



IFLA Section
Environment,
Sustainability and Libraries

ENSULIB Newsletter



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Message from the Chair



At the turn of the year, it is customary to look at the past and the future. We ENSULIB officers were faced with this task when filling out the IFLA Standing Committee review form. IFLA sections are evaluated from time to time to ensure that all divisions are active and necessary. It may be that the state of the environment is serious, but the situation in our section is stable. As far as ENSULIB is concerned, we consider that the greatest challenge for the future is that we cannot meet all the challenges: the importance of sustainability has increased year by year and will continue to be an increasingly central part of the work of all libraries. I thought this would be good news but after rethinking the issue...in an ideal world, there would not be need for a section advocating sustainability.

At the same time, it has to be said that another year filled with manifold activities is behind us. IFLA Green Library Award winners were announced in October, in Barcelona: in Culture, Knowledge and Community Conference, which this year partially replaced the IFLA WLIC conference. In this newsletter we can learn more about both the conference and the award winners: The best green library (Missoula Public Library USA) and the best project: UCD Library, James Joyce Building (Ireland).

From the very beginning, the IFLA Green Library Award competition has been characterised by extensive geographical diversity: around 50 submissions have been received annually from all continents, but the group of volunteer evaluators also reflects this diversity, from LIS students to architects. And finally, our newsletter will, I hope, broadly reflect this diversity, as it will include not only European contributions, but also articles from Iran, China, Indonesia, Hong Kong SAR, Macao SAR and Australia.

Quite many submissions focus on outreach and communicative projects, such as seed libraries, workshops for children and adults—held at libraries, in nature, or within communities. However, some submissions relate to sustainable building, including one focusing on library furniture recycling, or describe professional seminars and symposia. These contributions present various universities and Goethe-Institutes (around the world) but also public libraries are included. I hope you will enjoy these contributions.

Past year's activities also include our book project and the IFLA Green Library Guidelines, both of which are scheduled to be completed in 2025. Naturally, we will also continue our webinar series and newsletter. While we look ahead to IFLA WLIC 2025, Astana, Kazakhstan. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our active members who have made all these activities possible. At the same time, I hope readers will find this newsletter interesting and follow our section also in the future

Harri Sahavirta, Chair of ENSULIB Standing Committee

About the Editorial Committee

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Green library conferences and seminars around the world

Spain - Report on the international library conference “Culture, Knowledge and Community: International Meeting of Libraries” from October 6 to 9, 2024 in Barcelona

The International Library Conference took place at the Industrial School of the Barcelona Provincial Council from October 6 to 9, 2024. The event was organized by seven [IFLA](#) sections and the [Ministry of Culture](#) of Spain, the [Generalitat of Catalonia](#), the [Barcelona Provincial Council](#), and [Municipal Library Network of the province of Barcelona](#), with the support of Spanish Federation of Archival, Library, Documentation, and Museum Societies ([FESABID](#)). The seven involved sections are: [Public Libraries](#),

[Metropolitan Libraries](#), [Library Buildings and Equipment](#), [Rare Books and Special Collections](#), [Art Libraries](#), [Environment, Sustainability and Libraries](#), and the [Europe Regional Division](#).

The main topics addressed included the role of public libraries in democracy, censorship in heritage collections, strategies for reading, writing, and oral expression, urban planning, sustainability, and climate action. Awards were presented for the “Best Public Library in the World” and the “Best Green Library.” In addition to presentations, roundtable discussions, and workshops, participants visited prominent libraries in Barcelona and Girona. Over 400 attendees from nearly 50 countries participated.



The Auditorium of the Industrial School of Barcelona © Alejandro García.

In the present report, we want to showcase the important events of the Ensulib section.

Ten of our twenty-four Ensulib Standing committee members were able to take part in the conference. At our section's **business meeting**, the status of the section's work was presented and future projects within the framework of the IFLA strategy were discussed. Specifically, reports were given on the planned book publication on ESD (Education for Sustainable Development), the Green Library Guidelines, the planification for the Green Library Award 2025 and ideas for planning the WLIC 2025 in Astana (Kazakhstan) were also collected.



Attendees of the ENSULIB meeting © ENSULIB

The event “**Libraries at the frontlines of Climate Action and Sustainability**” organised by Ensulib included various presentations and a workshop. After a short presentation of the section's work by several SC members, keynote speeches on green library projects were held, which offered insights into the concrete implementation of sustainable initiatives in libraries: Luisiena Shum (Ukraine) reported on the harrowing situation of libraries in Ukraine, the destruction of cultural assets there and the disastrous effects of war on the landscape and nature. In her presentation, Rossana Morriello (Italy) outlined the central role of data information literacy for sustainable development. She affirmed that libraries need to build skills and create services that enable people to understand, measure and thus contribute to the meaningful use of data for sustainable development.

Harri Sahavirta (Finland) presented the environmental program of the Helsinki City Library and green library activities in Macao were presented by Priscilla

Pun (Macao SAR). Thomas Felton used the example of Cleveland (USA) to show impressively how city libraries can be integrated into and promote a strategy for sustainable urban development.



Attendees of the workshop Libraries at the frontlines of Climate Action and Sustainability @Rosario Toril

Ensulib then carried out a workshop in which proposals for mandatory guidelines for green libraries were developed together with the participants. In a World Café, the SC members invited participants to contribute suggestions for guidelines for green libraries in the following areas: Principles of Green Libraries, Planning and Design, Operations and Maintenance, Library Services and Programs, Staff Training and Development, Monitoring and Evaluation, Resources and Tools. The

results will now be elaborated by the Ensulib project team and published soon. The guidelines are intended to provide orientation for libraries and support them in formulating and implementing sustainability strategies.

A special event for our section was the presentation of the **Best Green Library Award**. This annual award recognizes library projects and concepts that focus on ecological and social sustainability in an outstanding way. The award is presented in two categories: “Best Green Library / Grand Scale Project” and “Best Green Library Project”. All initiatives were presented in Pecha kucha format or as a recorded video. Libraries from China (Foshan City, Foshan Library), Ireland (Dublin, UCD Library), Slovenia (Nova Gorica, France Bevk Public Library), Turkey (Ankara, Uşak Banaz Public Library), and Ukraine (Kyiv) were nominated for the “Best Green Library Project” category. In the “Best Green Library/Grand Scale Project” category, there were nominations from Germany (Paderborn, Paderborn City Library), Spain (Salamanca, Biology Library of the University of Salamanca) and the USA (Missoula Public Library).

The winner of this year's award in the “Best Green Library/Grand Scale Project” category is the Missoula Public Library in the USA. According to the judges, this library has taken an innovative approach with “The Keys to a Green Library” concept to incorporate civic initiatives that focus on family development, STEM education and media literacy. The library reaches 23,000 people with 1,000 programs, three quarters of which focus on environmental protection, social sustainability and economic equality. The new building is constructed to sustainable standards, maximizes the use of natural light and integrates indigenous art.

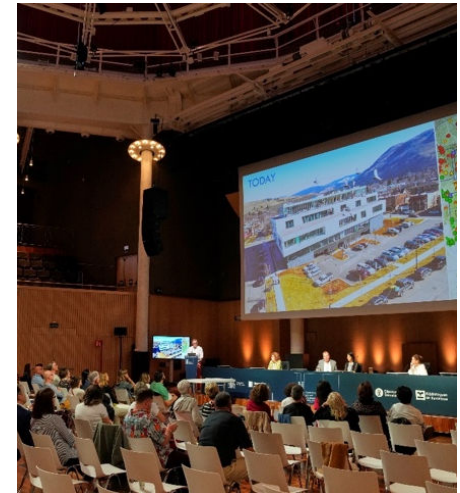
The UCD Library, James Joyce Building Dublin in Ireland was awarded the prize in the “Best Green Library Project” category. The jury cited the fact that the “Beyond the Lifecycle” project specifically supports the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs 4, 8, 10, 12, 13 and 17). The project promotes circular economy by restoring old library furniture and redistributing it to 52 institutions, including educational institutions, community centers, non-governmental

organizations and people with disabilities. This sustainable initiative is praised for its comprehensive approach and positive impact on the community and serves as a model for libraries worldwide. Thanks to all applicants and congratulations to the winners! We hope that these concepts will be inspiring examples for many other libraries around the world.



Presentation of the awards and winners © Alejandro García.

More information about the nominated libraries can be found on the [Ensulib website](#).



Presentation of the awards and winners © Alejandro García

The organized library tours in Barcelona and the Catalonia region were a particular highlight of the supporting program. Among others, the Gabriel Garcia Marquez Library (IFLA Best Library Award 2023), Library of Barcelona, Jaume Fuster Library, Montserrat Abello Library, Pilarin Bayes (Vic), the Girona Public Library and the library of Montserrat were visited.

The [Gabriel García Márquez Library](#) in Barcelona, located in the Poble Nou district, is notable for embracing a **Green Library** concept,

which emphasizes sustainability and environmental responsibility. Opened in 2010, this library is named after the renowned Colombian author Gabriel García Márquez.

The **Green Library** concept focuses on creating an eco-friendly space with energy-efficient design, sustainable materials, and a strong emphasis on minimizing environmental impact. Features of the library include:

- **Energy-efficient systems:** The library is equipped with solar panels and a system that reduces energy consumption.
- **Sustainable building materials:** The structure uses materials that are environmentally friendly, including locally sourced, recycled, and low-emission options.
- **Green spaces:** The library integrates plant life and natural elements, contributing to a calming and sustainable atmosphere.

By incorporating these principles, the Gabriel García Márquez Library serves as a model for modern libraries, promoting both intellectual enrichment and environmental awareness.

The visit of the **Collserola Josep Miracle Library** in the Collserola Nature Park was especially interesting for ENSULIB. The library is worth a visit simply because of its beautiful location close to the forest and its panoramic view of nature. But it was also very inspiring to learn about the work of the dedicated small team! The library offers a varied program focusing on nature and experiencing nature. Thematic reading clubs are offered for both children and adults, and there are changing exhibitions on education for sustainable development, biodiversity and art projects on display in the library.

The library provides a diverse program focusing on nature and nature experience as well as a seed library, which is supplied with seeds from the garden of an expert neighbor. Themed reading clubs are offered for both children and adults. The titles are available for all participants to borrow

and are then made available to reading groups at other locations in the Barcelona library network. There are temporary exhibitions on education for sustainable development, biodiversity and regular art projects.

At the time of our visit, there was an impressive photo exhibition on birds, as well as an original participatory activity: a roll of paper with grass seeds can be inscribed with thoughts, sayings, poems, etc. by visitors. The paper is then sprayed with water so that the grass seeds embedded in it literally make the words grow.

In the lovingly furnished children's area, in addition to the very attractively presented collection, there is an elves' house made of wood and other natural materials, in which little mythical creatures live. School classes and families regularly visit the gnomes and decorate the house together at the start of a new season. There are many opportunities here to talk to children about nature and nature experiences and to be creative. The library maintains close partnerships with schools and also with an institution for people with intellectual disabilities.

This initiative brought together experts and stakeholders to explore the role of libraries as dynamic partners in promoting sustainable practices. The workshop addressed a variety of topics focused on transforming library operations, from eco-friendly building practices and sustainable management strategies to innovative, environmentally-conscious projects and services.

The three-day workshop at the Center for Conferences and Studies at NUL "St. Clement of Ohrid" - Skopje brought also together participants focused on the role of libraries in advancing the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This event specifically targeted members of IFLA's Environmental Sustainability Libraries Special Interest Group (ENSULIB) and the German Green Library Network.

Libraries, as centers of accessible knowledge, play a crucial role in driving social change. They provide communities with essential resources and information on key issues, including climate change and sustainable development, raising

awareness and fostering education around these critical areas.



© NUL "St. Clement of Ohrid" - Skopje

The workshop was led by Professor Petra Hauke, a renowned member of IFLA/ENSULIB, Associate Professor at the Institute of Library and Information Science at Humboldt Universität zu Berlin, and an active member of the German Green Library Network.

