



IFLA Section
**Environment,
Sustainability and Libraries**

ENSULIB Newsletter



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Message from the Chair



ENSULIB has been active this spring and we have lived through exciting times. This has been an election year and from the beginning of autumn ENSULIB will have a renewed Standing Committee: six new members will join in September and bring new enthusiasm, vision and expertise to the section. I warmly welcome our new members and thank those who are departing. This is not all, since new officers will also be elected at the beginning of autumn, which means that my four-year presidency will end. It has been an honor to serve as chair but most of all, it has been a great experience to lead an enthusiastic group that is committed to promoting environmental issues. I am glad to continue as a Standing Committee member in ENSULIB.

Change will take place but meanwhile ENSULIB actively continues its work. A new newsletter is now available, and we both hosted and participated in several webinars during the spring. In addition, the IFLA Green Library Guidelines are currently being reviewed for approval and will be published soon. Also, the finalists for the IFLA Green Library Award 2025 have been announced. As in previous years, we received numerous applications from around the world. Our international jury has now evaluated these submissions and selected 3 nominees for the Best Green Library of the Year and 4 nominees for the Best Green Project category. I congratulate all the finalists and wish to note that the quality of the submission was very good. The winners will be announced in August. We

are also in the process of securing a new sponsor for the award – the approval is ready, just a few signatures away.

As a resigning chair, I like to say that I am pleased with the determination and persistence of our section members to promote environmental awareness in libraries. Another reason for joy has been that our section and its activities have attracted so many people who have been seeking to become our members. Unfortunately, not all nominees were elected this time. This interest and will to volunteer is especially important at a time when it can no longer be taken for granted anywhere in the world that citizens have open access to reliable and up-to-date environmental information, that libraries have diverse opportunities to promote reading and literacy, and that competent librarians receive the appreciation and support they deserve to continue their valuable work.

Harri Sahavirta, Chair of ENSULIB Standing Committee

About the Editorial Committee

The ENSULIB Newsletter is published twice a year (June & December). This edition's managing editor is Priscilla Pun. Please contact any of our editors for contributions:



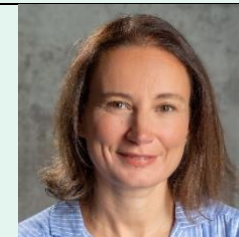
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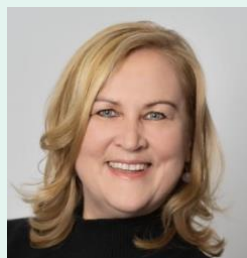
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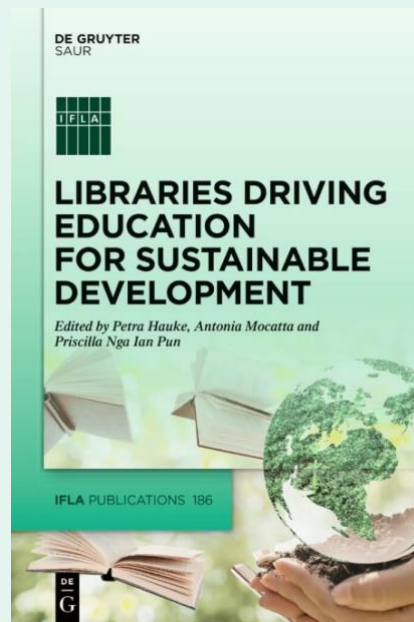


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ENSULIB Proudly Announces the Release of Its New Book Libraries Driving Education for Sustainable Development

ENSULIB is thrilled to announce the release of its new book, *Libraries Driving Education for Sustainable Development*. This is number 186 in the IFLA Publications Series, and is published open access via a generous funding provided by the IFLA Professional Council.

The book refers to the UNESCO's ESD for 2030 education program. Libraries, especially green and sustainable libraries, deserve prominent recognition as learning institutions and active driving partners for Education for Sustainable Development and which support their governments' sustainability efforts. In line with the Berlin Declaration on ESD and the UNESCO program, the book focuses on innovative approaches and informal education projects, created and provided by green and sustainable libraries.



Editors: Petra Hauke, Antonia Mocatta, and Priscilla Nga Ian Pun

Berlin/Boston: de Gruyter, 2025. 452 pages, illustrations (IFLA Publications; 186).

Language: English

Electronic ISBN: 978-3-11-133646-6
Hardcover ISBN: 978-3-11-133570-4

Price (Hardcover): €99.95

[Available as open access/under an open access license.](#)

There are three major parts in this book. The first part provides an introduction to the relevant topics and ESD programmes in general from various aspects. The second part provides case studies demonstrating innovative approaches to ESD in public libraries and school libraries worldwide. The third part provides examples and practices from the global academic libraries sector and library and information science education. A list of global contributors of the book could be found [here](#).

This book is the fourth book in the ENSULIB's Book Publication Project. The other three books in the Project are: *The Green Library* (2013), *Going Green: Implementing Sustainable Strategies in Libraries Around the World* (2018), and *New Libraries in Old Buildings: Creative Reuse* (2021). All of these books are available as open access [here](#).

An Environmental Game – Virtual islands, real lessons: exploring environmental awareness in libraries with *Animal Crossing: New Horizons*

INTRODUCTION

Libraries, as institutions with a public vocation, evolve at the same pace as the needs of the communities they serve. Far from the outdated image of silent, obsolete spaces, they are now configured as dynamic environments that promote civic engagement, technological innovation, and commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In this context, many libraries have begun incorporating video games into their collections, recognizing their potential as educational tools.

ANIMAL CROSSING: NEW HORIZONS AS AN ENVIRONMENTAL GAME

One of the most promising titles in this field is *Animal Crossing: New Horizons*, a cozy video game released by Nintendo in 2020. It gained great

popularity during the COVID-19 pandemic (Paredes Otero, 2021), and is regarded by its users as a safe space, a refuge of calm and tranquility (Ferreira, Ganito, and Gonçalves, 2025), that has even served as a platform for peaceful online protests (Venegas Ramos and Moreno Cantano, 2021).

In the game, the player arrives on a deserted island that must be transformed into a thriving community. The gameplay encourages empathy, civic values, and care for one's environment (Fernández, Fonts, and Villegas, 2025).

The island serves as a blank canvas that can be terraformed freely, adding decorative and functional elements (including solar panels or wind turbines), featuring dynamic and realistic weather (image 1), in real time (a minute on the game is a minute in real life), and where creating rivers or planting trees increases the island's rating and happiness of the villagers.

The game's environmental education potential—particularly for children—is significant, involving tasks such as species identification, biodiversity

conservation, and ecological awareness (Coroller and Flinois, 2023).



Screenshots showing seasonal weather changes and other environmental elements

However, it is important to acknowledge the game's layer of unreality: it depicts a world with infinite resources (fruits and vegetables regrow after harvesting, water for irrigation never runs out), which contradicts real-world ecological constraints (Ho, 2025).

IDEAS FOR LIBRARIES

Libraries can develop a wide range of activities around the game. Proposals include insect-catching or fishing tournaments (with a focus on respect towards species), and virtual landscaping or gardening contests (image 2) that reward both aesthetics and environmental sensitivity.

In a non-competitive framework, digital “walks” or guided tours of themed islands created by library staff can be organized for educational purposes, covering topics such as gardening, sustainability, renewable energy, or marine ecosystems (the game allows underwater diving).

These tours can be accompanied by craft workshops inspired by in-game objects. In the game, items can be crafted using recycled materials, which could be replicated in real life. Another idea could be implementing the sustainable solutions presented in the game in actual real physical spaces (importance of watering plants, planting vegetables in a garden, etc.).



Screenshot showing a vegetable garden in the game

These activities can be supported with bibliographic resources. Libraries may curate selections of books related to the game’s themes (rural life, botany, sustainability, species identification) for bibliographic exhibitions or storytimes based on the game’s characters.

CONCLUSION

Given its educational and social potential, *Animal Crossing: New Horizons* stands out as a valuable addition to a library’s technological collection. Furthermore, including a *Nintendo Switch* console alongside other lendable devices (eBooks, tablets, laptops) can expand opportunities for learning and community engagement.

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A Documentary Film of Sustainability – It's All Connected: The Art of Sustainability

On 22 March, 2025, Nashville Public Library (NPL), in Nashville, Tennessee, USA, held the world premiere of its fulllength documentary about sustainability, entitled "It's All Connected: The Art of Sustainability." The film, created by NPL's NECAT Network, explores how NPL's daily operations and collections — including the Seed Exchange,

Library of Things, Repair Fairs, and projects like the Edmondson Pike Branch community garden — help educate the Nashville community on sustainable practices. The film also takes viewers on a tour of Nashville and Middle Tennessee's art, waterways, and often unseen corners, and showcases community partners from local non-profits, municipal departments, community gardens, and even the local zoo. Following the film premiere, the filmmaker, Cameron McCasland, facilitated a panel discussion between several people featured in the film. The film is viewable on YouTube [here](#), and the panel discussion is viewable [here](#).

