nearly 250 different events: fairs, homegrown seed exchanges, herb-focused nature hikes, study circles, photography exhibitions, displays of illustrations from the books, displays of unique products made from natural ingredients, hosting writers from other countries, local cultural creators, different clubs and organisations, fairy tales, creative workshops, celebrations of important events on the ecological calendar, screenings of 'Zeliščarica' documentary, puppet shows, book exhibits, herbalism workshops, and introductions of notable beekeepers. The list of institutions and individuals interested in working with and supporting the project grows longer every day.

As of 2017, the project has been expanded and renamed to 'Zelena knjižnica za zeleno pismenost' (Green library for green literacy). This was first introduced to the public in September 2017 at the 1. Zeleni festival (1st Green festival) in Zagreb (Croatia), and on July 2, 2021 at the 2. Zeleni festival (2nd Green festival) in Karlovac (Croatia).

With 'green-minded' information we are paving the way to a kinder culture,

encouraging the individual and society to form new ways of connecting.



An illustrated letter from the green alphabet

In time this project has become an important part of the green story of the City Library Velenje, shaping green stories for people of our time and those that come after us.

United States of America

Clarkson University Libraries First Academic Library to Complete Sustainable Libraries Certification Program

Michelle L. Young, MLS, Clarkson University Libraries

[Clarkson University Libraries](#) just became the first Academic Library to complete the Sustainable Libraries' Initiative rigorous certification program. The Academic Certification Program encourages collaboration with other campus sustainability efforts and reaches beyond the university to establish the university library as a resource and leader in the resilience of the broader community.

“Participating in a variety of University committees over the past several years has helped us to position Clarkson University Libraries as a vital agency in the campus sustainability mission. We know that environmental sustainability is at the core of Clarkson’s operations. The University has consistently earned Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education’s Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (AASHE STARS) gold

ratings. Our Libraries’ Mission says: “Consider issues of sustainability in all of our practices.” The way we see it, this declaration sets the tone for all faculty and staff to align their decisions, large and small, as they fit in with environmental best practices, consideration of social equity, and fiscal responsibility,” says Dean of Libraries Michelle Young.

With all facilities on campus working together to reduce waste and finding ways to recycle as much as possible, there is a collaborative and transformational view of sustainability that fosters new ideas. Newly renovated spaces on campus including the libraries have Energy Star-rated computers and appliances, energy-efficient LED lighting and HVAC systems, and low-flow bathroom fixtures. Clarkson University uses the Siemens Tracking System to compile and monitor energy use throughout the campus. There is a 12-acre, 2-megawatt solar field to generate clean energy for the campus.

The libraries purchase paper products with attention to getting the highest recycled content possible and prohibit Styrofoam products. Reusable utensils and dishware are used in the libraries’ kitchen. In addition to environmental sustainability, Clarkson University Libraries’ commitment to fiscal responsibility, community engagement, and social wellbeing are essential to meet the full triple bottom line definition used by the SLCP. Both within the library and throughout the campus, there is a stated commitment to

equity, diversity, and inclusion. This has been shown in actions such as creating and publicizing an anti-discrimination reading list, expanding our worldview, which includes a reading list and multimedia resources to help students to consider new perspectives and challenge themselves to find a broader context in understanding the experiences of others.



Clarkson University Libraries

Recent renovations of the Clarkson University Libraries space have sharpened the focus on their physical space and storage. Creating more study and small group space that is publicly accessible has led to a reduction in storage of 1.25 miles of print journals. With more archives available electronically, the library has maintained access to most of these holdings without the need for physical space. The finite space for print materials is both a challenge and an advantage. The libraries' willingness to try an innovative open floor plan earned them respect from the faculty, colleagues, and university administration and helped to

promote the library as a modern institution on campus. The challenge of holding limited print resources has led to marketing and outreach efforts that seek to redefine library services to their campus community. The libraries participate in campus events that are centred around sustainability. In collaboration with the Institute for a Sustainable Environment, they are planning an Earth Day celebration this year.

The Sustainable Libraries Initiative will continue to pilot its Academic Library Certification Program with a full nationwide rollout of the program anticipated later this year. To learn more about the Sustainable Libraries Initiative, [click here](#).

This program has been recognized by the International Federation of Library Associations at their 2019 World Congress in Athens, Greece, becoming the first program in the United States to be honoured through their "Green Libraries" Award.

As a private, national research university, Clarkson <http://clarkson.edu> is a leader in technological education and sustainable economic development through teaching, scholarship, research and innovation. We ignite personal connections across academic fields and industries to create the entrepreneurial mindset, knowledge and intellectual curiosity needed to innovate world-relevant solutions and cultivate the leaders of tomorrow. With its main campus located in Potsdam, N.Y., and additional

graduate program and research facilities in the New York Capital Region, Beacon, N.Y., and New York City, Clarkson educates 4,800 students across 90+ rigorous programs of study in engineering, business, the arts, education, sciences and health professions. Our alumni earn salaries that are among the top 2% in the nation and realize accelerated career growth. One in five already leads as a CEO, senior executive or owner of a company.

International Days Observed by the United Nations

July–December

July

11 World Population Day

15 World Youth Skills Day

30 World Day Against Trafficking in Persons

August

09 International Day of the World's
Indigenous Peoples

12 International Youth Day

19 World Humanitarian Day

29 International Day Against Nuclear Tests

September

05 International Day of Charity

07 International Day of Clean Air for Blue
Skies

08 International Literacy Day (UNESCO)

09 International Day to Protect Education
from Attack

16 International Day for the Preservation of
the Ozone Layer

18 International Equal Pay Day

21 International Day of Peace

26 International Day for the Total Elimination
of Nuclear Weapons

28 International Day for Universal Access to
Information

29 International Day of Awareness of Food
Loss and Waste

October

04 World Habitat Day

05 World Teachers Day

08 World Migratory Bird Day

11 International Day of the Girl Child

15 International Day for Rural Women

16 World food day

24 World Development Information Day

November

06 World Day for Preventing the Exploitation
of the Environment in War and Armed
Conflict

10 World Science Day for Peace and
Development

20 World Children's Day

25 International Day for the Elimination of
Violence Against Women

December

02 International Day for the Abolition of
Slavery

05 International Volunteer Day for Economic
and Social Development

05 World Soil Day

10 Human Rights Day

20 International Human Solidarity Day

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