Professor Hauke presented core principles of "green libraries" and shared strategies for transitioning towards environmentally sustainable library practices, aligning with EU values on environmental and climate change.



© Center for Conferences and Studies at NUL

Key discussions highlighted the significant impact libraries can have in supporting the UN 2030 Agenda. Libraries were identified as essential for:

1. Providing resources and information on climate change, sustainable development, and social justice to educate communities on global challenges.
2. Promoting inclusion and reducing inequalities by offering digital and physical resources to all, including marginalized groups.

3. Hosting events, workshops, and discussions on local environmental and social issues, inspiring community action at the grassroots level.
4. Integrating sustainable practices into library operations, such as recycling, energy efficiency, and the use of renewable energy sources.
5. Collaborating with local and international organizations to champion sustainable initiatives and programs.

These actions transform libraries not only into centers of knowledge but also into hubs of social responsibility and sustainable development.

The workshop drew about 40 librarians dedicated to acquiring the skills and insights needed to foster sustainable, green libraries that can drive positive community and environmental impact.

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Spain - Spanish Green Libraries at the Green Letters Literature and Nature Conference

For the past four years, the National Conference on Literature, Nature, and Rural Life [Letras Verdes](#) (*Green Letters*) has taken place in Teno Rural Park, located at the northwestern tip of Tenerife in the Canary Islands, Spain. This mountainous area, a blend of cliffs, valleys, low islands, laurel forest zones, and traditional architecture, becomes a hub for several days where diverse stakeholders connected to books and nature come together.

The close relationship between the natural environment and the local communities in this area makes Teno an ideal setting for writers, illustrators, publishers, booksellers, librarians, educators, and nature enthusiasts to share experiences and projects. The event features dialogues, workshops, roundtables, green readings, and presentations of the latest works on nature and rural life literature.

The fourth edition of *Green Letters* took place from November 13 to 16,

2024, in the municipalities of Buenavista del Norte, Los Silos, and San Miguel de Abona, three distinctive villages within the massif. The program included participation from two green libraries belonging to the Spanish Network of Environmental Information Centers and Protected Natural Spaces ([RECIDA](#)): the Documentation Center of the National Center for Environmental Education (CENEAM) and the Domingo Quiroga Environmental Documentation Center (CEIDA). These contributions were part of the National Meeting's technical workshops for libraries and educational centers, fostering closer engagement and an exchange of ideas and experiences.



Attendees at the Meeting © Germán Pinelo/ Letras Verdes

The [Green Library of the National Center for Environmental Education](#)

(CENEAM) presented its experience with the [CENEAM Residency for Literature and the Environment](#). Launched in 2023 as part of the Environmental Education Plan for Sustainability (PAEAS), this creative residency program enables ten Spanish writers to work for nine days on environmentally themed literary projects at CENEAM's facilities, located in the periphery of the [Sierra de Guadarrama National Park](#). The CENEAM library serves as a resource for research, inspiration, and work, while the center provides accommodation and meals.

Participants devote time to writing but also engage in nature walks with readings by the writers themselves, participate in discussions, and host public events in nearby libraries to raise awareness of their work. Two months after the residency, participants must deliver a piece of writing to be included in a publication by the National Parks Agency.

The [Domingo Quiroga Environmental Documentation Center](#) brought to Tenerife one of its green reading promotion initiatives: the [Chlorophyll](#)

[Reading Club](#). Since late 2021, this library has been encouraging readers to connect with nature through literature, creating a space for conversation, idea-sharing, attentive listening, and shared reading.



Presentation of the experiences described. © Ana B. Pardo

Club members meet once a month to discuss novels or essays where nature plays a central role, tackling environmental issues stemming from the socio-ecological crisis and raising awareness of its consequences if action is not taken.

The club's presence at *Green Letters* showcased this initiative as a replicable model for promoting reading and environmental awareness,

highlighting literature's power as a tool for change.



Poster announcing the Conference

Nature literature holds a unique power to touch hearts and minds, using emotion as a bridge to raise awareness and inspire action for the conservation of our rural environments, our health, and our planet. Events like *Letras Verdes (Green Letters)* showcase the transformative potential of storytelling, offering a space to reflect on the delicate relationship between humanity and nature. Hosting a Conference of such high quality in a rural setting not only enriches local communities but also challenges the urban-centric norm of cultural events, proving that meaningful and impactful gatherings can thrive in the heart of

nature, where the message resonates most deeply.

In conclusion, *Green Letters (Letras Verdes)* is an event that deserves strong support from public administrations for its vital role in fostering environmental awareness and cultural enrichment. It is not only an opportunity for professional collaboration but also a celebration for the community to enjoy, bringing people together to appreciate nature, literature, and the importance of protecting our shared heritage.

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UK - The Green Libraries Conference 2024, London

The second Green Libraries Conference took place on Monday November 25th at the British Library's

Knowledge Centre in central London. Over 190 delegates gathered to explore how libraries in all sectors can lead the way in environmental sustainability and to share practical advice and lessons learned in green practices across the sector and further afield.

The one-day event was organised by CILIP and our Green Libraries Campaign partners - the British Library, Libraries Connected, Julie's Bicycle, Arts Council England, the Society of College, National and University Libraries (SCONUL), Research Libraries UK (RLUK), the Consortium of National and University Libraries (CONUL), the NHS Sustainability in Knowledge and Library Services Community of Practice and the National Library of Scotland. This year's theme - 'Every Library a Green Library' - reflects the ambition of the Green Libraries Campaign to embed environmental responsibility into all libraries in future so that one of the core values and strand activities of libraries will be to support positive climate action.

The conference opened with a keynote address from Baroness Natalie Bennett, a Green Party peer who sits in the House of Lords. Her inspirational and well-informed speech about libraries as centres of social innovation set us up well for the day. Rachael Brown, a Senior Lecturer at the Portsmouth School of Architecture, Art and Design, delivered our afternoon keynote. Rachael was joined by three of her students to talk about a postgraduate Interior Architecture and Design module that is informed by authors concerned with the environment and which uses artists' books and zines as ways to generate and represent ideas.



Natalie Bennett. Copyright CLIP

Our final keynote speaker was Piers Torday, an award-winning children's writer, who shared a recent case study of sustainable publishing – his own book, 'The Wild Before' - and provided an update on the Society of Author's 'Tree to Me' campaign, a drive to make publishing more sustainable.

As well as three plenary presentations on the theme of 'Sustainable Collections and Climate Literacy', this year's programme included parallel sessions in the morning and in the afternoon, with a choice of three sessions each time. Our speakers covered a wide range of topics, including the British Library's recently launched 'Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy', Glasgow Women's Library's 'Net-Zero Handbook', building a sustainable supply chain from a library and publisher perspective, library and information professionals' contribution to the 'Greener NHS' programme, the power of public library partnerships and the sector's contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals.



Global Green parallel session. Copyright CLIP

We were delighted to welcome two international speakers who joined us via Zoom, Dr Petra Hauke, member of ENSULIB, and Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, Executive Director of the Mid-Hudson Library System in New York. Dr. Hauke gave an informative presentation on IFLA's response to the UN 2030 Agenda and the UNESCO ESD Programme, whilst Rebekkah Smith Aldrich spoke about the Sustainable Libraries Initiative in the USA, an initiative she co-founded. Joining them on the panel, and continuing the theme of 'Global Green Initiatives', Alan Carbery, Head of Academic Services in University College Cork (UCC) Library, delivered a paper from the auditorium that

examined the challenges to maintaining excellence in sustainable libraries and outlined the future direction for the library's commitment to green library initiatives.

Dr. Maja Maricevic, Director of Science and Innovation at the British Library and Chair of the Green Libraires Campaign, wrapped up proceedings with an overview of next steps for the Campaign. You can find out more about this campaign and view slides from the conference at <http://www.cilip.org.uk/greenlibraries>

Follow us on social **#greenlibraries**

Yvonne Morris, Projects and Programmes Manager, CILIP: the library and information association

Sweden - How can libraries play a part in the sustainable transformation? Report from a panel discussion at Lund University

On the 14th of November the organizations Mistra Environmental

Communication, the Swedish Library Association, Lund University Libraries and the County Library of Västerbotten arranged a panel discussion about the libraries' role in the work towards global sustainability. The participants were Sara Kjellberg, Library Manager at Malmö University Library, Torbjörn Nilsson, former librarian at Malmö City Library and part of ENSULIB/IFLA, Lena Roos, Environmental representative at Lund Public Libraries, and Thomas Sture Rasmussen, SDG coordinator for the Danish Library Association. Jutta Haider, professor in library and information science, was the moderator.

The main question for the discussion was "How can libraries play a part in the sustainable transformation?" The focus was on how libraries in Scandinavia can become more sustainable as organizations, as well as how they can encourage users to engage in sustainable living. The participants did all agree on that libraries, as circular organizations, have a lot of potential to function as advocates for sustainable development. However, it is important with managerial support in order for

sustainability to be more intertwined in all parts of the daily work. Examples of initiatives mentioned were IFLA:s guidelines for Green and Sustainable Libraries and the project WEEK17 which is a theme week in Denmark focusing on the UN's Sustainable Development Global Goals.



Copyright Lund University

The discussion touched upon several important questions regarding sustainability. For instance, should libraries mainly function as facilitators, offering space for conversations or events about sustainability, or should they take more of an active role in engaging the public? How do we ensure that the responsibility lies on the organization as a whole and not on

the individual librarian or on a small group of enthusiasts? And how do we make users feel like it is something that affects them, and most importantly, that their environmental actions matter? For the libraries to really make a change the focus has to be on what concrete actions library staff and users can take to achieve systematic change.

*Elin Söndergaard & Victoria Wagner
Students in Library and Information
Science at Lund University*

Belgium - Report on the 2nd Transatlantic Symposium at PXL University of Applied Sciences and Arts In Hasselt, 2024

I recently had the opportunity to attend and present at the [2nd Transatlantic Symposium on Sustainable Development in Higher Education](#) at PXL University of Applied Sciences and Arts In Hasselt, Belgium from October 10-11, 2024.

Higher education institutions play a vital role in addressing global sustainability issues by incorporating

the United Nations' (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into their academic programs. This integration equips students with the necessary knowledge and skills to tackle sustainability challenges. The "Transatlantic Symposium on Sustainable Development" series fosters collaboration between Europe and North America in promoting sustainability in higher education. This second symposium focused on integrating the SDGs into higher education. This symposium provided an opportunity to share valuable research, as well as network and collaborate with scholars in the field of sustainability education. Papers included but were not limited to research on sustainability initiatives on higher ed campuses, integrating the SDGs into curricula, bridging the inner development goals (IDGs) with the SDGs, and smart approaches to measuring sustainability on campuses. I was inspired by the work and collaborations happening between higher ed in Europe and North America.

I was honored to be one of the participants that received a Best

Papers Award for my presentation "[Strategic advancement: Intentionally aligning university library practices with the UN SDG targets](#)" where I focused on different collaborations and partnerships to advance the goals. Examples include SDG 1: No poverty Target 1.4 where I discussed how our library is working with our bookstore to provide open access resources to all students. This has resulted in considerable savings for students. We are also working with various publishers on Open Access agreements to promote scholarship and make research more accessible to more people. Another example discussed was SDG 17: Partnerships for the goals, target 17.17. Here I discussed the collaborative work we are doing in our county with public and academic libraries to provide vital resources to previously underrepresented communities, primarily resources related to health and the impacts of climate change. I was excited that libraries were considered important in this work in higher education!

The following papers also received Best Papers Awards:

"The need to incorporate SDGs in HEI to train a new generation of professionals in commercial economics and entrepreneurship" by Rynko Van Diepen, Rob de With, Dirk Franco and Jean -Pierre Segers (Avans Hogeschool Hogeschoollaan, PXL University and Hasselt University);

"City-University Partnerships (CUPs) for sustainability: A Multi-Level Perspective on working toward the UN SDGs in Higher Education Institutions. Case of the Universitat Politècnica de València (UPV)" by Guillermo Palau Salvador, Oksana Udovyk, Ana Escario Chust, Sergio Segura Calero, Pablo Aranguiz Mesias and Jordi Peris-Blanes (Valencia Polytechnic University);

"Identification of knowledge and skills gaps related to sustainable development: Two Exploratory Studies with Higher Education Students and Teachers in Europe" by Susana Leal, Andriani Piki, João Nascimento, Joke Simons and Sandra Oliveira (Santarém Polytechnic University, University of Central Lancashire Cyprus and Thomas More university).