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An Environmental Scan – The ACRL Environmental Scan Highlights Climate Resilience & Sustainability in Higher Education

The Academic and College Research Libraries (ACRL) of the American Library Association (ALA) just released a two year environmental scan. The ACRL Research Planning and Review Committee releases an environmental scan of higher education, examining emerging trends, challenges, and developments in higher education along with potential or continuing impact on academic libraries. The 2025 Environmental Scan ([PDF](#)) provides a broad review of the current higher education landscape. This year besides the rise of AI, one of the key areas highlighted was *Climate Resilience and Sustainability in Higher Education*. The review acknowledges that the world is facing a crisis that needs immediate action; and that Higher Ed is contributing through mass distribution and use of technology, and the hidden environmental cost of generative AI. It also comments on the Sustainable Development Goals

(SDGs) progress report and how far behind we are at meeting any targets. The Environmental Scan encourages Disaster Risk Reduction work and integrating that work into the curriculum, which can benefit students along with higher education institutions. Six common initiative areas were found which can be integrated throughout the campus community: transportation, waste management, curriculum, food and dining, water, and energy.

What can librarians specifically do? Librarians can be sustainability leaders but (USA perspective) beyond academic libraries involvement in sustainable and environmental literacy, they lack the knowledge themselves or the skills to effectively communicate sustainability to major stakeholders on campus. Further training for library staff on the importance of evaluating the green impact of libraries throughout their campus community is needed. Also suggested for libraries is looking at their electronic waste and environmental costs. Librarians can help raise awareness of and educate on e-waste and its effect on health, labor rights, and greenhouse gas

emissions—a climate justice issue. Citing a few good examples and a plethora of research, the section ends with implications: academic librarians should conduct holistic assessments of their sustainability practices, including their contributions to e-waste and dedicate investments in sustainability efforts over time. [Read the full report 2025 ACRL Environmental Scan.](#)

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Sustainability Guides – Seeds of Change: Environmental Education Resources from Spain

The National Centre for Environmental Education ([CENEAM](#)), part of the Spanish Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge, has published a series of thematic guides in 2024 through the National Parks Agency, under which it operates. All of the guides were published by CENEAM—except for the

Urban Rewilding Guide, which was developed by the CONAMA Foundation. These guides offer valuable resources for the educational community, libraries, companies, and institutions committed to sustainability.

Available in digital format, these publications align with the [Action Plan for Environmental Education for Sustainability \(PAEAS\)](#) and aim to support the integration of environmental education across a range of settings.

Most resources are accessible online through the [CENEAM Documentation Centre](#) or by The Spanish Network of Green Libraries ([RECIDA](#)), whose members have also contributed to several of the guides.

Below is a summary of the 2024 publications:

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION RESOURCES GUIDE: CONTRIBUTING TO THE SOLUTION



This guide offers a curated collection of educational materials and informational resources aimed at fostering environmental literacy. It includes a section on art as a means of emotionally connecting with sustainability.

CLIMATE CHANGE RESOURCES GUIDE: FOR AGES 3–18... AND THEIR TEACHERS



This guide provides a selection of educational resources focused on climate change, with materials tailored to various educational levels, from early childhood to secondary education. It is also designed to support teachers in incorporating climate-related topics into their learning activities.

EAS IN THE CLASSROOM GUIDE



Targeted at educators, this guide offers tools and strategies for integrating Environmental Education for Sustainability (EAS) into classroom practice. It includes practical guidelines for developing students' environmental competencies.

“GREEN AS I READ GREEN”: A GUIDE TO CHILDREN’S LITERATURE, THE ENVIRONMENT, AND THE SDGS



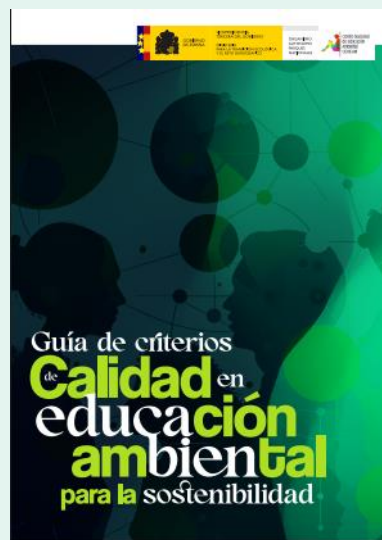
This guide compiles children's and young adult literature related to the environment, with each book linked to specific Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It is a valuable resource for libraries and educators aiming to promote environmental awareness through reading.

URBAN REWILDING GUIDE



This publication, produced by the CONAMA Foundation, presents resources and examples of initiatives for urban rewilding, encouraging the integration of nature into urban spaces and enhancing residents' quality of life. It was officially presented at the [National Environmental Congress](#) (CONAMA) in Madrid.

QUALITY CRITERIA GUIDE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABILITY



This guide sets out a framework of criteria to assess and improve environmental education initiatives. It features an evaluation system that helps identify areas for improvement and foster quality in educational projects.

READING AS A TOOL FOR CHANGE: A SELECTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL FICTION FROM RECIDA



Compiled by the RECIDA green libraries network, this guide features a thoughtful selection of environmental fiction that encourages reflection on today's ecological challenges. Through literature, it promotes both emotional and critical understanding of the environmental crisis—making it an ideal resource for libraries, reading groups, educators, and environmental facilitators.

All of these guides are available for free download on the [CENEAM website](#) and represent a valuable toolkit for those engaged in education and sustainability. By integrating these resources into their work, educators, librarians, and professionals can actively contribute to nurturing a more environmentally conscious and responsible society.

These guides offer not only knowledge but also an invitation to action: to educate, to transform, and to build a more sustainable future together.

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Green Library Conferences and Seminars Around the World

Georgia - 'Green Library' conference at the Goethe-Institut Georgien: Focus on sustainability

Sustainability in libraries was the focus of a conference at the Goethe-Institut Georgien on 15 and 16 November 2024. Under the title 'Green Library', librarians and interested partners from Tbilisi and the region came together to discuss environmentally conscious concepts and sustainable approaches in the library sector.

After a series of inspiring opening presentations on the development of the library landscape, the conference offered a diverse programme: In workshops and discussion panels, led by Dr Petra Hauke, participants

addressed the challenges and opportunities of sustainable library projects as part of the UNESCO Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) programme.

The focus was on a joint dialogue about specific measures and visions for an ecologically and socially responsible library. Creative event formats were developed that could be implemented in libraries in Tbilisi and the region in the future.



Goethe-Institut Georgien

The conference also provided a valuable platform for deepening cooperation within the network of partner libraries. It raised awareness of the importance of a sustainable and modern library system.

In view of the redesign of the library at the Goethe-Institut Georgien, the exchange initiated will be continued in new premises of the library in the future - with the aim of transferring the ideas and impulses from the conference into practice in the long term.

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USA – ROOTS Library Leadership Summit: Re-imagining Organizational Operations Toward Sustainability

The American Library Association's Sustainability Roundtable (SustainRT) is planning a virtual event to be held on **August 6th, 2025 from 1:00 to**

4:00pm EDT to coordinate with other organizations worldwide who work to promote sustainability in libraries. Our goal is to connect, share resources, identify points of collaboration, and celebrate wins – as well as break down the silos of this work we are all doing in libraries for our communities.

Register here: <https://shorturl.at/2f1dV>

Organizations who will be represented at the event include IFLA ENSULIB, the ALA Council Sustainability Committee, the Sustainable Libraries Initiative, the Digital Library Federation's Climate Justice Working Group, ALA's International Relations Committee UN SDG Subcommittee, ALA's International Relations Roundtable International Sustainable Library Development Interest Group, SciStarter and more!

We hope to organize this summit every 4-5 years to connect and align our work. It will be a chance to share resources, identify points of collaboration, and celebrate wins. Our keynote speaker, Dr. Sarah Jaquette Ray, Director of the Environmental Studies Department, Cal Poly Humboldt, will share about the power

of collective action to combat negative climate-related emotions.

More information about this event and a schedule of activities:

<https://libguides.ala.org/SustainableLibraries/ROOTS>



Please consider attending and inviting your colleagues to join you. It promises to be an inspiring, practical, and rejuvenating event!

Questions? Ask Co-Chairs, Mandi Goodsett (a.goodsett@csuohio.edu) or shalini.ramachandran@lmu.edu. Also part of the SustainRT Sustainability Summit Task Force are Beth Filar Williams and Jen Ferriss.

Submitted by Mandi Goodsett.

The 10th IFLA Green Library Award Candidates Share Their Stories

Brazil – I Found a Book Hortolândia

The Terezinha França de Mendonça Duarte Municipal Library runs the project “I Found a Book Hortolândia” as an initiative to promote reading and environmental preservation. The project repurposes donated or decommissioned books, which might otherwise be discarded, by placing them in public spaces across the city, where they can be found and freely taken home by residents.



