



# The Mission of the Public Library of Today

## What's new in the Public Library Manifesto

The newly launched 2022 update to the IFLA-UNESCO Public Library Manifesto re-examines the role of the public library – expanding on previous versions to more thoroughly reflect the ways libraries serve their communities today.

Below you will find an overview of some key additions that can be found in the updated Manifesto.

### Sustainable Development

The updated Manifesto upholds that libraries contribute to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. The updated text links key aspects of the mission of libraries in areas relating to information, literacy, education, and culture to the construction of more equitable, humane, and sustainable societies

### Libraries in Knowledge Societies

The ways in which people access and use information have evolved. The updated Manifesto reflects the public library's role in enabling knowledge societies through helping all members of society access, produce, create, and share knowledge.

The update stresses that libraries underpin healthy knowledge societies through providing access to and enabling the creation and sharing of knowledge of all sorts, including scientific and local knowledge without commercial, technological or legal barriers.

This includes an increased focus on remote and digital access to information and materials, as well as mention of legal matters related to access in the digital era. It also highlights access to the competencies and connectivity required to bridge the digital divide. As such, the mission of libraries was expanded to include the development of media and information literacy and digital skills in the spirit of equipping informed, democratic societies.



# The Evolving Mission of Public Libraries Today

Previous Versions	The Update
Stimulating the imagination and creativity of children and young people.	Providing opportunities for personal creative development, and <b>stimulating imagination, creativity, curiosity, and empathy</b>
Creating and strengthening reading habits in children from an early age;	Creating and strengthening reading habits in children from <b>birth to adulthood</b>
Access to information and material	Providing services both in-person and remotely through <b>digital technologies</b>
Awareness of cultural heritage, appreciation of the arts, scientific achievements	Preservation of and access to cultural expressions and heritage, appreciation of the arts, scientific achievements, research and innovations, both <b>traditional and digital</b>
Ensuring access to all sorts of community information	Ensuring access to community information and opportunities for <b>community organising</b>
Ensuring inclusivity, especially relating to marginalised communities	Preservation of, and access to local and Indigenous data, knowledge, and heritage in an environment in which the community can take an <b>active role in decision-making</b>
Awareness of scientific achievements	Access to scientific knowledge, <b>research and health information</b> and enabling <b>participation</b> in scientific progress.
Facilitating the development of information and computer literacy skills	Initiating, supporting and participating in literacy activities and programmes to <b>build reading and writing skills</b> , and facilitating the development of <b>media and information literacy and digital literacy</b> skills for all people