We have the opportunity to publish our papers in a peer-reviewed, Scopus-indexed book, which will highlight the collaborations and initiatives of work being carried out on SDGs in higher education.



Copyright Sarah Triplehorn

Sarah Triplehorn, Science librarian
San Diego State University

Macao SAR - Macao Open Access Week: to promote open access and sustainability in Macao SAR

To celebrate the International Open Access Week 2024 and in response to the call for *Community over Commercialization* and open scholarship, the Macao Academic Library Alliance (MALA) and University

of Macau (UM) co-organized a seminar entitled *Navigating the Open Access Landscape* on October 22, 2024, which aimed to promote equal access to information and sustainable publishing in the university communities and academic libraries in Macao SAR.



Speakers in the seminar from left to right: Director Walter Chow, Prof Wang Shuanpeng, Prof Ye Zhou, and Vice President Rick Liu.
Photo: Priscilla Pun

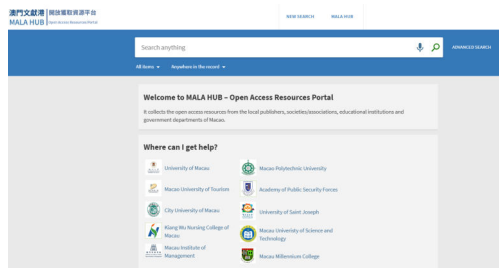
In this seminar, representatives from different stakeholders including the publishers, researchers, institutions, and local government were invited and had discussions and idea exchanges on the future of open access and how open access could help in enhancing the innovation and global research impact for researchers and institutions in Macao.

Guest speakers from the publishers ACS, IEEE and IOP were invited to share their current practices and future roadmaps on open access publishing from a global perspective. Business Development Director Walter Chow of IGroup on behalf of ACS gave an overview on the development trends and challenges of open access publishing worldwide and introduced the sponsorship programmes and benefits of publishing open access articles at ACS. Prof Ye Zhou of Shenzhen University as a journal editor from IEEE presented the tips for journal evaluation and identifying predatory journals. Vice President (APAC & China) Rick Liu of IOP introduced the global strategies of IOP to enhance the research impact of its journals in the field through open access publishing.



Launch Ceremony of the MALA Hub Open Access Resources Portal on October 22, 2024.
Photo: Anthony Lai

On the other hand, Prof Wang Shuanpeng from University of Macau was invited in this seminar to share his insights and the advantages in publishing open access articles, under the transformative agreements between the publishers and UM. Transformative agreements are those contracts negotiated between institutions (libraries, national and regional consortia) and publishers that transform towards a more sustainable business model underlying scholarly journal publishing. They enable researchers to publish their accepted journal articles in open access mode without any charges from the researchers. At present, UM has already signed the transformative agreements with 6 publishers.



MALA Hub Open Access Resources Portal

The [Open Access Resources Portal](#), a sub-portal of the [MALA Hub](#), was launched during the seminar. It collects the open access resources from the local publishers, societies/associations, educational institutions and government departments in Macao. It is a one-stop search platform that contains over 30,000 open access items of journals, journal articles, books, images, videos and so on. Global and local audiences are welcome to search the Portal for free resources from Macao and for Macao studies.

*Priscilla Pun, Head of Technical Process Unit, the University of Macau Library, University of Macau, Macao SAR
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FLA Green Library Award Winners Share Their Stories

The winner of 2024 award for the “Best Green Library/Grand Scale Project” is the Missoula Public Library in the USA

In 2018, construction began on a world-class public library in Missoula, Montana, a community of 120,000 residents nestled in the USA’s Northern Rocky Mountains. Designed by Minneapolis-based MSR Design in partnership with Montana-based A&E Design, and funded through a mix of government bonds and private and corporate donations, Missoula Public Library’s new flagship opened to great fanfare in 2021. The four level, 10,219 m² library is built to last more than a hundred years, with flexibility to adapt to future contingencies and innovations. While any single feature of Missoula’s new library is notable, it is the aggregate “layer cake” of sustainability that has captured the world’s interest, and garnered Missoula Public Library the IFLA/De Gruyter award for Grand Scale Green Library of the year in 2024.

Saving energy—and costs

The building is engineered to reduce environmental impacts and operating costs and achieve nearly net zero Energy Use Intensity (EUI). In summer, open loop geothermal cooling, which chills the air with water

from the aquifer below the library, eliminates the need for energy-intensive air conditioning. Underfloor distribution of both cooling and heating represents an additional energy savings of 30%. Passive solar energy offsets the library's heating costs in winter, while a rooftop photovoltaic array provides 10% of MPL's electricity year-round. Strategically configured natural daylight is the primary source of lighting in the library's public areas, supplemented by high performance LEDs. The building's south elevation is angled 20 degrees to maximize the library's access to the sun's source of renewable energy.

Designed for wellness

Missoula Public Library's interior design is infused with features that promote wellbeing and a sense of belonging. These include indoor-outdoor transitions, sound and light aesthetics, landscape references in the architecture, cultural heritage highlights, and a wealth of elements that incorporate or are inspired by Nature. Studies show that these biophilic design techniques reduce stress and enhance creativity and

productivity. Additionally, many library furnishings and finishes are free of the chemicals that harm human health and our ecosystem. A state-of-the-art ventilation system makes the library the only freely accessible clean air space in Missoula, an increasingly important fact as the region grows hotter and wildfire pollution proliferates.

Sustainability = sharing

From seven lifelong learning labs and collabs, to community-based programming and a Library of Things, Missoula Public Library expands on traditional book circulation to engage community members in a low-consumption Sharing Economy. Need a pasta maker? Seeds for your garden? Or home Wifi access? These and many more items can be checked out from the library. Looking for a 3D printer, production studio, museum experience, or parenting workshop? All are available via MPL's "All Under One Roof" approach to site- and resource-sharing, modeled after the Scandinavian *kulturhuset* concept. A steady stream of library-based programming related to the care of and

appreciation for Missoula's ecosystem converts values into action and makes sustainability relevant and practicable for library users.

Form, function, future

In 2025, Missoula Public Library will launch a project to add Living Roofs to two levels of its flagship facility. Covered with climate-resilient plants, these green spaces will increase the area's carbon sink inventory, contribute to cooling a downtown heat island effect, give library users access to unique outdoor experiences, and serve as an educational model for climate mitigation. There is hope that in the near future, the region's energy industry (currently fossil fuel-based) will expand affordable and renewable source energy options, at which point MPL will become a complete Net Zero Energy Building (NZEB). These and other initiatives will further advance MPL's ongoing commitment to weaving energy strategies, thoughtful design, and inspiring programs together in a future-friendly sustainability framework.

Karl Olson, Executive Director, Missoula Public Library Foundation

The winner of 2024 award for the “Best Green Library Project” is The UCD Library, James Joyce Building, Dublin in Ireland

Beyond the Lifecycle: Libraries Supporting the Circular Economy, which illuminates the role libraries can take in advancing sustainability standards, won first place in the IFLA ‘Best Green Library Project’ in 2024.

During one of the busiest periods ever in the fifty year history of University College Dublin’s James Joyce Library, a team of library staff put their Green Library principles into action, and developed an ambitious sustainable initiative that ensured thousands of items of old furniture,

unneded because of a multi-million Capital Development Programme, would be kept out of landfill, and relocated to new homes in the community.

The library developed a robust eco-friendly recycling programme that could handle a complex mix of furniture, cope with large quantities,

and offer free deliveries. The project fostered the circular economy by restoring and redistributing old library furniture to 52 entities, including educational institutions, community centres, NGOs and individuals with disabilities. In supporting Sustainable Development Goals 4, 8, 10, 12, 13 and 17, it found new homes for:

- Over 1,130 pieces of furniture
- Over 60 metres of shelving, c. five tons, recycled as metal scrap.
- Old stationery supplies donated to primary and special needs schools and creches;
- Other stationery, were placed in public spaces for students to take, for free;
- Furniture, unsuitable for schools, was given to a local upcycling business, which in return provided a €250 donation for a new autism centre.

As well as raising awareness about the environmental impact of furniture waste and the benefits of sustainable

waste management practices, the project ensured that the furniture recycling being undertaken by the Library was included in the universities overall waste recycling figures - in terms of kilograms of CO2 saved, and kilograms of waste saved from landfill. Recipients of the free furniture were encouraged to register with Warpit, an online catalogue of office furniture available to UCD staff and to charity/nonprofit organisations in Ireland. Warpit is organised by UCD Estate Services, and is part of the UCD Green Campus Initiative.

<https://ucdestates.ie/green-campus/waste-reduction-initiatives/>

The success of the Library Furniture Recycling Project was publicly acknowledged by the University through the presentation of a 2023 University College Dublin Values in Action award, a competitive award that celebrates staff who act as ambassadors for UCD Values, by developing creative initiatives that bring UCD Values to life (Collegiality, Creativity, Diversity, Engagement, Excellence and Integrity).

<https://www.ucd.ie/engage/engagement/events/ucdawardspage/2023viaawards/>

By establishing a social compact based on these positive action shared values, Library staff helped to initiate a chain reaction that encouraged other staff to embrace and embody these values. This initiative enhanced UCD's relationships with community-based organisations, and showed what is possible through community engagement, creative thinking, and great team work. It is an excellent example of sustainable values in action, showing the power of libraries in achieving Sustainable Development Goals, and also what is achievable when green librarians lead by example, and work in partnership with colleagues to promote the circular economy.

Ursula Byrne and James Molloy (UCD Library, Dublin)

China - The third price winner of 2024 award for the “Best Green Library Project” is Foshan Library in China

Project Introduction

The "Reading in Green" project, launched in December 2022, is an important initiative taken by Foshan Library to fulfill its social responsibility as a "Green Library" and promote environmental education and awareness, as well as popularize energy-saving and environmental protection concepts. The project was rewarded as 3rd Place Winner of the IFLA Green Library Project Award 2024.

The “Reading in Green” service is operated by a Wechat mini program at the front end and an intelligent book stack system at the back end, providing users with energy-saving and convenient book-borrowing service. The project utilizes innovative technology to reduce energy consumption in book storage and usage, users simply need to place an order in the mini program, then the books will be retrieved by robots and delivered to users within 48 hours. The intelligent book stack could store up to 600,000 books, with 61% less energy consumption per unit area; only AGV robots enter the stack area, saving

over 80% on lighting; energy-saving motors stop equipment standby upon no tasks, avoiding energy waste; the system is fully automated, only 2-3 staff are needed to supervise the machines in the 1400m² warehouse.

Promotion and Activities

With a little black lion embodying the cultural characteristics of Foshan as its promotional ambassador, the project implemented a diverse array of “Reading in Green” themed activities, including environmental knowledge competitions, lectures and hands-on workshops for the elderly, the disabled and children. Concurrently, volunteers were recruited to disseminate green concepts within communities, schools, and enterprises. This initiative aims to engage society as a whole in green reading.



Copyright Foshan Library



Copyright Foshan Library

Project Highlights

Technological Innovation: The application of advanced technologies such as the Internet of Things (IoT) and artificial intelligence (AI) enables an intelligent book stack system of full process automation for online book-borrowing service. This technological implementation is globally leading in its field.

Green and Energy-saving: By outsourcing to a third party instead of building a new library, the “Reading in Green” project reduces land, management and labor costs as well as building energy consumption. It can serve as a model for peers, demonstrating how to expand service coverage and enhance service

efficiency at low cost, even more, without incurring additional library staff.