©Terezinha França de Mendonça Duarte
Municipal Library

In addition to democratizing access to reading and valuing books as a lasting resource, the project directly contributes to reducing solid waste. Many of these materials, if not reused, would deteriorate over time or be improperly discarded.

By extending the lifespan of books, the initiative fosters a culture of reuse aligned with sustainable practices. Themed editions also support public health and civic awareness campaigns, while strong social media engagement enhances the project's visibility. As a tool for environmental education, social inclusion, and institutional outreach, ACHEI UM

LIVRO HORTOLÂNDIA stands out for its simplicity, impact, and replicability, serving as an inspiration for similar efforts in other cities and reaffirming the role of libraries as agents of cultural and ecological transformation.

Rafael Antonio da Silva, Andreia Santos

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China – Plas-Bottle Renaissance : Going to the Library as a sustainable lifestyle

In light of the worsening global plastic pollution problem, Ningbo Library launched the Plas-Bottle Renaissance project, setting up special plastic bottle recycling bins on the ground floor of the library to encourage readers to recycle plastic bottles and exchange them for environmentally friendly prizes. The project aims to promote citizens' awareness of environmental protection, increase the rate of resource recycling and, at the same time, attract people to visit the library, making Going to the Library a sustainable lifestyle. The project was selected in the longlist of the IFLA Green Library Project Award 2025.



©Ningbo Library

FIRST PHASE: CREATE LOGO, IMPLEMENT INSTALLATION

We created a specific image logo, which was made into stickers and used extensively in all aspects of the project. Readers can exchange a beautiful sticker for every cleaned plastic bottle they throw. The unified visual identity system not only enhances the transmission of the project's values, but also improves the effect of environmental protection promotion.

We have created a dedicated recycling bin for discarded plastic bottles, combining functionality with aesthetics, making the recycling process more intuitive and efficient. By placing recycling bins in the bustling first-floor

lobbies of two library buildings, the project's exposure was maximized. Over the course of two months, more than 3,600 cleaned plastic bottles were collected.



©Ningbo Library

SECOND PHASE: ENCOURAGE VISITS, EXPAND READER BASE

The project has set up attractive environmental prizes: 1 plastic bottle can be exchanged for 1 sticker, 10 stickers can be exchanged for a recycled polyester fiber canvas bag, 30

stickers for a plant fiber chopstick spoon set, and 50 stickers for a plant fiber lunch box.

The project was effective in expanding the library's reach to a wider circle through these methods. More than 40% of the readers who ultimately received the eco-friendly cultural and creative gifts had never had a library card before.



©Ningbo Library

THIRD PHASE: OUT OF THE LIBRARY, INTO THE COMMUNITY

The project created a standout visual design to increase engagement and interest by incoming readers and social media communication through innovative and captivating signage and posters. The project also collaborated with local artists to make an eco-friendly Christmas tree out of 400

recycled plastic bottles, which was placed in a cultural community transformed from an old factory block, attracting community residents to come, visit, and experience the beauty and infinite possibilities of environmental protection.

Ningbo Library 1525133572@qq.com

Lithuania – The Library of Things: Lithuania's Green Innovation Empowering Communities

The Šiauliai County Povilas Višinskis Public Library (ŠCPL), the largest public library in Northern Lithuania, is pioneering an inspiring new model of sustainable community service through its LIBRARY OF THINGS — a first-of-its-kind initiative in Lithuania and the Baltic States. Longlisted for the 2025 IFLA Green Library Award (category Best Green Library Project) this innovation redefines how libraries support learning, inclusion, and environmental responsibility.



Children are trying out the drums from the Library of Things © Šiauliai County Povilas Višinskis Public Library

WHAT IS THE LIBRARY OF THINGS?

At its core, the Library of Things offers over 200 items for free borrowing, ranging from sensory tools and educational toys to sports equipment, musical instruments, and advanced technology like VR glasses and telescopes. These resources support diverse community needs, especially benefiting families, educators, and individuals who might not otherwise afford or have access to such tools. Educational video tutorials and written guides ensure users can confidently use even complex items.



The Library of Things' collection is displayed in a visible, accessible area for visitors © Šiauliai County Povilas Višinskis Public Library

ADVANCING SUSTAINABILITY AND SOCIAL EQUITY

More than just a lending service, the Library of Things champions sustainability and social equity. By promoting sharing over owning, it reduces overconsumption, prevents waste, and conserves resources. Its impact aligns directly with multiple Sustainable Development Goals, including Quality Education, Reduced Inequalities, Responsible Consumption, Climate Action and more.

INCLUSIVE AND ACCESSIBLE FOR ALL

The initiative stands out for its inclusivity. As Lithuania's first autism-friendly library, ŠCPL ensures that children with neuropsychological conditions like autism and ADHD benefit from a wide array of sensory tools. Information about the service is even available in sign language, ensuring accessibility for all.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND IMPACT

In its first year alone, over 1,500 users borrowed items, many of which remained in constant circulation—highlighting the initiative's immediate relevance and success. Community donations, public engagement, and partnerships with private sponsors have expanded the catalog and reinforced shared responsibility and social cohesion.



*Part of the Library of Things' collection consists of sensory and educational tools
© Šiauliai County Povilas Višinskis Public Library*

NATIONAL RECOGNITION

Beyond Šiauliai, the concept has spread to libraries in Akmenė, Telšiai, and Pakruojis, demonstrating its scalable potential. National recognition followed in 2024 when the Library of Things won the "DĖK'ui of the Year" award ("Thank you of the Year") at the Waste Culture Awards, securing over 11,000 public votes.

Looking ahead, ŠCPL plans to expand the service further, enhance item variety, and deepen community partnerships. The Library of Things is more than a program—it's a movement

that empowers citizens, promotes lifelong learning, and embodies a truly sustainable and inclusive vision for public libraries.



*A moment from the Waste Culture' Awards
© Šiauliai County Povilas Višinskis Public Library*

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Philippines – I am a Valenzuelano, I Care for the Environment: A Green Library Project

Valenzuela City Library opened its door to the community just this 2023 with responsive and relevant programs for every Valenzuela City resident. This includes the “I am a Valenzuelano, I Care for the Environment” Project which aimed to instill the core value of being environment friendly in each Valenzuelano. The said project is based on Order No. 26, series of 2005 which sets Maka-Kalikasan (Concern for the Environment) as amongst the 10 core values of the local community. The program utilized a multi-method approach of cascading the core value of Maka-Kalikasan (Concern for the Environment) which includes the following:

- **Green Library Lecture.** Done in July 2024, this discussed different greening initiatives that each participant may adopt.
- **Greening Activities for Children.** The youth of Valenzuela City are

shown video resources and reading materials on greening and the environment. Art activities which are related to greening were also organized.

- **Story Time and the Environment.** The books told in the storytelling sessions at the Children’s Area are mainly themed around the value of the environment and ways of protecting it. One example is “Si Pilandok, ang Bantay ng Kalikasan” (Pilandok, the Guardian of Nature).
- **Read Aloud and the Environment.** Valenzuela City Library promotes Read Aloud amongst residents as it has a profound impact on literacy development. During the I am a Valenzuelano, I Care for the Environment project, books about the environment were told. The stories came from the Let’s Read website.
- **Promoting Resource Reading about the Environment.** Books and e-resources about greening and taking care of the environment are promoted during the whole month of July. This helped extend the knowledge of residents on taking care of the environment.
- **Sharing Greening Practices of Residents.** Best practices of young residents in the city were highlighted in the duration of running the “I am a Valenzuelano, I Care for the Environment” program.
- **Partnering with the City Agriculture Office.** Seeds from the City Agriculture Office led by Dr. Vincent Sison were received by the Valenzuela City Library. The said seeds are given to residents during the period that the “I am a Valenzuelano, I Care for the Environment” was ongoing.
- **Let’s Ride, Valenzuelano!** A special ride in a public transport was done to promote the 10 Codes of Discipline and Valenzuela Culture which includes the core value Maka-Kalikasan (Concern for the Environment). The eJeep route traversed Maysan Road, Brgy. Maysan, Valenzuela City, Philippines. It was carried out in partnership with Novadeci Transport Cooperative which runs the eJeep transport. This helped in educating public commuters as they ride the eJeep. Seed pencils, bookmarks, and some chews were given to each

passenger who took part in the activity. This was done during the Library and Information Services month of November as an extended event.

Grow with Grounds. To continue the practice of caring for the environment the Grow with Grounds program was installed. Here, used coffee grounds from the Library's Coffee Night program are given to residents who would like to put organic fertilizers in their home gardens. Material utilized for packing the used coffee grounds is old newspaper.

To further spread awareness that the Library can be a dynamic ally in greening and sustainability, the said activities under the program are posted and shared in Valenzuela City Library's social media pages. The Valenzuela City Library is grateful for the recognition of its greening efforts through IFLA and is looking forward into creating new Green Library Projects in the years to come.



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Kindly see links below for the online posts and more photos on the official Facebook page.

