

## Libraries Inspiring Young People toward Sustainable Futures: A Danish Example

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### Abstract:

*There is no doubt that libraries explore new paths and develop. We do that every day – and we must keep doing that. New types of materials and media enter our collections. Thirty-four so called Sustainability Kits are from now on a part of the collection at The Odense Libraries. The premise is "Why buy and own if you can share and loan?" Our wish was to challenge what you can loan at a public library! We wished to combine knowledge and creativity. The Kits are theme-based and intended to be a source of inspiration in everyday life while offering the possibility to try, learn something new or just test for fun.*

*This is a new perspective on sharing economy, where you do not just buy and dispose, but try things first – e.g., by borrowing a juicer and make juice from the apples in your garden – Now it is possible to borrow the juicer at the local public library and try it, before investing in one permanently. In the Kit you'll find the juicer as well as books on various kinds of apples, how to trim and care for your apple trees etc.*

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Focus on sustainability is increasing in the libraries, also at eyelevel with children and young adults – and of course on WLIC and its Children and Young Adults Section.

In the Children and Young Adults IFLA Committee, in which I am an elected member, we work on e.g., guidelines and projects and talks and meetings at the large library conferences to exchange ideas and best practice on general library development and to ensure continued development in single countries as well.

At the WLIC in Dublin our section was invited to join a shared session on the topic of sustainability. We already have our focus on sustainability, but mostly in the scope of more traditional communication and information at the library. Now we got the chance to present sustainability initiatives in an international context with presentations from six different countries. I participated with a presentation on how the library users at The Odense Libraries can borrow “Sustainability Kits.”

### Climate Action in Libraries: Creating a More Sustainable Future by Engaging and Inspiring Youth

There is no doubt that libraries explore new paths and develop. We do that every day – and we must keep doing that. New types of materials and media enter our collections. Thirty-four so called Sustainability Kits are from now on a part of the collection at The Odense Libraries. The premise is” Why buy and own if you can share and loan?”

The libraries have practiced sharing economy long before it was even a known word in the Danish dictionary. On this note The Odense Libraries received financial support from The Environmental Protection Agency in Denmark to develop a sustainable library concept. Our wish was to challenge what you can loan at a public library! We wished to combine knowledge and creativity. The Kits are theme-based and intended to be a source of inspiration in everyday life while offering the possibility to try, learn something new or just test for fun. Some Kits can be used by a single person, e.g., the Fishing Kit and the DIY Kit, while other Kits require more participants, e.g., the different Board game Kits.

This is a new perspective on sharing economy, where you do not just buy and dispose, but try things first – e.g., by borrowing a juicer and make juice from the apples in your garden – something many people consider as the apples must be used while they are still good. Now it is possible to borrow the juicer at the local public library and try it, before investing in one permanently. In the Kit you’ll find the juicer as well as books on various kinds of apples, how to trim and care for your apple trees etc.

A Kit for the more festive situations is the Party Kit that includes drinks recipes, coloured lamps, a popcorn machine etc. This idea was well received in Dublin by a University Library. Every year at the end of a semester, teachers throw out party equipment and accessories. After the Dublin Congress it will be possible to loan Party Kits to ensure a more sustainable approach.