Social Equity: The project provides home delivery of book-borrowing service for the elderly, the disabled, and people who have difficulty accessing books, thus ensuring the reading rights of special groups and promoting social equity.



Copyright Foshan Library

Project Outlook

The upcoming “Reading in Green” project will be integrated with the “Ex-Book” project, which was awarded 3rd place in the IFLA PressReader International Marketing Award 2023. This collaboration aims to achieve the circulation of library books and citizens' personal collections on a unified platform, invigorate the potential of underutilized books within society through innovative green development

principles, and encourage more citizen engagement in environmental reading initiatives. Together, we strive to advance knowledge dissemination, as well as promote environmental sustainability.

Submitted by: Luo Shuqiao, Project Coordinator, Foshan Library

Green, Sustainable Libraries and Projects around the world

The Czech Republic - Green Hope for the Blue Planet

A project on ecological responsibility and sustainability in libraries

Annotation

In my contribution I would like to present our ideas and activities on the topic "Sustainability in Libraries". The library supports the Sustainable Development Goals as an independent educational institution and offers a

space for public discussions under the motto "Together we can do it".

Our library

The Hodonín Municipal Library is the educational, social and cultural centre of the region and organises a range of events to promote cultural life in the town.

The municipal library was founded on 1 July 1921. The number of library units is 141 787 media. The library has 17 employees, including the director. In 2023, the library had 4,450 readers, including 1,660 children under the age of 15.

The library's public information and educational services were used by 156,535 users

Sustainability

The Hodonín Municipal Library is officially participating in the 'Sustainability in Libraries' programme for 2021.

Climate change on the ground - tornado in South Moravia in 2021

On 24 June 2021, South Moravia was hit by the largest tornado in modern Czech history. It swept through the Breclav and Hodonín regions (seven municipalities in total), leaving six people dead, dozens injured, hundreds of houses destroyed and more than 1,600 roofs damaged. The damage caused by the tornado was estimated at around CZK 15 billion - 607.75 million euros.

Our employees actively participated as volunteers and contributed financially to collections for tornado relief. We shared information via social media to coordinate relief efforts and provided facilities and programmes for children in the affected areas.

The tornado reached intensity IF4, had a track length of 27.1 km and a maximum width of 2800 m east of Breclav.

Library activities

One of the most important initiatives in the area of sustainability and healthy living was an online programme prepared in time for the pandemic measures at the end of 2020. Chiropractic Advice for Wellbeing and

Health was a pilot project with 14 filmed video blocks for the adult public.

For primary school pupils, unconventional readings "Great October Collective Reading" have been organised in the assembly area, incl. creative workshops with recycled materials. The senior citizens' office, which is integrated into the library, organises lectures on growing herbs and environmentally friendly behaviour.

Finished and planned projects

In 2022, the Hodonín Municipal Library implemented 2 projects on education for environmental responsibility and sustainability, supported by grants from the Ministry of Culture and the Local Action Group.

"You will change the world" – a project for children in kindergartens and primary schools

A total of 44 pupils from kindergartens in Hodonín and primary schools took part in the "Water Drops on the Street" programme, which we organised in cooperation with the Dúbrava Eco Centre.

The "Green Hope for the Blue Planet" project for the general public was organised under the patronage of the Senator for Hodonín.

500 visitors took part in the project events. The target group of our project was the general public of all age groups.

2023

In April 2023, the premiere of a film documentary about the return of water to the landscape and the rescue of Šumava's wetlands entitled *Water Lost and Returned* took place in the Svět Cinema, presented in cooperation with the Hodonín Municipal Library and the Svět Cinema by the PR coordinator of the Šumava National Park Administration's LIFE for MIREs - Life for Wetlands project, Mr Lukáš Linhart.

The documentary film was accompanied by a lecture on the project, the water cycle in nature and the possibilities of its retention in the landscape in the context of global warming. 250 spectators came to see the morning and afternoon programme.

Events in 2024

The project "Herbology in the Library" was prepared for primary school children. Sustainability in libraries and the promotion of reading skills are at the centre of the project. For primary school children, there is an author's reading with the regional writer Zuzana Teplíková, the author of the book "Celestýn's Magic Balls". The project ends with a workshop in which each child receives a small canvas bag that they paint with plant-based textile colours and fill with dried herbs.

House of Nature Hodonínské Důbravy - A lecture on the visitor centre of the Hodonínská Důbrava National Nature Monument.

Moravian Tuscany - demonstration organic farm of Peter Marada - Petr Marada, a private farmer and university lecturer, has been working on transforming the formerly intensively farmed landscape without water areas since 2007.

All about herbs - Medicinal herbs and their uses. How to grow, collect, process and incorporate them into your diet, as well as instructions and recipes

on how to use them for various ailments of the body.

Herbs for everyone - The use of herbs in traditional Chinese medicine.

How to cook a simple all-day meal - Seminar with a nutritionist on how to prepare simple and good all-day menus, including snacks.

We cooperated with the founder in the campaigns "Healthy City", "Earth Day", Cycle to Work and collect unwanted mobile phones

The future:

Drinking water for your home, clean water for nature... - Presentation by the water manager about drinking water sources in Hodonín and the surrounding area and their protection. Hodonín wastewater treatment plant - excursion following the lecture.

Environmental psychology - Environmental and social psychologist Jan Krajhanzl will give a lecture on the relationship of the Czech public to environmental protection.

Summary, expected results

"Hic sunt homines". This is where people live, says the poet Radek Štěpánek, one of the authors involved in our project.

"We want to draw attention to this problem not only in our region, but in the entire Czech Republic and thus contribute at least a part to the global environmental problems."

*Petra Špačková, Director
Municipal Library of Hodonín*

Seed libraries in Kyiv (Ukraine), Tashkent (Uzbekistan), Tbilisi (Georgia) and Almaty (Kazakhstan)

The Russian war of aggression against Ukraine clearly shows the vulnerability of global food security and its dependence on stability in the Eastern European and Central Asian region. The war has not only plunged the agricultural sector in Ukraine into an extremely precarious situation, the ecological damage - not only in Ukraine - is all the more dramatic in the onset of climate change.

In 2024, the Goethe-Institut Ukraine launched the project "Sprouts of Life: Identity, Culture and Memory in Seeds", which focuses on the dissemination and preservation of seeds as carriers of identity and culture. It approaches the connections between biodiversity, identity, culture and exchange both in the form of community creation and artistic formats.

Institutes involved in the establishment of seed libraries are Kyiv (Ukraine), Tashkent (Uzbekistan), Tbilisi (Georgia) and Almaty (Kazakhstan).

One of the challenges in our project was and is that coordination with the other participating institutes can only be done digitally. In addition, there are the size of the region, distances, cultural and political differences, differentiated spatial and personnel requirements.

Small seed libraries have now been set up in the libraries of all participating Goethe-Instituts, stocked with seeds from different regions of the respective country. In the seed library, the seeds are preserved, archived and can be "borrowed" by library users. At the end

of the season, those involved can return their self-grown seeds and reintroduce them into the cycle.

Examples of practical implementation:

At the International Book Arsenal Festival in Kyiv in May, we held our interactive seed library kick-off event in the Literature Garden, entitled "Seed & Read: A Gardening Workshop", and our media package on the topic of gardening and ecology was exhibited.



Copyright Goethe-Institut Ukraine

This was followed by events for children in the library, such as "Experiments with strawberries" - now even strawberries can be harvested in the library. At the Neosvitnij Arsenal, an education fair in Kyiv, at the end of

September, we invited children to experiment with seeds in connection with a reading from the book "A Garden for All" by Laura Bednarski. An art project together with the "Pictoric" studio and art students from Kyiv is intended to implement the artistic aspect of our project.

As a result, there will be an exhibition in our library and in the gallery of the National Academy of Fine Arts and Architecture (NAOMA).

For our Ukrainian library colleagues, we have translated the OPL checklist 46 "Green Library" into Ukrainian, so that many practical tips on sustainability can be read there.

Georgia opened the seed library on the Open Day in June 2024 and linked it to various workshops on the topic of sustainability.



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In Uzbekistan, the 'Earth Day' on 23rd April kicked off with the opening of the seed library and a subsequent flower seed planting campaign.



Copyright Goethe-Institut Uzbekistan

In Kazakhstan, lectures were held on topics such as food security, the goals of the seed account, the work processes with seeds, their sowing quality and rare plants.



Copyright Goethe-Institut Kazakhstan

The "Life Sprouts" project not only enriched the botanical and ecological knowledge of the participants, but also inspires them to actively participate in the preservation of the natural heritage.

Marietta Sander, Head of Information and Library at Goethe-Institut, Ukraine

Sweden - Kulturfyren in Malmö,: A New Cultural Hub for Young People

Kulturfyren Malmö is a newly opened community space in Hyllie, designed primarily for young people aged 16–25. It combines several initiatives under one roof, including Hylliebiblioteket, the Dawit Isaak Library, and *Work in Progress*, a creative platform for young individuals passionate about culture. These initiatives aim to grow and evolve alongside their target audience, fostering creativity, accessibility, and openness.

The building, located in the newly constructed Fyrtornet near Hyllie Station, is part of a broader project to create sustainable and inclusive spaces. By summer 2025, the adjacent building Drivbänken will open, connected to Fyrtornet by a walkway. Together, these two buildings will host activities with a shared focus on young people and sustainability.

Sustainability at the Core

Kulturfyren is a part of Granitor's Embassy of Sharing project, which is

centred on sustainability and the principles of the UN's Agenda 2030. Granitor is a property developer and innovation-driven company focused on creating sustainable, community-oriented urban environments. The Embassy of Sharing initiative brings together organisations, businesses, and residents to collaborate on resource-smart solutions that minimise environmental impact while fostering inclusivity.

One standout feature is the reuse of furniture. Approximately 65–70% of the furniture in the library has been repurposed, sourced from places like the Swedish Parliament and the Tax Agency. These pieces have been carefully refurbished, reupholstered, or refinished, giving them a new life within the space.

About the Facilities

Hylliebiblioteket: A new neighbourhood library serving the Hyllie area.

Dawit Isaak Library: A unique collection focusing on literature that has been censored or banned somewhere in the world. Currently

located elsewhere, it will move to Kulturfyren in 2025.



Copyright Malmö stad

Work in Progress: A creative space for young people to explore and deepen their interest in culture, launching in 2025.

The portal acts as a hub of sustainability education for library communities. By providing valuable information and resources, it empowers individuals and services to take action on issues that matter most to them. Whether you're interested in poverty reduction, climate action, or any other SDG, you'll find accessible, informative content on this platform. The website's commitment to science education extends beyond mere information dissemination. It serves as

a platform for local libraries to collaborate, share insights and implement projects that align with the SDGs. Victorian libraries are inspiring positive change on a personal, community, and global level. They are helping people understand how individual actions contribute to the larger global agenda. By providing access to the site, which we believe is the first of its kind nationally, libraries promote the idea that every action counts, every voice matters, and collective efforts can bring about profound change.

*Tereza Franzén
Communications Officer
Department of culture, Malmö*

Southeast Europe - Common Waste - Common Libraries: Sustainability in libraries is multifaceted

Waste meets creative solutions: artists, librarians and young experts worked together on project ideas for sustainability in libraries as part of the program 'Common Waste - Common Libraries' hosted by the Goethe-Institut

Athens in the region Southeast Europe.

We see libraries as spaces of commoning, where knowledge is shared and made freely accessible. What role does sustainability play here? The Goethe program shows how we can develop green libraries.

Ideathon in Zagreb

The initial point: In times of thousands of tonnes of waste in the Mediterranean region and barely developed infrastructure for recycling processes in Southeast Europe, we want to expand knowledge about sustainability, waste prevention and recycling and connect young initiators with each other.

After an open call for applications, seventeen participants from seven countries (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Romania, Serbia and Turkey) have come together for an Ideathon at the Goethe-Institut Zagreb. From 5-7 June 2024, they received input on the problem of waste, sustainable design and positive examples such as the Green Library of the city of Karlovac in Croatia.