Announcement of Program:

<https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=474158362036825&set=a.143097128476285>

Special Children's Program:

<https://www.facebook.com/ValenzuelaCityLibraryValACE/posts/pfbid02tmG4Ym9kBwHh5sPX9ZZUp9PiWrB2He1Bip2SCkEigfajmrJyAYaFDQQ6628AXb6vI>

Telling Stories about the Environment:

<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=472498988869429&set=a.143097128476285>

Library Lecture:

<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=474231048696223&set=a.143097128476285>

Seeds Provision by the Valenzuela City Agriculture Office:

<https://www.facebook.com/ValenzuelaCityLibraryValACE/posts/pfbid0n1CPkQYzwmwHDUbqALafuHzrMcqNMg3P2d1U3VPBX31AHTRz6new9q4w3o7FY6s9jl>

Video about Reading Resource Promotion:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/r/15nFNkmQWC/>

Video on Involvement of Library Users:

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/525867763119211>

Let's Ride, Valenzuelano:

Link 1:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/18gDaX9itf/>

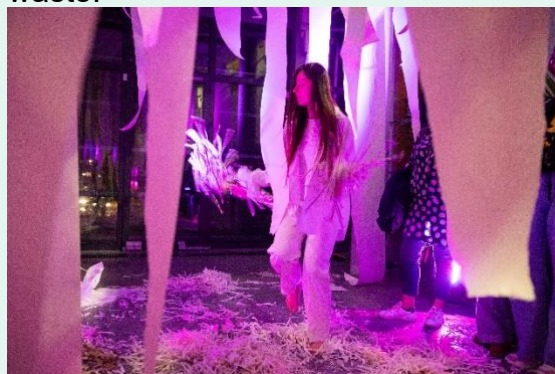
Link 2:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1ACT6YLJYP/>

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Poland – Recommitment to Paper as a Way to Salvag in Opole

The “Recommitment to Paper as a Way to Salvag” project transformed the Municipal Public Library in Opole into a living laboratory of art, ecology and community engagement from 1 October to 31 December 2024. Supported by an EU grant under #NextGenerationEU by the National Institute of Music and Dance (NIMiT), the initiative turned the familiar act of handling paper into an invitation to reflect on its environmental footprint - and to reimagine its possibilities when treated as a resource rather than waste.

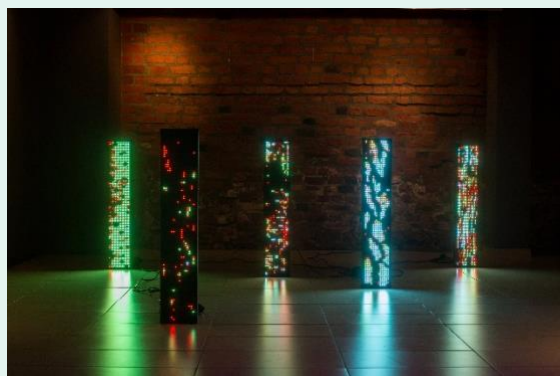


Performance by Vena Naskręcka
©S.Mielnik

At the heart of the project was a series of artist-led installations and performances that wove together sensory experience and ecological insight. In the library lobby, interdisciplinary artist Vena Naskręcka used recycled sheets to build sculptural forms that symbolized rebirth, then invited visitors to co-create two “paper compositions”. By tearing, folding and striking paper of varying textures, participants produced a chorus of rustles, cracks and whispers - an auditory reminder that discarded materials still have life and purpose. The space itself felt alive: sheets hung from the ceiling, infused with earthy fragrances, fluttered gently as if breathing.



Workshops by Vena Naskręcka
©M.Koszyk



Exhibition by Paulina Ptaszyńska
©S.Mielnik

Adjacent galleries hosted further explorations. In the Photogallery, illustrator Ola Woldańska-Płocińska traced Europe's papermaking milestones through vivid prints, showing how this humble material has shaped culture and science over centuries. In the nearby Zamostek Gallery, Dr Bartosz Posacki's "Refugium-Arbor" installation brought seedlings - pine, fir, spruce, poplar, aspen, beech and birch - into dialogue with visitors. Monitored by Arduino-controlled sensors, the young trees underscored our dependence on healthy forests; afterward, attendees adopted them to plant in their own gardens. Next door, Dr Paulina Ptaszyńska's "Reforestation" offered

an interactive survey of global tree-planting efforts, using satellite imagery venaof ecosystem renewal and to show how individual actions can multiply.

Sculptor Robert Suchiński closed the series with "Hand, Leg... on the Glass", a mixed-media work in the Small Gallery that married paper, resin and found objects into evocative forms, underscoring paper's enduring resonance in contemporary art. Throughout the three months, children, families and adults deepened their understanding of paper through hands-on workshops: building spatial structures, crafting moving toys from newspapers and cardboard, learning traditional pulping methods, and even making ecological masks. Many sessions were conducted in partnership with the Opole Forest District, which provided expertise and seedlings, and with Opolgraf S.A., whose recycled-paper donations reinforced the project's circular ethos.



Workshop by Robert Suchiński ©S.Mielnik



Exhibition by Robert Suchiński ©S.Mielnik

A bilingual catalog, commemorative artist cards and a highlight video - featuring interviews with artists, the library director and the coordinators - extended the project's reach beyond the library walls. Local media patrons including Radio Opole, Radio DOXA, TVP3 Opole and the weekly O!Polska

helped spread the word, ensuring that “Recommitment to Paper as a Way to Salvag” inspired reflection, conversation and action across the community.



Exhibition by Bartosz Posacki ©S. Mielnik

By blending artistic innovation, ecological education and participatory workshops, this project demonstrated how libraries can evolve into vibrant centers for sustainability. It showed that when we reconsider our relationship with everyday materials, we open ourselves to new forms of creativity - and to collective responsibility for the planet's future.

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Green, Sustainable Libraries and Projects Around the World

Austria – Vienna University Library Introduces New Sustainability Strategy

The Vienna University Library has launched a sustainability strategy to reduce its ecological footprint. This initiative is part of the university's broader sustainability development process and aligns with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be achieved by 2030.

Key fields of action include:

1. **Procurement:** Prioritizing environmentally friendly products, regular maintenance, and repairs. Ensuring fair working conditions and human rights. Promoting reuse of office supplies through exchange programs.
2. **Printer and Paper Management:** Using recycled paper and toner-saving practices. Network printers are preferred to reduce resource consumption.
3. **Events and Catering:** Promoting plant-based nutrition to lower CO2 emissions from food production. Offering predominantly plant-based meals at events. This approach significantly lowers CO2 emissions associated with food production.
4. **Digital Cleanup and Sustainable Data Management:** Efficient data handling reduces CO2 emissions. Clear guidelines prevent data loss and optimize storage.
5. **Business Travel and Mobility:** Encouraging sustainable business travel practices and using cargo bike for inner-city book transport.
6. **Awareness and Communication:** Regularly sharing information, organizing events, and fostering a culture of sustainability.

These measures aim to set a benchmark in sustainability within the library and archives sector, contributing significantly to environmental protection



*Vienna Library Congress 2025
Presentation @ Vienne University
Library*

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China – Building a Sustainable and Inclusive Future: The 1000 Digital Reading Service Spaces Initiative

INTRODUCTION

Wuhan Children’s Library is the only independently established regional central children’s library in Wuhan, a city covering 8.57 billion square meters. Housed in a heritage building converted from the former Hankou Commercial Bank (built in 1932) in the city center, Wuhan Children’s Library bears the vital mission of providing equitable education and services to children across Wuhan. In 2024, the library launched the “1000 Digital Reading Service Spaces” project, leveraging digital technology to expand access, promote educational equity, and support sustainability.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: “1000 DIGITAL READING SERVICE SPACES”

This project deploys QR codes in 1000 communities throughout Wuhan, creating a “reading circle at your

doorstep” where residents scan to access 15,236 curated digital resources for free. It evolved from the Wuhan Children’s Library’s digital resource service platform, which provided online services for Wuhan residents during the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic and was featured by CCTV Culture Program’s WeChat Official Account (access here). In 2024, it was upgraded into a long-term strategic project “1000 Digital Reading Service Spaces”. Simultaneously, a physical digital reading space was created within the library, equipped with barrier-free touchscreen technology to bridge online and offline accessibility. This project was also highlighted in Cultural Tourism China (access here).



©Wuhan Children’s Library

CHARACTERISTICS AND ADVANTAGES

Science Education and Sustainable Awareness

This project offers age-appropriate science education resources for children of different ages, with thematic sections including terrestrial ecosystems, marine biodiversity, plant science, waste sorting and environmental conservation. Aligned with the SDG13, SDG14 and SDG15, these resources help children cultivate environmental protection and sustainability awareness, supporting SDG4 and laying the foundation for the next generation's participation in building a sustainable future.