Team building and design thinking in the in the middle of nature

The biggest challenge was to find exciting ideas in the short time available and at the same time to form cross-national teams that are motivated to work together on a project idea across national borders in the coming months. Facilitator Yanina Taneva and the mentors from the project partner Green Network of Activist Groups (ZMAG) made a major contribution to this. The second day took place at the Recycled Estate, the headquarters of ZMAG in Vukomerec, a 30-minute drive from Zagreb.



Copyright: Goethe-Institut/Matej Marjanovic

It was very helpful for this dynamic and intensive process to realize it in the middle of nature. Recycled Estate is an eco-social education centre for

permaculture design and sustainable living, so the participants were able to see what it looks like in practice when someone tries to combine sustainability, commons, waste reduction and circular economy.



Copyright: Goethe-Institut/Matej Marjanovic

Four teams – four completely different approaches to tackle the waste problem in Southeast Europe

At the end of the design thinking process, four teams emerged that unite different cultural and professional backgrounds. After the Ideathon the participants returned to their home countries and the project development started. Not an easy job across national borders and other challenges like the short time period of about three months. During this time, the teams

were supported by Goethe and the mentors through online workshops.

And the final outcome is really impressive. On 25 September, the four teams presented their project results online at a final event. And they couldn't be more different:

1. Team Book it – a project that combines innovation and research in exploring the potential of fungi mycelium as a sustainable resource. Using old and discarded books or paper materials as a base for new materials to build e.g. eco-friendly bookshelves.
2. Team Co-Lib – successfully created a website designed to provide a variety of toolkits for librarians and patrons, significantly improving library operations and services.
3. Team Change the script – a project that connects theatre, art, and waste reuse approach bringing communities closer together through the transformative power of theater.
4. Team Sustainable Neighbours – based on the results of their own survey among librarians, they developed a comprehensive guide outlining strategies for making libraries more sustainable.



Copyright: Danae Athanaseli

Project implementation and conclusions

The implementation of the ideas is currently in full progress, with workshops, panel discussions and exhibitions being realised in cooperation with the Goethe-Instituts and other institutions.

Over the last few months, creative and very different approaches to strengthening libraries as spaces for sustainability and informal education have emerged. The initial program idea, which focused even more on the issue of waste, was implemented differently by each team. In the end, the social and educational level of sustainability played a more decisive role in the development.

Further details on: [Common Waste - Common Libraries - Goethe-Institut Griechenland](#)

Contact: Project coordinator Alexandra Vavelidou, Goethe-Institut Athens (department information and library)

Spain - From Library to Eco-garden and viceversa: Social Impact, Knowledge and Sustainability. Libraries as agents of change

Libraries are much more than spaces for consultation and reading; they are becoming catalysts for sustainable projects that transform communities. A

clear example of this impact is the Camilo José Cela University Library (UCJC) in Spain, which has taken a step forward in its commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through initiatives such as the UCJC Ecohuerta and the Seed Library.

The UCJC is part of RECIDA, the network of environmental documentation centres specialising in the environment and protected natural spaces. This collaboration has allowed us to exchange experiences with other libraries that also promote projects such as urban gardens and eco-gardens, generating a direct impact on the environment. It has also allowed us to have access to temporary exhibitions dealing with environmental issues that we have been able to relate to the Ecohuerta and the Seed Library ([Agenda 2030 - UCJC](#)).

The UCJC Library and the Ecohuerta UCJC: A space for learning and transformation

The UCJC Ecohuerta, initiated in the 2020-21 academic year by student Camilo Chaverra, is an interdisciplinary and collaborative project that integrates sustainability into university

education. Beyond being a physical space for growing crops, the garden has become a laboratory for practical learning about ecological agriculture, healthy habits and environmental commitment.

Thanks to the support of the library, participants have access to specialised resources on sustainability, from databases such as Scopus and WOS to selected collections on sustainable development in our digital platforms such as elibro and Proquest Central, which allow us to carry out specialised centres of interest on seeds, pollinators, talks with experts, etc. In addition, gamification activities based on the SDGs have strengthened playful learning.

The Seed Library: A sustainable model

Inspired by the EPS Seed Library of Zaragoza, our UCJC Seed Library was born in 2022 to lend seeds to the students of the Ecohuerta. This project promotes sustainable agriculture and food self-sufficiency, allowing for the exchange of locally grown seeds, and experiments with seeds from other locations.

In its first year, the library used purchased seeds, but now has its own seeds collected from previous crops, and donated by some of the participants, marking a move towards self-sufficiency and the growth of our collection.

Partnerships for social impact

Collaboration has been essential to the success of these projects. At the institutional level, the library works with different UCJC degrees, from Psychology to Urban Management, including Film, Pharmacy, Education and Digital Arts, creating transversal experiences. At the professional level, our membership of RECIDA also connects us with other libraries leading similar initiatives, facilitating the exchange of knowledge, resources and reflections.

Final reflections

Libraries are key agents in promoting sustainability and social impact. Projects such as the UCJC Ecohuerta not only reinforce academic learning, but also transform students, teachers and librarians into agents of change committed to caring for the

environment and building sustainable communities.

From the library, we continue sowing knowledge and harvesting alliances, demonstrating that the role of libraries transcends the shelves to have an impact on the real world. Will you join this movement?

Marta García, Biblioteca de la Universidad Camilo José Cela
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Esther Valdés, Responsable de la Ecohuerta UCJC Instagram: [@Biblioteca.UCJC](https://www.instagram.com/Biblioteca.UCJC)



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Slovenia - Guardians of Seeds: The Seed Library in France Bevk Public Library Nova Gorica

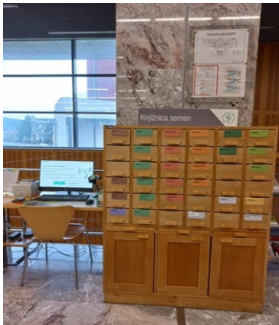
Gardening is a deeply rooted tradition and a way of life in Slovenia, with Nova Gorica, a town in western Slovenia being no exception. The town is surrounded by fertile fields and seeds play a big role in the everyday life of many inhabitants, who often cultivate crops using seeds that have been passed down through generations, thus preserving home-grown varieties. Some sort of seed exchange already existed in our community, so opening a seed library was a logical next step. France Bevk Public Library Nova Gorica was the first library in Slovenia to open a seed library.



The Seed Library logo in english. FBPL-arkiv

Innovative Seed Circulation

At its core, the Seed Library is a collection of ecologically raised, home-grown seeds, that community members donated to the library. We took it a step further and with minimal resources developed an innovative computer application, which allows circulation of seeds and their traceability. Its user-friendliness allows patrons to use it independently. Patrons log in to the app by scanning their library card and afterwards can borrow or donate seeds through the app. All the entered information is available in the Seed Library catalog on the library's website.



Seed Library in France Bevk Public Library Nova Gorica. FBPL-arkiv

Cultivating Sustainability

The Seed Library collection is available for all, from beginner gardeners to experts, and as such perfect for connecting with different schools, clubs and organizations. By organizing workshops, lectures, a gardening club and of course offering different library materials we are raising awareness about sustainable topics. By empowering people to grow their food we help reduce reliance on commercial agriculture and promote food security. With all the different activities, we are supporting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Achievements

As of today, 20 public libraries in Slovenia have adopted our project, some even in several of their branches. Together, there are now 22 Seed Libraries across Slovenia, all coordinated by France Bevk Public Library. The Seed Library initiative is featured as a project of citizen science on Slovenian and European citizen science websites. In 2024 it was one of 27 contestants, out of 288, that received a Honorary Mention in the EU Citizen Science prize. It was also one

of the 20 best practices included in ADELE's Digital innovation in public libraries booklet, which emphasizes innovative projects in public libraries across Europe. And of course it was one of the top 5 projects nominated for IFLA Green Library Project Award 2024.

What began as a small idea has grown into a vibrant network of people who understand the importance of preserving knowledge about gardening and homegrown seeds.

Ana Kosič, librarian at France Bevk Public Library Nova Gorica

China - Inform globally, act locally – an example from Beijing

The annual awareness initiative "Earth Day", action for climate and environmental protection and commitment to more sustainability, is seen as a message to everyone to support the United Nations' sustainability goals and trigger change in ecological thinking. Public Libraries as spaces for shared knowledge and experience can use their educational

mandate to promote participation in climate protection issues in civil society and to contribute to the United Nations' sustainability goals themselves.

For Earth Day 2024, the library of the Goethe-Institut China in Beijing invited visitors to take a bike ride to the library in the Art District 798. The response surprised us all: not just a few, but over 300 cyclists followed within the first two hours our call to get active and raise awareness for climate protection in the Chinese capital. This is not a matter of course in a city of 22 million, where taxi apps like 'Didi' offer low-cost transport, while frequent smog, traffic chaos and large spatial distances pose challenges for healthy and ecofriendly movement in the city.



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Raising awareness of sustainability and ecology

The day of action kicked off with a workshop entitled 'We, as the Climate Solution', held in cooperation with local based organization 'INFINITE VALUE-Innovative Thinking Lab'. Activists presented the concept of circular economy as a sustainable method and localized actions for sustainable living. The accompanying media exhibition 'Out of the slipstream - sustainable urban mobility by bike' presented German and English-language titles on topics such as repair manuals, training tips, microecology or of sustainable urbanization.

Best practice for a climate-conscious campaign in China's library network

Participants who demonstrably came by (rental) bike received a cross-body bag with the library's logo 'BibToGo' (which is our mobile app). We were able to reach new target groups, get people networking and gain new library members. Our partner library, the Xicheng District Library in Beijing, was enthusiastic about the topic and invited 'INFINITE VALUE-Innovative Thinking

Lab' to hold a similar workshop there as well. The curated themed collection is now available to our partner libraries free of charge.

Further workshops will be held shortly under the title 'We are the Climate solution – Library chapter', which aim at growing the community of best practice in everyday life and greater commitment to a future worth living.



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Michaela Bodesheim Head of Information and Libraries, Goethe-Institut China, Beijing Michaela.bodesheim@goethe.de

Spain - Small, but with collaboration it works! Biology Library of the University of Salamanca

The Biology Library of the University of Salamanca is a small library of 573 square meters dependent on the Faculty of Biology, integrated in two of

its buildings. Our collection covers numerous thematic areas related to Biodiversity and the Natural Environment. We have an annual acquisitions budget of 10,000 euros and a staff of four permanent members plus an itinerant employee that we share with the rest of the University libraries.

Our goal is to become an essential element in the daily activity of the Faculty at all levels. We want to provide information services in a broad sense, generate new content and educational supports, lend non-library materials and to serve as a link between the Faculty's teaching and research activity and the general public through multiple outreach activities, for which we actively collaborate with teachers, researchers and students. And it works! In the annual satisfaction surveys that the Faculty carries out among students, our library is the most valued service.

For all these reasons, we have launched different services, these are some of them:

Guided walks through the parks of Salamanca, an activity that brings

citizens closer to the flora and fauna that coexist with us in the city: identification, physiology, curiosities and usage. With students acting as guides in groups of 15 citizens, it takes place on Sundays in fall and spring depending on the availability of the students. Since 2016, more than 500 citizens participated.

Responsible Consumption Conference, which included a week of 8 seminars, the celebration of the first ecological market in the city of Salamanca with 10 local producers and an exhibition on solutions to climate change.

Biofilm, a week of screenings of fiction films that address a topic of environmental or scientific interest. After the screening, two researchers specializing in the subject intervene and there is a final debate with the public. We have managed to expand to three exhibition venues for three weeks, including a children section. An average of 1,000 viewers per edition.

Neuroman, an interactive digital magazine on science and the environment aimed at awakening a

scientific calling among the adolescent public.

Bionoticias: another digital magazine published every Monday to publicize the latest news among our students and teachers.

Imaginarium, an image database for teaching and studying purposes. It includes information about species, their characteristics and habitat. It is used by universities throughout Spain and Latin American countries. In 2023 it received 4,739,192 views, accumulating more than 51,8 million views since its release in 2010. It has more than 5,500 images with their corresponding explanatory legend distributed in thematic albums. The library also produces interactive didactic games as learning tools based on it.

Another activities are guided visits to research centers related to Biology and the Environment as the University Herbarium, or zoological collections. Also we lend materials for activities in nature: board games, 14 binoculars, 10 linen testers, 3 electronic magnifying glasses, 1 photo camera + tripod and 1 video camera.

Angel Poveda Polo, Jefe de Biblioteca de la Facultad de Biología y Biotecnología, Salamanca, Spain

Iran - 1000 cranes of Iran

This is our story. Two librarians from the Middle East. From small libraries of Besharat and Hafez in Gorgan. A city in the north of Iran. As two librarians, we would like to provide a safer, happier and greener world for children.

Our region has been involved in war and bombardment for the umpteenth time, and this issue has taken peace and happiness away from our children. We hope that one day the world will say goodbye to bitter words like war and bombing.

Since we have always tried to promote the thinking of kindness and peace in our service community under various pretexts in the library programs, we decided Prepare a special program, for the International Day of Science in the Service of Peace and Development with the cooperation of the compassionate and kind teacher Ms. Shahini for the children of the Talash school.

We would love to have libraries from Lebanon or Gaza participate in this program in the form of a webinar. We contacted several NGOs and library cultural institutes such as Assabil in Lebanon. But unfortunately, their activities were suspended due to war conditions.

On November 10th, we told the story of Sadako Sasaki to the children. Sadako, a girl who lost all her dreams and life because of the bombing of Hiroshima.. but she had hope until the last moment of her life. Our girls listened to this sad story and made a paper crane in Sadako's memory and wish for her. They used to say their dreams when they were making a paper crane. They wanted nothing but friendship, health and happiness for all the children of the world.

we decided to inform other libraries from the north to the south of the country using social networks active in Iran. In this way, we were able to connect a large chain of public libraries from Gorgan in the north to Mahshahr port in the south of Iran to this campaign. We were very surprised by the voluntary acceptance of many of

our colleagues throughout Iran. We shared this program with libraries all over Iran and at the same time more than 30 libraries joined this campaign.



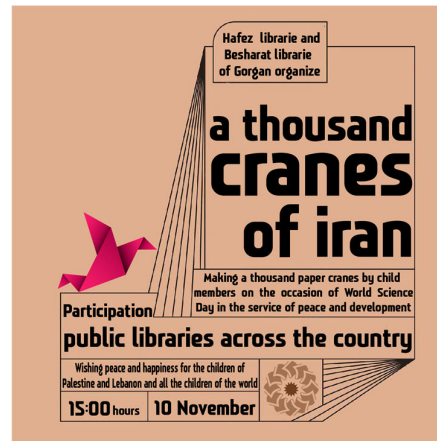
Finally, like Sadako's wish, on this day, we flew a thousand paper cranes from Iran with a wish for peace and tranquility around the world. Hoping that no child in the world is involved in war and bombing.

Copyright Monireh Shakerifar & Mohammad Nouri

Our smart students made beautiful crafts with the theme of introducing inspiring scientists and presented them to their friends. We are proud that the new generation of children in Iran is interested and aware of science and technology.

They gave us attractive shows about the importance of science and knowledge and following their dreams.

I, [Monireh Shakri Far](#), and my dear colleague [Mohammad Noori](#) are trying to implement the mission of the library properly in side programs. As well as the mission of the [Hafez library](#) to preserve happiness; The health and hope of the library members and the community is its servant.



Monireh Shakeifar, Mohammad Nouri

Greece - The Sustainable Neighbors Project



Sustainable Neighbors

Our planet is at a crossroads, confronting pressing environmental challenges that demand immediate

action. It is our collective duty to pave the way for a sustainable future, ensuring that the next generations inherit a thriving world. To achieve this vision, we must integrate eco-friendly habits into our everyday lives. Libraries, as hubs of knowledge and lifelong learning, are uniquely poised to take a leadership role in driving this transformation.

Our initiative, The Sustainable Neighbors, is part of Common Waste-Common Libraries project by Goethe-Institut and consists of four passionate young women united by a shared goal: to make libraries more environmentally sustainable.

To gauge current awareness levels and identify areas for growth, we conducted a survey among librarians, exploring their understanding of sustainability. The findings helped shape a practical and actionable [guide](#) that outlines steps libraries can take to become greener.

Beyond creating this guide, our efforts extend to hosting dynamic events that engage library users in sustainability education. These include interactive workshops, open discussions, and specialized programs designed to deepen understanding of environmental issues and inspire sustainable habits. Our approach stands out due to analyzing the operational practices of libraries and tailoring solutions for real-world applications.

Our project's adaptability ensures it can be implemented across different library settings with minor contextual adjustments. For instance, an art library might center educational activities around paintings of natural landscapes, using them as a starting point to discuss the impact of human activity on the environment and the

urgency of preservation efforts. By linking sustainability to the unique identity of each library, we foster meaningful engagement and drive awareness.

At its core, *The Sustainable Neighbors* aims to transform libraries into beacons of sustainability while inspiring environmental stewardship among their visitors. To amplify our mission, we've developed a [website](#) that houses resources, guides, and documentation about the project. Additionally, our social media platform, [@sustainable_neighbors](#), serves as a space to connect with the broader community, share ideas, and promote sustainable practices far and wide.

We warmly invite collaboration and are always available to answer questions or discuss potential partnerships. Together, we can create a more sustainable world, starting with the libraries that unite us.

*On behalf of Sustainable Neighbors Team,
Maria Aplada, Librarian, Cultural Manager
M.Sc*

Indonesia - Empowering Communities: How Libraries Promote Inclusivity in Achieving the SDGs

In an era when inclusivity is crucial for sustainable development, libraries have become essential centers for fostering inclusivity and empowering communities. Libraries play a critical role in promoting Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as they are rich in information and knowledge. As catalysts for social change, libraries offer necessary resources, provide digital literacy training, and organize inclusive programs that involve marginalized communities. Libraries serve as safe spaces where individuals from all backgrounds can engage, learn, and collaborate, thereby enhancing community resilience and advancing the collective pursuit of a more equitable and sustainable future. Through innovative programs and resources, libraries are not just preserving knowledge; it also actively shaping a more inclusive society.

The National Library of Indonesia as an institution, provides information, resources and offers inclusive values

by providing services to all levels of society. Being said, The National Library of Indonesia has an important role in realizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Effective library and information services enhance socio-economic development by creating a knowledge society and empowering people, especially marginalized people and those living in poverty to exercise their rights, be economically active, learn new skills, enrich cultural identity and take part in decision making (International Federation for Libraries Association (IFLA)).

Recently, the National Library of Indonesia has hosted various events in promoting inclusiveness for marginalized communities such as the elderly, people with disabilities, street children, cancer survivors and drug survivors. These activities are held from the end of October to the beginning of November 2024. The events aimed to invite public participation to enjoy the facilities at the National Library of Indonesia and not only limited to books but also sharing knowledge and experience in the form of workshops. This workshop

is designed to help participants hone their skills to be more productive and have extensive information and knowledge in certain fields of science. In its implementation, the National Library of Indonesia invites communities from several related parties to come and attend the events held. The following are events that have been successfully held by The National Library of Indonesia from the end of October - November 2024:

- Workshop for children, is focused on street children with the activity titled: "Creative writing with street children". This event was attended by the Street Children Community; a community founded by Ibu Kembar in a rural area in West Jakarta. This community focuses on helping the education of neglected children. With this approach through activities, it helps children to love books and reading more, and develop their skills in a fun context to write books.
- Workshop for disability, is focused on people with hearing loss, with the activity titled: "Increasing self-confidence and creativity for deaf friends through art therapy". This event was attended by a community called Gerkatin or (Movement for the Welfare of the Deaf in Indonesia)
- Workshop for the elderly, is focused on elderly health related to dementia with the activity titled: "Cheerful Elderly, Happy Elderly, Elderly Refuse to forget" This event was attended by several elderly communities such as: Fatmawati Elderly School, Senior Community, Jakarta Elderly Community Forum. With this activity, it is hoped that the elderly or individuals who are about to reach old age can find out early about this health issue so that they can minimize the condition of brain dysfunction in elderly age.

- Workshop for drug survivors, is focused on counseling for the youth generation with the activity titled: "Great generation, generation without drugs". This activity was attended by the Kartini Emergency School community, mostly filled by young people.
- Workshop for cancer survivors, is focused on life quality for cancer patients with the activity titled: "Collaborating towards a better quality of life for cancer patients". This event was attended by the CISC (Cancer Information and Support Center) Indonesia community.
- Workshop for pre-employment with the event title "Video Editing for Affiliates-beginner with the Capcut mobile app and the application of AI". This activity is open to the public, the main target of which is the pre-employment community. It is hoped that with this activity, the community will have better

knowledge and experience in the fields of affiliation and Artificial Intelligence in social media or e-commerce.



Workshop for the elderly: "Cheerful Elderly, Happy Elderly, Elderly Refuse to forget" held by The National Library of Indonesia, October 2024. Credit: The National Library of Indonesia

Those activities also emphasize the concept of inclusivity, where everyone is equal and on par in gaining knowledge and information. By offering services and events for marginalized people, The National Library of Indonesia can bring new experiences to them and address the needs of marginalized communities. Libraries help reduce inequalities within society which are reflected in SDG point 10, reduced inequalities. The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) acknowledges

libraries as crucial allies in promoting inclusive and sustainable development. This is very aligned with the IFLA statement, *"Equitable access to information, freedom of expression, freedom of association and assembly, and privacy are central to individuals' independence. Libraries help to reduce inequality by providing safe, civic spaces open to all, in both urban and rural areas across the world. They foster community engagement and citizen participation through local programmes and partnerships with other civil society organizations and local governments. They are a lifeline to marginalized groups, who may struggle to access information, skills or support elsewhere."* (SDG 10).



Workshop for street children: "Creative writing with street children" held by The National Library of Indonesia, October 2024. Credit: The National Library of Indonesia

In conclusion, libraries are essential for reaching the SDGs through offering accessible information, encouraging community involvement, and advocating inclusivity for all individuals, empowering them to engage in society and helping our community to create a

Restu Putri Sholikhah - Librarian at National Library of Indonesia

Spain - MEDiNa – Diffusion near you

In January 2019, the MEDiNa project (Meteorology, Education and Dissemination at the National level) was born, with which AEMET has managed to coordinate all the dissemination activities that have been carried out at its different headquarters over the years, in order to meet the



growing demand of society, in the understanding and knowledge of many meteorological concepts.

MEDiNa is an AEMET project, named in honor of D. Mariano Medina Isabel (1922-1994), a meteorologist known for being the first "weatherman" in the history of Spanish television and undoubtedly the most popular, with almost thirty years of professional work in television, where he demonstrated his communication skills and professional rigor, as well as being a great disseminator.

AEMET's MEDiNa program has obtained First Prize in the Teaching Materials modality awarded by "Ciencia en Acción 2024", of the "INNPULSO" Network, for the best online informative material.

After 4 years of teamwork, collecting information, and generating content, the website was presented in 2022 <https://medina.aemet.es/>. Through this page AEMET aims to get closer to society, from a didactic perspective, to address this need that is increasingly demanded by different groups.

On the page you can find a direct link to the [YOUTUBE](#) channel, where there are more than 90 videos, in which many AEMET colleagues explain a large number of meteorological concepts.

The [UNIDAD DIDÁCTICA](#) ("didactic unit") for teaching use aims to correct and update the texts used in schools.

The NOTICIAS ("news") section includes a large number of informative activities carried out at the different AEMET headquarters, and in the VISITAS A CENTROS ("visits to centers") tab you can locate the nearest meteorological center, where you can request information about these visits.

The AEMET Library and Documentation Center collaborate in the MATERIAL DIVULGATIVO ("dissemination material") section by creating bookmarks, stories, posters, cutouts (meteorological dominoes and the goose game), observation games such as the weather tree and educational games, with which to learn by playing with basic concepts of meteorology.