Climate Action and Cultural Heritage Preservation

Through paperless digital services this project reduces paper consumption while decreasing residents' transportation needs, significantly lowering carbon emissions and directly supporting SDG13. Moreover, it digitizes and preserves Wuhan Children's Library's rare comic books dating back to 1950. By converting

these cultural treasures into high-resolution digital images, the project achieves dual benefits under SDG11.4: safeguarding endangered cultural artifacts and enabling modernized dissemination of cultural heritage in the digital era.



©Wuhan Children's Library

Social Equity and Inclusion

Deployed in 1000 Wuhan communities, this project enables residents to access knowledge and information via QR codes, reducing barriers in remote areas and promoting educational equity. As the only independent regional central children's library in Wuhan, Wuhan Children's Library strives to deliver fair education throughout the city. By partnering with communities, it extends services to hard-to-reach regions, supporting SDG10 and SDG17. Its physical digital reading space also features a barrier-free touchscreen zone to ensure visually impaired children's digital inclusion.



©Wuhan Children's Library

CONCLUSION AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

The “1000 Digital Reading Service Spaces” project has significantly advanced science education and sustainability awareness while supporting climate action and cultural heritage preservation. By providing accessible digital services in 1000 communities, Wuhan Children’s Library bridges the urban-rural knowledge gap and expands inclusive access for marginalized groups, including remote and visually impaired children, thereby advancing social equity. Moving forward, Wuhan Children’s Library will continue leveraging digital innovation, strengthening community collaborations, and engaging children in sustainable development for a greener and more inclusive future.

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Croatia – International Day for Biological Diversity: let's research!

The members of the Reading Club are younger students at our school (ages 8–11). Therefore, the activities we conduct during Club meetings are adapted to their age group, meaning that we primarily read fiction in school. However, by participating in the eTwinning project "Eco-eTwinners," an opportunity and need arose to explore non-fiction and scientific literature. This was particularly evident during a joint partner activity dedicated to celebrating International Day for Biological Diversity, which is also linked to the 15th goal of the UN 2030 Agenda (UN SDGs). To mark this occasion, we organized a research workshop where students explored essential information about selected plants and animals—some they were already familiar with and others they had never heard of before. Among the species they researched were the Eurasian lynx (*Lynx lynx*), the European beaver (*Castor fiber*), and the Kockavica (*Fritillaria meleagris* L.).

Since the participants were third- and fourth-grade primary school students, they first received instructions on how to conduct research, including how to use encyclopedias and reference books, both in print and online. The workshop’s introductory activity focused on searching for sources and evaluating them, with special attention given to assessing online information credibility. To provide them with a fundamental knowledge of the theme, the school librarian delivered a brief presentation introducing students to the concepts of biodiversity and its importance.

In the second part of the workshop, students worked individually, in pairs, or in small groups, either independently or with the librarian’s assistance, to find answers to pre-prepared questions about the selected plants and animals. Throughout their research, students took notes and summarized key information, learning how to extract relevant details about species found in both Croatia and the rest of the world. Working in groups encouraged collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and communication skills.



Students read print and online resources
© Elementary school Dubovac, Karlovac

After gathering their findings, students were tasked with presenting their research to their peers. Using the online tool "Big Huge Labs – Badge Maker", they created digital ID cards for the plants and animals they studied. They then delivered oral presentations of their findings to their classmates, followed by a group discussion on biodiversity and the importance of its conservation. This activity helped students develop public speaking, critical thinking, and information synthesis skills. The virtual cards were published on the official TwinSpace platform and the school website, providing a valuable resource for both students and teachers.



Example of the virtual ID card for Eurasian lynx (Lynx lynx) © Elementary school Dubovac, Karlovac

Students expressed highly positive feedback about the workshop, particularly enjoying the opportunity to research and creatively present information using digital tools. Their enthusiasm confirms that such workshops are highly engaging and beneficial, motivating us to organize similar activities throughout the year.

The primary goal of the workshop was to raise awareness of biodiversity conservation and to show how individuals, like our students, can contribute to its protection. Additionally, the workshop aimed to foster a research-based approach among students, encouraging

curiosity, observation skills, questioning, data collection, and information evaluation. By using online resources and digital tools, students also gained digital literacy skills, learning how to safely and responsibly use technology for accessing, processing, and presenting information—a skill set that will be beneficial in their everyday lives. Furthermore, students became aware that the school library should be their primary reference point for finding necessary information, and that the library's website should be their starting place for searching reliable online sources. This workshop highlighted how a research-oriented approach, collaborative learning, and digital technology can enhance the educational experience and encourage students to take an active role in environmental conservation. We look forward to organizing similar activities to provide students with an engaging and enriching learning journey.

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Finland – Activist Diploma as a Tool for Eco-social Education

In spring 2023, Helmet libraries in Finland launched a campaign: Libraries encourage activism! The campaign that was created together with environmental NGOs encouraged patrons to participate in environmental action through their everyday choices as well as collectively with others, NGOs, and the library. The campaign was based on a ten-point Activist Diploma that listed actions for a sustainable future.

The campaign brought our environmental work closer to our democracy work by strengthening residents' agency in environmental matters. Our goal was to increase understanding of everyone's potential in environmental issues and protection; to promote social and cultural dialogue about the eco-crisis; and to enhance access to information, stories and learning. All these goals support eco-social education and environmental literacy.

FROM CAMPAIGN TO TOOL

The Libraries encourage activism! campaign was eventful, educational and inspirational for our libraries. New forms of collaboration and partnerships were born, we explored new forms of pop-up libraries, and how libraries can be eco-social educators, facilitators and companions in a just transition to sustainability.

After the successful campaign in spring 2023, we continued working with the Activist Diploma in Helsinki, where the diploma was incorporated into our Helsinki City Library environmental program. The diploma is also used as a tool for librarians planning environmental work that merges environmental literacy, eco-social education and active citizenship.



© Helsinki City Library

RECLAIMING ACTIVISM

We are often asked by colleagues in Finland and abroad why we use the word activism. We want to lower the threshold of activism and show that everyone can be an activist: it is not only blocking streets, civic disobedience or putting your whole life in line for a common cause. Activism is the use of public methods to try to bring about social and political changes that you and others want. It is to be an active citizen, which is something that libraries around the world are trying to promote.

We also want to turn our focus to making environmental work more visible and not limit it to everyday consumer choices, although they are important as well. The ecological crisis requires solving structural problems, which should be done in a democratic manner.

KEEPING EVERYONE INVOLVED

Throughout our existence, public libraries have played an important role in strengthening democracy, multiliteracy and freedom of speech. Libraries also offer a safer space for meeting others and for cooperation. The ecological crisis is also a social and cultural crisis and affects us all, and as libraries we can help keep everyone involved and engaged. As such, libraries' environmental work is democracy work.

The future does not just happen; it is not only decided by politicians at international conferences but is made by each of us. The words we use matter, and with stories and

imagination we strengthen agency and create meaning in a changing world.

Read more: [Helmet.fi/activistdiploma](https://helmet.fi/activistdiploma)

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Finland – Sustainability workshops deliver concrete actions – Report and model published

The National Library of Finland organised sustainability workshops for staff to evaluate their work from the perspectives of social, ecological, cultural and economic sustainability. The workshops delivered concrete solutions for both participants and their units and increased the staff's sense of agency in shaping sustainability and responsibility. The workshop model is now freely available for anyone to use.



© National Library of Finland

The National Library of Finland outlined its sustainable development goals in the 2021 programme entitled [Boldly towards sustainable change\(opens a new tab\)](#). One method to accomplish these goals is to make sustainability thinking a tangible and cross-cutting aspect of all library operations. To this end, the library organised sustainable development workshops for all units and management between 2022 and 2023. The workshop concept was developed for the library by Susanna Eklund, who chairs its sustainability and responsibility workgroup. Other workgroup members also contributed to organising the workshops.

GOAL: COMMIT TO PRACTICAL STEPS

The workshops encouraged the participants to evaluate their work from the perspectives of social, ecological, economic and cultural sustainability. Participants also examined how their work aligns with the UN's and the National Library's sustainable development goals. The workshops used the Me–We–Us method based on personal reflection, small-group discussion and collective conversation. The goal was to pinpoint specific actions that promote sustainability, which participants can commit to in their work over the next year. The actions needed to be realistic and achievable.

Concrete actions have been taken after the workshops, including the guidelines on cultural sensitivity (information in Finnish) developed for the General Finnish Ontology (YSO) in the Finnish Thesaurus and Ontology Service (Finto). In addition, the National Library's digitisation programme, published in early 2025, draws heavily on the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

WORKSHOPS STRENGTHEN THE SENSE OF EMPOWERMENT

The impact of the workshops was measured through surveys after the sessions and again about a year later. The results showed that the workshops inspired and immediately strengthened the participants' sense of influence. They also led to the identification of numerous practical steps and development opportunities requiring further reflection. The long-term follow-up demonstrated, however, that the effective promotion of agency requires stronger ownership at both the individual and operations management levels.

The workshop model is now openly available along with a summary of the key results of the National Library workshops and their impact assessment. For more details and to share your experiences, please contact Susanna Eklund (susanna.eklund@helsinki.fi (opens a new tab)).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- The workshop model can be downloaded from the [Doria](#)

[publication archive](#) (opens a new tab) (CC-BY-4.0).