Likewise, the AEMET library collaborates in the dissemination of MEDINA by presenting the website and the activities carried out in different library seminars and conferences that it attends.

It is an active member of the Network of Environmental Information and Documentation Centers (RECIDA). These seminars are organized by the National Center for Environmental Education (CENEAM).

The AEMET Library, whose representative in RECIDA is Elena Morato, has collaborated by providing meteorological educational material such as meteorological bookmarks, weather games, etc. available for download on the website of the MEDINA project.

We can also highlight the EXPERIMENTOS (“experiments”) that are collected on the web, for all ages, with which to learn to understand meteorology.

And concluding the tour of the web, in the MUSEO VIRTUAL (“virtual museum”), a large number of

meteorological instruments from the past and present are presented.

This project has received an Accesit Citizenship Award in the Awards for Quality and Innovation in Public Management, XVII edition. ([BOE, 2024, n.272](#))

We invite you to browse the website to discover the content that the MEDINA team has prepared to enjoy meteorology.

Abstract: MEDiNA (Meteorology, Education and Dissemination at the National level), AEMET's meteorological dissemination project, has won First Prize in the Didactic Materials modality awarded by Ciencia en Acción 2024, of the INNPULSO Network, for the best online dissemination material. With this project AEMET aims to get closer to society, from an informative point of view, to address this need that is increasingly demanded, from different groups. The AEMET Library and Documentation Center participate in the DISSEMINATION MATERIAL section by developing various types of content (games, stories, posters, bookmarks, etc.) with which to learn by

playing with basic concepts of meteorology. Likewise, the AEMET library collaborates in the dissemination of MEDINA by presenting the website and its activities in different library seminars and conferences.

Elena Morato Medina, Spain

Croatia - Ecological Literacy in the Focus of the School Library – From Green Literacy to Sustainable Tourism

Green literacy and environmental awareness have been among the main topics in school library for some time. Their task is to change the behaviour of individuals and then the local community in order to encourage critical thinking and strengthen the ability to understand the impact of human decisions and actions on the world around them.

One possible way to apply "green" skills and knowledge is in the field of tourism, specifically sustainable and responsible tourism which is based on the environmental awareness of

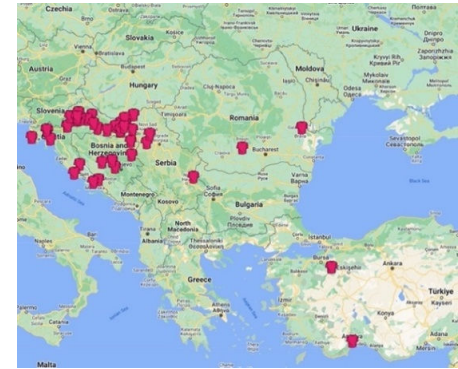
society. Since Croatia is well-known tourist destination and tourism is important branch of our economy ecological literacy and responsible tourism should be in the focus of education at all levels of formal schooling, starting with primary education. In this context school libraries can take a leading and responsible role in raising public awareness through activities related to sustainable development, encouraging development, preservation and presentation of cultural identity, tradition and the life of the local community. Through their involvement school libraries provide support to their members and the local community offering resources, knowledge and a place to communicate.

Moreover, libraries preserve and promote the tangible and intangible local heritage and thus have a broader impact in the field of national culture, educating and preparing young people to preserve and promote their cultural identity, while also preparing them as future consumers of tourism.

The school library offers its users various resources: library collections,

both book and non-book materials, digitized materials, websites, educational programs and projects, cultural programs, workshops (e.g. creating traditional items, souvenirs, etc.). Also among existing library collections, a new collection could be developed - a students' materials collection (photographs, travelogues, reports, etc.) through which peer-to-peer or intergenerational teaching could be practiced.

Considering the recent arrival of foreign students (migrants, returnees) in our schools, such a collection would serve as an addition to the local heritage collection offering a source for learning and getting to know the new living and cultural environment. Both mentioned collections, in addition to being available in the library, can also be in a virtual environment, as well as databases of links that can be integrated into the library's website, containing relevant materials about tourism, the promotion of other cities and countries, their customs, culture, landmark and so on.



Putting your town on a world map together with other project partners

All of this can be used for interdisciplinary connections in school or for projects in which librarians are involved. These are always excellent opportunities for participants to present their town, region, or country, using relevant sources of knowledge and information provided by the library, while also practicing skills such as public speaking, teamwork, translation, navigation (e.g. on a map), using information and communication technology, etc. Moreover, participation in such projects offers a great opportunity for intercultural and intergenerational dialogue, which is one of the main goals of education on responsible tourism.

One example of interdisciplinary collaboration is the workshop "Students – Tourist Guides in Their City," which was organized in Elementary school Dubovac in Karlovac. The workshop linked Geography class, English class, and research work in the school library. Seventh-grade students had to choose a monument or building in Karlovac, research basic information and interesting facts about it, and prepare a short presentation in English. The librarian and teachers prepared the necessary materials (printed and online), and then took the students on a city walk. While one student gave the presentation, the others "pretended" to be tourists, taking notes on questions prepared on the worksheet. So they practiced to orient themselves in the city, to give public presentation in English, to get familiar with the cultural heritage of their own city, and to self-evaluate their understanding of what they had seen and heard.



Detail from the workshop. Copyright Ana Sudarević

In conclusion, school libraries are one of the starting points for cultural education of young people; they are spaces where future tourists are raised, ones who will know where, how, and in what way to seek and provide information and how to contribute to the preservation of resources, such as cultural and natural heritage, that are used daily. Primarily by developing greater responsibility toward their own environment, and then toward the broader environment and community.

Ana Sudarević, Elementary school Dubovac, Karlovac; Jasna Milički, Elementary school Marija Bistrica

China - Ecological science popularization activities launched by Suzhou Library

Doing a good job in ecological science popularization is an important way to enhance the ecological civilization literacy of the whole nation. Suzhou Library regards ecological science popularization education as an important measure of innovative services, and carried out environmental literacy education by combining science popularization reading activities, extended its social education function and enhanced readers' environmental literacy.

Science popularization activity with the theme of green new energy

On the occasion of the 2023 National Science and Technology Activity Week, Suzhou Library organized readers to visit the Green New Energy Theme Science Popularization Education Base in person.



Visit to the science popularization education base. Copyright Suzhou Library

The on-site teacher gave an in-depth explanation of popular science knowledge such as modern green energy technology. At the same time, readers deepen their understanding and experience of green energy application technology through on-site experience and knowledge interaction.



Charging equipment Copyright Suzhou Library

Ecological Science Popularization Experience Activity

On the occasion of National Ecology Day in 2023, the Suzhou Library High tech Zone Branch launched an "Ecological Science Popularization" experience activity for community children. The activity consisted of two parts: reading picture books and stories together, and experiencing green technology.



Shared Reading. Copyright Suzhou Library

Firstly, the librarian shared popular science picture books related to green ecology and environmental protection with the children through reading. The vivid pictures and interesting stories in the picture books contain knowledge about the food chain, ecosystem, and

material cycle, reflecting the grand issues of green ecology and environmental protection. Then entered the scientific experiment experience section, where the librarian explained the basic principles of water purification and demonstrated how to make a water purifier. Finally, under the guidance of the librarian, the young readers made their own simple water purifiers. This experiential activity popularized ecological and environmental knowledge to young readers, enabling them to establish awareness of resource conservation, environmental protection, and green living from an early age.



Children were making simple water purifiers. Copyright Suzhou Library

Science popularization video exhibition

From August to October 2024, Suzhou Library collaborated with Suzhou Association for Science and Technology to play selected popular science videos in the library's release hall through the use of modern multimedia technology, providing readers with a vivid and intuitive space for popular science learning. The exhibition video content includes ecological science popularization such as climate change, new energy, and sustainable development, promoting the popularization and dissemination of ecological environment knowledge.

Conducting science popularization activities is an important way of environmental literacy education. Conducting ecological science popularization activities can impart knowledge and skills on environmental protection, enabling the public to have a deeper understanding and awareness of environmental protection, and making them more likely to actively participate in environmental protection practices. Suzhou Library has enriched the forms

and contents of environmental literacy education by integrating science popularization activities with environmental literacy education. By organizing lively and flexible activities such as on-site visits to science popularization bases, leading reading of picture book stories, and experiencing green technology, environmental literacy education is combined with practical and immersive experiential activities to deepen readers' understanding and comprehension of environmental knowledge. In the process of these activities, cooperation with professional social organizations ensured the professionalism of environmental education activities and promoted the full utilization of social resources. In the process of organizing these activities, cooperation with social professional institutions ensured the professionalism of environmental education activities and promoted the full utilization of social resources. The relevant activities have fulfilled Sustainable Development Goals 4 and 13, and have enhanced the public's knowledge and skills in addressing climate change through high-quality

environmental education and publicity activities.

Qijing Hu, Suzhou Library, China

Global news from the green library field

UK - The Sustainability in NHS Knowledge & Library Services Community of Practice

Four years after the UK narrowly voted to shoot itself in the crotch by leaving the EU, and despite being in the grips of the pandemic, in October 2022 its National Health Service somehow published the "[Delivering a Net Zero Health Service](#)" report, stating the objective of making the organisation carbon net zero by 2045, laying-out the road map to reach this goal, and the rationale behind it.

The [Greener NHS](#) programme was launched to enable this, with every department from procurement to anaesthesia and everything in between in the country's largest employer and

Europe's 6th largest, mobilising to make their operations more sustainable and meet our emissions target. Knowledge and Library Services were no exception, with the central body responsible for the strategic direction of our workforce - then called Health Education England (HEE) now part of NHS England's Workforce Training and Education directorate - seeking to share best practice in this area.

FutureNHS was the new online platform prescribed by NHS England for doing just that, and so HEE's Richard Bridgen created a "workspace" there for sustainability in NHS library services and arranged a series of online meetings for colleagues with an interest-in and/or responsibility-for sustainability to discuss how they could help their parent bodies (their Trusts) and the organisation as a whole carbon neutral. Terms of Reference were agreed at an initial meeting.

Six years after the national act of self-harm "Brexit", in July 2022 an uncharacteristically prescient Act of Parliament made "Delivering a Net

Zero Health Service" into legislation, meaning we are now not just ethically but legally required to meet this target. After a year spent building our community of practice, Richard handed-over its leadership to two members; Lucy Gilham, Librarian at Hampshire Hospitals and myself, then manager of Hillingdon Hospital Library Services.

So in October 2022 Lucy and I picked-up where Richard left-off; building the membership of the *Sustainability in NHS Knowledge and Library Services Community of Practice* amongst NHS librarians, and broadening it out to include healthcare library staff from outside of the NHS (including Royal Colleges and Academies etc.), Welsh and Scottish colleagues, and non-library staff who are interested in collaborating with other professional groups. We're now over 200 members strong and hold quarterly online meetings (via Teams) usually lasting a couple of hours, with the agenda set by the membership. Guest speakers usually start our meetings, with past guests including Trust sustainability leads, The Bodleian Libraries' Jon Ray, and IFLA's own Dr. Petra Hauke.

The group has promoted the green agenda since its inception and aims to inspire colleagues as well as arm them with practical tools for making a difference. To this end we are hoping to bolster the NHS's green procurement guidance with the creation of a toolkit for libraries purchasing resources/services locally, to ensure the triple bottom line of people, planet, and profit is driving our purchasing decisions.

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday 25/2/25, 10am-12pm (GMT). Guest speakers include Amber Marquand from Natural England, and Jess from the University of Exeter introducing their Local Climate Adaptation Tool (LCAT). All IFLA Environment, Sustainability and Libraries Section (ENSULIB) colleagues are welcome to join us, please contact adam.tocock@nhs.net for the Teams link to that meeting, or if you'd like to join our community. You'll be very welcome: We look forward to collaborating with you!

Adam Tocock, Librarian, Whittington Health Library Co-chair, Sustainability in NHS Knowledge and Library Services Community of Practice

Future Library, Hong Kong SAR

In this time of the year HK is undergoing a tremendous economic turn, policy makers are addressing the economic growth of the region. The purpose is to highlight the available resources to promote HK as a dynamic place to rebounding into a sustainable economic development region. More emphasis relies on the latest technology to rebuild the region prosperity. This turn signifies HK as an international hub to organize magnifying events to recapture tourisms and talents to reside in HK. With no doubt, we retain our capital to engage foreign investors to come back to HK.

On one hand, deepening the culture aspect is one of the key things to be achieved in HK. Library in turn serves as a medium to accommodate different needs of the community. In the past, it claimed that in every small area like HK, there are libraries and sport facilitates in catering the community of one area. This serve to bring leisure times for the general public.

By now, library acts an organic place to engage people with the extraordinary liberty.

To become an organic place, the future library must be user- friendly. The building provides nature-lighting facilitates, it allows more open spaces, it has live music performance, it has theaters inside the building etc. It draws people from the outside to the core areas inside the library. This ultimately connects people from their surroundings. Reading is no longer a lonely thing to do by yourself instead it is a place to meet different people and make good friendships. These are the good virtue and bounding among various communities.

People eventually find that the library is a wellbeing hub where they enjoy staying. Under the ESG model, the government and the society should be a formation of partnership to bring positive effect to bring harmonies. Maybe a newly built library should consider connecting people with the nature especially living in the concrete jungles in a place like HK. Or should we reconsider to rebuild the service reservoir into a library to revisit HK

valuable resources. Or a contemporary eco-friendly building in West Kowloon District to recreate the landmark and preserve HK special assets.

Behind all these, we trust that it requires substantial workforce to complete those tasks to make HK a tangible place where culture matters meet sustainable stability. HK is under a critical time, only unite people bring prosperity and a positive sign towards the future is in need.

Preserving and cultivating exceptional good values of one culture take times to accumulate. We should stop believing in mouthing the image story of HK. In the near future, we treasure what we value and with new mindset to extend our capacity to attain a culture hub for people to access and make HK a better place to stay. Good practices are striving us to follow.

Jennifer Yu

Italy - Manifesto for Inclusive Reading

Rossana Morriello, University of Florence, and Lucia Sardo, University of Bologna, Italy.

At the 2024 Stelline Conference, the main annual conference for libraries and librarians in Italy, titled “LIBRARIES AND NEW FORMS OF READING: FROM THE STRATEGIC ROLE OF LITERACY TO THE TRANSFORMATIONS TAKING PLACE IN THE DIGITAL ECOSYSTEM,” held in Milan on March 20-21, a working group was formed under the coordination of Rossana Morriello and Lucia Sardo. This group was tasked with organizing the session “Reading: Paper, Screen, or Audio?”

The session drew significant inspiration from the work of Noemi Baron, a sociolinguist at the University of Washington, DC, who also presented an extremely interesting, pre-recorded video speech at the conference. Her research, and particularly her book **HOW WE READ NOW: STRATEGIC CHOICES FOR**

PRINT, SCREEN, AND AUDIO, served as a key inspiration for the session.

Recognizing and promoting diverse forms of reading is a crucial mission for libraries, closely tied to the core principle of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development—“leaving no one behind”—as well as to targets related to access to information. These targets are shown in IFLA’s infographic, **INFORMATION FOR DEVELOPMENT: WHY ACCESS MATTERS ACROSS THE SDGS?** Goal 10 of the UN Agenda, which focuses on reducing inequality within and among countries, is especially relevant to fostering inclusive reading.

The main outcome of the working group is the creation of a Manifesto, now available on Zenodo for public feedback and suggestions: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.14080238>.

Manifesto for Inclusive Reading

- The right to read should be guaranteed to all communities of readers.

- Each reader has the right to spend as much time reading as they wish and to choose the type of reading they prefer.
- Libraries must promote various types of reading with equal commitment.
- From books for everyone to reading for everyone, based on individual capacities, inclinations, and preferences.
- Reading should not be limited strictly to books but should encompass all media.
- Reading must become democratic and inclusive.
- In addition to its ethical and civic value, reading serves the pursuit of beauty, pleasure, enjoyment, and joy.
- Inclusive reading should encompass all age groups, genres, and cultures.
- Cross-media and transmedia approaches can foster inclusive reading.
- A cross-media and transmedia approach can succeed in engaging younger people in reading across all media, including books.

- An inclusive, cross-media, and transmedia approach to reading by all actors in the publishing sector can help combat functional illiteracy.
- To support inclusion, trained and skilled personnel are essential at every level of the publishing chain.
- Inclusion must be embedded at all levels of the publishing industry. Inclusion should cover research tools and mediation between users and the resources they seek.
- Libraries must promote bibliodiversity as a tool for inclusion.
- Economic disparities make inclusion challenging, but libraries can help overcome them by offering access and resources to all without barriers.
- Libraries play a fundamental role in supporting inclusive reading for economically disadvantaged communities.
- Active community participation helps and promotes inclusion, fostering integration while respecting diversity.

- Reading plays a space-time reconnection role for the elderly, especially in cases of dementia and other forms of cognitive decline.
- Librarians must bring reading beyond the library, into places like prisons, hospitals, long-term care facilities, and nursing homes.
- Reading, like art and music, has therapeutic value.
- Reading should not merely reinforce individual beliefs but should instil doubt and provoke questions (about oneself and the socio-cultural context).

Contributors to the Manifesto:

Enrica Atzori, Vanda Cremona, Fabio Di Giammarco, Rossana Morriello, Giulia Mosca, Marco Giuseppe Palladino, Lucia Sardo, Paul Gabriele Weston.

IBBY Australia: The Sustainable Development Goals Book Club presents a selection of books for children from 5 to 12 years focussing on each of the 17 SDGs.

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a universal call to action. IBBY Australia, one of the eighty-six national sections of the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY), is committed to the Sustainable Development Goals and is promoting Australian titles that support these goals to a wide audience in the education and children's literature fields.

IBBY joined efforts with its partner, the International Publishers Association (IPA), to work on the UN's Sustainable Development Goals Book Club. [The Book Club](#) presents a selection of books for children from 5 to 12 years focussing on each of the 17 SDGs.

Established in 1966, IBBY Australia's Purpose and goals include

- To promote international understanding through children's books
- To give children everywhere the opportunity to have access to books with high literary and artistic standards

- To encourage the publication and distribution of quality children's books, including those in their own languages (eg the Indigenous languages across Australia)
- To provide support and training for those involved with children and children's literature

IBBY Australia is therefore pleased to share their new webpage featuring quality Australian fiction and non-fiction books for all ages on all 17 SDGs.

Lists of titles can be reached through this [directory](#) or via the [About – IBBY Australia \(wordpress.com\)](#).

Each of the goals can be quickly accessed by downloading a PDF. Each document contains the publication information, hyperlinks to the publisher's website and WorldCat records. These links assist in either purchase of the titles or locating libraries through the WorldCat search. Some titles also have a link to Teacher Notes.

All books within each goal can also be browsed with a short paragraph describing the content. First Nations titles that speak to the goals are placed at the beginning of each list to assist teachers with this important Key Learning Area in the Australian curriculum.

The lists have been well received:

“ Books for young people are produced all over the world. Magical books, wonderful books, and informative books; but without IBBY Australia *bringing the world of books and children together* many of these titles on important subjects may be missed. The Sustainable Development Goal lists developed by the IBBY committee are an invaluable resource for educators at all levels, and families.” - *Christopher Cheng, Award winning children's author, DipTeach, Master of Arts Children's Literature*

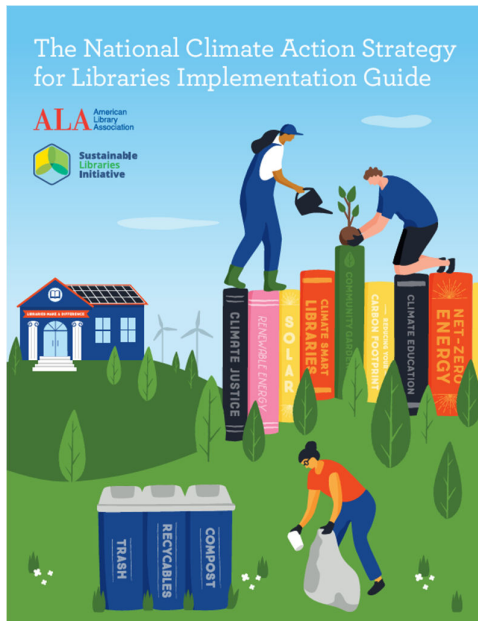
“I applaud IBBY Australia for creating this invaluable list of quality children's literature to support the UN Sustainable Development Goals. This carefully curated online catalogue shares literature with important

environmental, social, health and economic messages for teachers and families with children of all ages. Story is one of the most powerful ways for children to learn about global goals for peace and prosperity for people and the planet. This collection is a go-to list for teachers in early childhood education right through to secondary school!” - *Linda T Harrison Early Childhood Education Specialist Learn. Play. Thrive & Claire Stuckey, SDGs Project Coordinator, IBBY Australia*

USA - The National Climate Action Strategy

The American Library Association (ALA) and the Sustainable Libraries Initiative (SLI) have teamed up to develop a National Climate Action Strategy for Libraries (NCASL). <https://www.sustainablelibrariesinitiative.org/media/document/614> This initiative stems from years of work by many with some key junctures including in 2013 when the Sustainability Round Table of ALA was created, in 2017 when Resolution on the Importance of Sustainable Libraries passed ALA, and by 2019 Sustainability was finally adopted as

an ALA Core Value of the Profession. At the same time the New York Library Association Council passed the Resolution on the Importance of Sustainable Libraries in 2014, and SLI began.



Pulling together 20 librarians in the USA to work on this Task Force in late 2023, A national study was conducted to get feedback from libraries on how they were adopting climate action or considering the libraries role in climate action as a priority. The strategy

implementation guide stemmed from this study, and is available free online to help libraries incorporate climate action locally into their strategic, operational, and facility planning. It was developed to help accelerate adoption of climate action in libraries across the country. The strategy consists of three categories 1) climate change mitigation 2) climate change adoption and contributions to community resilience and 3) climate justice work.

Climate change mitigation means libraries tackle an energy audit and benchmark their greenhouse gas emission in order to set reduction goals. Policymakers have recommended libraries reduce their Greenhouse emissions by 43% of their 2015 levels by 2030. Then try to achieve Net Zero by 2050. The Implementation guide offers resources and suggestions on where to start.

Climate adoption and community resilience means being prepared when disaster will hit. Creating internal disaster preparedness plans within your strategic goals is a must for any library. Being able to offer shelter

space during extreme weather events will help with your community's resilience.

Climate justice work cannot be ignored as it's an integral part of the climate strategy. Educating for climate justice and developing relationships and partnerships with local community organizations will create a deeper awareness of this intersection of climate stewardship and human rights. Partnerships will help create a social infrastructure the community needs in the climate norm of the future.

By Beth Filar Williams, Oregon State University Libraries, and member of the NCAS task force

International Days Observed by the United Nations January – June 2025

January

24 International Day of Education

February

20 World Day of Social Justice

March

01 Zero Discrimination Day

03 World Wildlife Day

08 International Women's Day

21 International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

21 World Poetry Day

21 International Day of Forests

22 World Water Day 23 World Meteorological Day

April

05 International Day of Conscience

06 International Day of Sport for Development and Peace

07 United Nations' World Health Day 22 Earth Day

May

02 World Tuna Day

11 World Migratory Bird Day

15 International Day of Families

16 International Day of Living Together in Peace

16 International Day of Light

20 World Bee Day

21 World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development

21 International Tea Day

22 International Day for Biological Diversity

29 International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers

June

03 World Bicycle Day

05 World Environment Day

08 World Oceans Day

17 World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought

21 International Day of the Celebration of the Solstice

26 International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

29 International Day of the Tropics

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