- [Report on the National Library's round of sustainability workshops](#) (opens a new tab).

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Italy – A High School with a 'BiblioGreen' Heart: The Bibliopoint Orazio in Rome's Sustainable Education Journey

Global issues, as climate change, inequalities, conflicts, etc., require international strategies, policies, agreements, and investments to be addressed for sustainable development. Although the current complex mosaic seems to overpower and crush the individual person, every single person can make a big difference. Schools and libraries play a crucial role in informing and educating about sustainability: a well-functioning school library can be the perfect

combination to achieve effective outcomes in ESD – education for sustainable development, as testified by the experience of “Liceo Orazio” in Rome (Italy).

“Liceo Orazio” is a public high school (grades: 9-13, age: 14-19) for classical studies, named after the Roman poet Quintus Horatius Flaccus (65-8 B.C.), where Latin and Greek language and literature are taught. One of the features of “Liceo Orazio” is its ongoing commitment to sustainability. It is the leader, together with “Liceo Socrate” (a high school) and IC Fontana (a comprehensive school), of the “Rete Nazionale delle Scuole Green”, i.e., the National Green Schools Network, comprising more than 700 schools. Articulated on a territorial basis, it currently involves more than 50 provinces across Italy, aiming to develop projects and promote behaviour to reduce the environmental impact of Italian schools and educate students in taking care of the environment and actively protecting it.

THE BIBLIOGREEN LIBRARY

The school library of Liceo Orazio reflects the school’s “green” philosophy. Its holdings comprise around 10,000 volumes (searchable via [OPAC](#)), including prestigious collections such as those of *Belles Lettres* and the *Fondazione Valla*. Particular attention is given to the sections on classical antiquity, fiction, history, philosophy, science, and mathematics. The school community can take advantage of numerous services, including:

- reference and information services
- on-site consultation and reading of books and magazines
- lending and e-lending
- access to the Internet and Wi-Fi network
- cultural and reading promotion activities
- a reading circle and creative writing workshop.

The local community can benefit of the library as well, since it is a “bibliopoint”, a member of the public library network “Biblioteche di Rome”.

Thematic bibliographies on “green” topics are regularly curated by teacher-librarian Anna Paola Bottoni.

Based on the principles of Service Learning—“curriculum-based community service that integrates classroom instruction with community service activities” (NCES 2025)—the school library aims to develop students’ civic responsibility, skills, and a deeper understanding of the world. It often ‘gets students on board’ by engaging them in inclusive and creative activities.

Students are encouraged to join one of the school library’s several programmes—or even to develop one of their own. For example, old wooden furniture once used to store teachers’ logbooks (before the transition to digital records, especially during the pandemic) was “rethought” and repurposed as thematic lockers, such as *Horoscope* (Fig. 1) and *Greek Mythology* (Fig. 2). Colours and decorations are intentionally used, as they can positively influence learning and interaction, and help foster conversations that are essential for personal growth, democratic

exchange, and critical thinking. In this spirit, even an anonymous wall can be transformed into an artistic mural (Fig. 3). Some seating was created using recycled pallets.



Figure 1: Horoscope ©Anna Paola Bottoni

Through active involvement in various aspects of library management, students cultivate a sense of identity, ownership, self-esteem, belonging, respect, awareness, creative expression, and problem-solving abilities, equipping them to face complexity with confidence.



Figure 2: Greek Divinities ©Anna Paola Bottoni



Figure 3: Wall Decoration ©Anna Paola Bottoni

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Latvia – The Project “EU4Dialogue: Improving Exchanges Across the Divide Through Education and Culture” has concluded



From May 7, 2021 to May 6, 2025, the National Library of Latvia (NLL), together with consortium partners from other European Union (EU) countries, implemented the project “EU4Dialogue: Improving exchanges across the divide through education and culture”, aimed at fostering a favorable environment for dialogue and cooperation in the South Caucasus and the Republic of Moldova.

Together with seven consortium partners from Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland, and Poland, a series of activities were carried out across four work packages. Activities were carried out in the fields of schools, higher education and culture, including study visits for pupils and students to EU countries, online language courses for teachers, summer schools, guest lectures, artist residencies and courses in cultural management, pedagogy, understanding of cultural heritage, as well as theatre and film creation. Latvia implemented project activities specifically in the fields of libraries and museums.

Within this project, the National Library of Latvia developed and carried out collaboration with EU neighboring countries – Moldova, Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia – by offering summer schools, internships, and mentoring opportunities to library and museum professionals, including participants from conflict regions such as Transnistria, Nagorno-Karabakh, Abkhazia, and South Ossetia wherever possible.

The main goal of the activities implemented by the National Library of Latvia was to enhance the capacity of local libraries in four target countries. The core of all activities was the concept of libraries as cultural spaces that bring together professionals and communities alike, providing services to all social groups and fostering empathy – a crucial element in conflict resolution.

To achieve the project’s objectives, the NLL team organized the following activities:

- Two summer schools – ten-day experience exchange events held in Latvia;
- Mentoring for participants to support the implementation of projects in their own libraries;
- Three professional internships –up to a month of in-depth knowledge acquisition activities in Latvia;
- Four knowledge transfer events in partner countries;
- The development of guidelines for future development cooperation projects.



Summer school participants ©National Library of Latvia



Summer school participants ©National Library of Latvia



Summer school participants ©National Library of Latvia



Internship program participants ©National Library of Latvia

From the Latvian side, 21 libraries and their branches, as well as 20 museums, were involved in the organization and implementation of the project activities. Professionals from these institutions, along with experts and representatives from the Ministry of Culture and local municipalities, shared their experiences. The National Library of Latvia extends its gratitude to all field specialists who contributed to the project!

For participants, the project offered not only valuable professional knowledge

and skills but also the opportunity to explore the experience of an EU country, build international contacts, and gain inspiration for new challenges in their work. The positive atmosphere and support from the project team and Latvian partners created a favorable environment for learning and cooperation. Participants especially appreciated the opportunity to observe how modern libraries operate in practice and how they engage with their communities. This experience will help them develop their own institutions and promote positive changes in their regions.

Meanwhile, the project team gained unique experience in implementing development cooperation projects, which may be useful for other interested parties who wish to get involved and implement projects, promoting democratic development in the EU's neighboring countries, including conflict regions. This experience is summarized in the [final report "Project Overview, Team Experience, and Recommendations"](#). The aim of the report is to provide an overview of the project implementation and achieved results, as well as to

consolidate the experiences gained during the project to facilitate successful execution of future projects.

The project demonstrated that culture and education have the power to build bridges and foster understanding, even under complex circumstances. The experience and cooperation gained through this project will serve as a valuable foundation for new development initiatives, strengthening the role of libraries and museums as community unifiers. This is only the beginning — the knowledge, contacts, and ideas created will continue to live on in future initiatives and inspire positive change.

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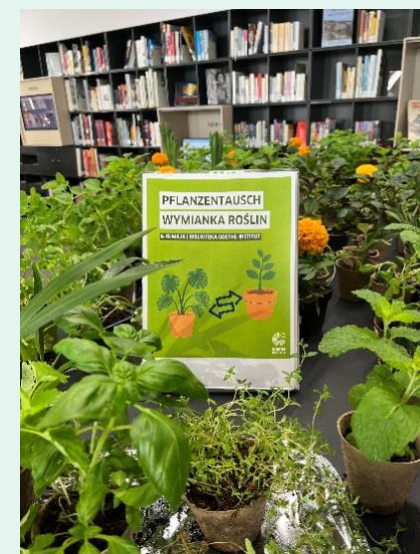
Poland – Activities at the Goethe-Institut Warsaw during the Library Week in Poland 2025

Since 2004, the Polish Librarians' Association has been organizing a nationwide campaign to promote reading and libraries, the Library Week, which take place from the 8th to 15th of May. The programme aims to emphasize the role of reading and libraries. This year, the Goethe-Institut in Warsaw took part with several activities which focused on sustainability. Our aim was also to draw attention to our Library of Things, which makes an important contribution to sustainability and conscious consumption.

SUSTAINABILITY IN THE CLOTHING SECTOR

In cooperation with the the “Fundacja Mody Cyrkularnej” we organized workshops for pupils on sustainability in the clothing sector in our library: interactive upcycling workshops combined with creative mending of clothes, a clothes swap in conjunction

with discussions about the origin of clothes, the environmental cost of clothes, ways of reducing demand by swapping and buying second-hand clothes. The clothes swap was also open to all visitors and borrowers of our library throughout the day and was very well attended.



©Goethe-Institut in Warsaw

PLANT SWAP, PLANT CURE AND BOOK EXHIBITION

During the entire Library Week, we offered a plant swap and a plant cure. All visitors who had surplus plants or seedlings could bring them to us and

we made sure they found a new home. Visitors had the possibility to swap their plants for others. Potted plants, balcony plants, garden plants and herbs were all welcome. Plants which needed attention could be brought to our library for a plant cure – we helped them to get back into shape. Additionally, we focused on the world of plants by offering an exhibition of books available for loan on this subject.

SIMULATION GAME 'CLIMATE-NEUTRAL CITY'

Pupils had the opportunity to take part in the internet-based simulation game "Climate-neutral city" organized by the teacher services department of the Goethe-Institut in Warsaw. One school class from Warsaw participated and the pupils took on the roles of various interest groups in the fictitious city of Fonta, discussing and negotiating in their respective national languages under the leadership of the mayor about the measures they could take to reduce their city's CO2 emissions by 50% by 2030.

It was the first time that the Goethe-Institut in Warsaw participated in the

Library Week. It was wonderful to see how well the offers on sustainability and other events and offers were received by the public during this week. We are already planning further collaborations with the "Fundacja Mody Cyrkularnej" for autumn 2025.

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Serbia – Co-lib: A Regional Platform for Sustainable Libraries and Knowledge Exchange



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Co-lib is a regional initiative developed within the project Common Waste – Common Libraries, which supports

librarians in integrating sustainability and digital innovation into their daily work. The project was launched in collaboration with the Goethe-Institutes of Croatia, Greece, Serbia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina, alongside partners such as the art collective Oaza and the ecological center ZMAG.

The initiative highlights libraries as more than repositories of knowledge—they are community anchors with the potential to drive environmental change. Through cross-border collaboration, the project brought together 17 participants from seven Southeast European countries, forming interdisciplinary teams during a three-day ideathon in Zagreb and at the ZMAG permaculture center.

As a result, the Co-lib team was formed, including librarians and professionals from Serbia (Valentina Popović, Jelena Radovanović), Croatia (Martina Maksimkov), and Bosnia and Herzegovina (Adin Alispahić, Adna Šišić, Nadina Grebović-Lendo). Together, they developed the Co-lib platform – www.co-lib.org – a space for sharing sustainable library practices, tools, and training materials.

WHAT THE CO-LIB PLATFORM OFFERS

The platform hosts a range of toolkits designed to support librarians and users. Each toolkit includes video presentations and downloadable workshop guides. The first series of toolkits covers:

- Open Journal System (OJS) – tools for open access publishing
- Green Libraries – practical approaches to waste reduction and ecological awareness
- Digital Tools – resources for improving digital literacy and library services

Materials are available in Bosnian, Serbian, and Croatian, and the platform is regularly updated.

In addition to offering ready-to-use content, Co-lib fosters a collaborative environment where librarians can share experiences and good practices.

Today, the Co-lib community includes over 30 members from Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, the Netherlands, and Turkey. This growing

network strengthens regional ties and enables cross-institutional learning focused on sustainability in library work.

Co-lib also maintains an active presence on Facebook and Instagram, where it shares articles, project updates, and visual content that amplifies its mission and reaches broader audiences.

WHY IT MATTERS

In a time when libraries are called to redefine their roles, Co-lib offers a concrete model for how they can lead by example—educating users, building skills, and promoting sustainable development.

By empowering library professionals with practical tools and connecting them across borders, Common Waste – Common Libraries and the Co-lib platform pave the way for greener, more connected libraries of the future.



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Learn more: www.co-lib.org

Follow us: @co_lib_

Valentina Popović, Serbia

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Serbia – Exchanging ideas - swaps in Belgrade, Zagreb and Athens

Initiated by the Goethe-Institut in Serbia and adopted by the institutes in Croatia and Greece, swaps are organized regularly at these three locations. Everything is being exchanged: clothes, plants, books, puzzles, good humour and much more!

Under the motto 'Reduce. Reuse. Recycle', the Goethe-Institut in

Belgrade started a new mission a year ago by introducing green processes in its own institute and promoting an environmentally conscious mindset in its neighbourhood. According to UNs Agenda 2030 sustainable consumption and environmentally conscious behaviour play an important role for the future of our planet. Immanent promotion of environmental awareness and social responsibility is key to raising awareness for all of us.

Clothing production and fast fashion are issues that urgently need to be reconsidered. Together with the local community, we want to contribute to this by organizing regular swaps. Since spring 2023 we exchange everything: clothes, plants, books, puzzles, good humour and much more. Once a month our libraries transform into a big swap gathering. Visitors come from both the local and international community, and their numbers are growing with every swap event. These exchange events are organized in cooperation with local volunteers, whose circle grows from event to event. This creates a growing green community in the city.



April Swap Belgrade 2024 ©Goethe-Institut Belgrad-Ivona Jović



April Swap Belgrade 2024 ©Goethe-Institut Belgrad-Jovana Tvrdišić

To promote the events, we created a series of informational posts that were particularly well received on our social media channels. We developed a recognizable visual identity that is always shared in the social media communities.

At each swap, we run regular workshops, including crochet, knitting, sewing and children's workshops on various sustainability topics. The swaps also give similar local initiatives a chance to introduce themselves to the wider community and work with us on new green ideas.

As with our swaps, we share and exchange everything between the participating institutes - from posters and social media visuals to experiences and new ideas. In October 2025, we are planning a joint swap in all three cities simultaneously, giving our communities the opportunity to network and exchange ideas virtually.



January Swap Belgrade 2025 ©Goethe-Institut Belgrad-Jovana Tvrdišić



Summer Swap Zagreb 2024 ©Goethe-Institut Kroatien

Organising a swap is simple. A few clothes racks and hangers, which can be bought from almost any furniture store, are enough to get you started. Tables and chairs from the library can also be used. You'll need to make sure that you have enough clothes for the first SWAP - it's best to ask people in your institution for help. Discarded books can be used for the book exchange.

We are happy to share our instructions, visuals and swap experiences with anyone interested and look forward to the potential of expanding our little green Goethe community.

Biljana Pajić and Zorica Milisavljević, Goethe-Institut in Belgrade, Serbia; Nikoletta Stathopoulou, Goethe-Institut in Athens, Greece; Martina Ćosić Vuglec, Goethe-Institut in Zagreb, Croatia
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Serbia – The Poets' Alley

The library is a place where cultural heritage is preserved and nurtured. The “Poetry Relay” event represents a unique cultural heritage, which is evolving into a new and contemporary form, adapted to today's young generations. Along with the Zmaj Children's Games, the Poetry Relay is one of the longest-standing children's events in Serbia. Since the first Poetry Relay held in 1975, the best poets for children have been the guest-hosts of the event, including Desanka Maksimović, Mira Alečković, Ljubivoje Ršumović, Dobrica Erić, Vesna Aleksić, Mošo Odalović, Raša Popov, Duško Trifunović, Dragan Lukić, Pero Zubac, Igor Kolapov, Dejan Aleksić,

Branko Stevanović, Jasmina Petrović, Uroš Petrović, and many others.

The primary idea of the event is to foster creativity in the field of written expression. The goal is to develop a reading habit and bring written words closer to children. The promotion of reading culture, encouragement of children's creativity, and literature for children is a responsibility of every library. (*More details about the event in: Dragana Sabovljev, „Дечја манифестација Песничка штафета Градске народне библиотеке 'Жарко Зрењанин' у Зрењанину”, Савремена библиотека 32 (2015): 35–42, as well as on the [website](#).*) Following this core idea, the Poetry Relay has over the years managed to become unique compared to other children's events.



©City public library, Žarko Zrenjanin, Zrenjanin

The “Servo Mihalj” Primary School in Zrenjanin, in the early stages of the event's development, established excellent cooperation with the Library. Thus, as early as the 1980s, every poet-host of the Relay would plant a tree in the schoolyard during their visit. First, they planted fir trees, then birches, followed by maples, and later oaks. Over the five decades of the event's existence, the park has grown richer and larger, and today it is known as the “Poet's Alley.” The large, now

fully grown trees adorn the schoolyard and stand as a testament to the dedication to nature and poetry of the librarians and educators, as a symbiosis of cultural growth and the development of primary school children. In this park, children now have physical education classes, spend their breaks, and have a very tangible proof of how important it is to care for nature and the world around us – and this is certainly the most important lesson we can teach them in such a direct and immediate way.

The “Poet's Alley” park, apart from its ecological and educational impact, has for all these years been an inspiration, a motive, and an invitation to poets to return, visit their tree, and, as only creative people can, dedicate a poem to their tree. (*More about the poems and records of the writers about their trees can be found in the Chronicle of the „Servo Mihalj” Primary School in Zrenjanin.*) Given that next year (2025) the city of Zrenjanin has been chosen as the National Capital of Culture, the Children's Department of the Zrenjanin Library plans to publish a book about the park as a testament to the long-standing dedication and inseparability

of culture, education, ecology, and the green environment. Each year, the Library has published a book by the poet-host of the Relay. Now, 50 years later, librarians will thank the poets by collecting all the poems, notes, illustrations, and photographs related to the tree planting and create a book as a permanent memory of such an instructive and fruitful activity during the event.



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Since 2020, the “Sveti Sava” Primary School in Stajićevo has also joined the tradition of tree planting. We are proud that our partners recognize and value the true importance of this endeavor, and together we will strive to create yet another park filled with poetic verses.



©City public library, Žarko Zrenjanin, Zrenjanin

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Spain – Shared stories, an inclusive and technological project promoted by the Libraries of the Camilo José Cela University and the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya

Libraries are much more than just places for lending books. Today, we play a fundamental role in democratising access to reading, ensuring that literature reaches all audiences, regardless of their abilities or circumstances. In this context, the integration of technology and the creation of collaborative networks have become essential pillars to broaden the impact of our cultural spaces.

One of the most innovative projects in this field is Shared Stories, an initiative created by the libraries of the Camilo José Cela University and the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (UOC), which seeks to give greater visibility to women writers through the digitisation of their works in various formats, such as audio readings and accessible texts.

This strategy not only allows us to reach a wider audience, but also contributes to the preservation and dissemination of literature from an inclusive perspective, while contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals: 4 Education, 5 Gender Equality, 10 Reducing Inequalities, 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions and 17 Partnerships for Achieving the Goals.

The project has been running for 4 years in different phases to ensure its effectiveness:

- Preparation: careful selection of texts and definition of accessibility criteria.
- Launch: dissemination through libraries and key events, such as Book Day.



- Evaluation: impact analysis and generation of support materials for future editions.

This project involves libraries, librarians and users from public libraries, university libraries, specialised libraries (such as some of the RECIDA Centres) and the National Library of Spain itself, the head of the Spanish library system.

Thanks to this approach, it has been possible to generate an accessible sound bank that continues to grow and diversify, with the aim of guaranteeing equal representation in the literary field, and which makes known female authors who have written about their relationship with nature.

The use of digital tools has allowed libraries to transcend our physical boundaries and become true spaces for creation and participation. Online platforms, specialised databases and digital libraries offer new possibilities to access content in a more sustainable, inclusive and dynamic way. In addition, the implementation of audiobooks and adapted formats has made it easier for people with traditional reading

difficulties to enjoy literature without barriers.

LIBRARY NETWORKS: COLLABORATIONS THAT ENHANCE IMPACT

One of the greatest achievements in library transformation has been the creation of collaborative networks between libraries, enabling the sharing of resources, experiences and good practices. This cooperation model strengthens the role of libraries as agents of change and reinforces their commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially in terms of quality education, sustainability and the reduction of inequalities.



The Shared Stories project has been recognised for its impact and sustainable commitment, winning the Camilo José Cela University Award in Sustainability in November 2024. This award highlights the value of libraries as spaces for innovation and social transformation. In this way we demonstrate that each library becomes an engine of change, capable of transforming lives through reading and changing their relationship with nature.

📌 You can explore the Shared Stories audio repository here:

- [Relatos compartidos](#)
- [Proyecto Relatos Compartidos | UCJC Madrid](#)

Contact: miagarcia@ucjc.edu Marta García, Camilo José Cela University; Mireia Castillón and Sandra Pérez, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya

Turkey – Blending tradition and innovation with a green heart in the middle: the Rami Library in Istanbul

The Midyear Meeting 2025 was jointly organised by the IFLA Sections Libraries for Children and Young Adults and School Libraries on the theme of “generative libraries”. It was generously sponsored by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Turkish Republic, and recently held in Istanbul (April 4-8, 2025) during the 2nd Festival of Libraries and Technology, within the 61st Library Week, in a very friendly atmosphere and a very stimulating environment: the Rami Library.

The building, formerly a farm and later a substantial military compound – the Rami Barracks -, with a rectangular layout, was constructed in the 18th Century. The revitalization and repurposing of the entire site started after Istanbul was designated the European Capital of Culture in 2010. Thanks to that recognition, special funding was allocated to restore and redevelop the complex. The main goal

was to provide the borough with an articulated cultural facility, where individuals and the community could access easily and freely a wide range of resources, services, and activities, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Rami Library offers a place for all through its numerous services and sections, including a Baby and Children’s Library, a Youth Library, an Adult Library, Special Libraries, an Atatürk Library and a Manuscript Library, a Museum, reading halls, a bookstore, three cafés, and exhibition areas. Furthermore, a top-class restoration lab, with a specialised and dedicated team, is committed to curating and preserving books and maps.

SUSTAINABILITY AT RAMI LIBRARY

The outstanding building (Indoor space: 36.000 sq. m.; Green Space: 51.000 sq. m.; Seating Capacity: 4200; Patrons served per year: 3 million) opened in January 2023, and is committed to universal sustainability (Figure 2), assessed annually and certified (Figure 1), by Biosphere Sustainable, through a rigorous audit program based on external third-party verification - the Biosphere Standard. This program is recognized as a

reliable sustainability management and certification tool (as stated in the Report on Certifications), combining multiple factors and indicators, including the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It also draws on analysis and indicators of the UNWTO, the Global Compact, the EU indicators and the criteria of the Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC).



Figure 4 Biosphere 2025 Certification
(Source: Rami Library 2025)

The Rami Library was designed to be environmentally friendly and sustainable since its very conception. In fact, rather than constructing a new building, a decision was made to breathe new life into the historic Ottoman structure by converting it into a vibrant cultural and social hub, regenerating the entire area. It was restored and refurbished using natural construction and furniture materials (Figure 3) and made sustainable through self-generated energy and efficient systems for resource conservation and waste management. At the heart of the complex, Rami Library features a spacious garden (51,000 square meters, the largest enclosed green space of any library in Europe), with a pond, where migratory birds often stop to rest. Information material and activities encourage visitors to adopt healthier lifestyles and habits.

The Rami Library is open to collaboration with local stakeholders, associations, organisations, and institutions for social, cultural, and artistic meetings and events. It provides them with space, technology, and support, thereby contributing to

the development of a new cultural heritage in Istanbul.



Figure 5 The Rami Library Sustainability Corner ©Luisa Marquardt



Figure 6 Kids Library ©Luisa Marquardt

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Turkey – Burdur City Public Library: A Green Model for a Sustainable Future

The sustainability journey of Burdur Provincial Public Library has emerged not only as an environmental responsibility but also as the product of

a vision and strong conviction. Located in the central district of Burdur, one of Turkey's smaller and less densely populated cities, our library has made environmental sustainability a core objective despite its limited resources. While driving meaningful change was not an easy task, we embarked on this journey with the belief that positive transformation is possible everywhere. With a modest budget, a small team, and great motivation, we envisioned a library more in harmony with nature and committed to peaceful coexistence. This growing effort began with adopting more sustainable and eco-friendly practices in our daily office



routes.

Burdur City Public Library © Mehmet Küçük, licensed under CC-BY 4.0

We began with a simple but powerful conviction: meaningful transformation is possible anywhere. With a modest budget, a small but committed team, and a deep motivation, we envisioned a library more in harmony with nature. This vision first took shape through

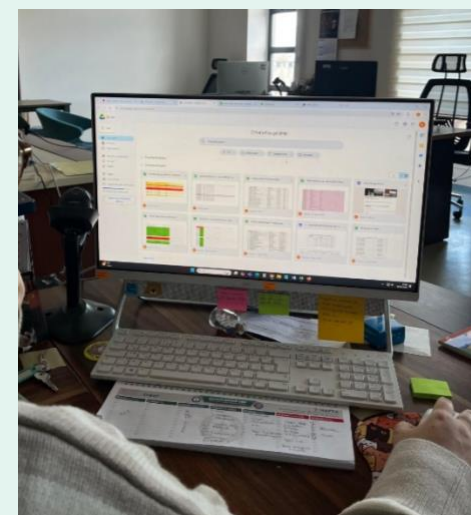


small shifts in our daily routines—opting for more sustainable and eco-friendly office practices.

Our Work Areas © Merve Çimentepe, licensed under CC-BY 4.0

Even though our financial and infrastructural resources were limited, we embraced sustainability not merely as a technical goal, but as a cultural

value. In 2024, we allocated approximately 46.05% of our annual budget—equivalent to €111,663.8 out of €242,466.3—to sustainability-focused projects. These included workshops, recycling initiatives, the promotion of digital resources, the replacement of single-use materials with durable alternatives, and the shift to cloud-based systems to reduce paper consumption. **That same year, our library was proudly named Best Public Library in Turkey, in recognition of our commitment to sustainability and community-focused innovation.**



Sustainable Offices © Aslı Demiralp, licensed under CC-BY 4.0

One of our most impactful milestones was the installation of a rooftop solar energy system. This was soon followed by rainwater harvesting and air conditioning water collection systems—each contributing to improved energy efficiency. These efforts led to a significant achievement: we became the **first** among Turkey's 1,301 public libraries to install a rooftop solar power system.



Upcycling©Aslı Demiralp, licensed under CC-BY 4.0



Eco-friendly Water Recovery System© Fatih Ahmet Korkmaz, licensed under CC-BY 4.0



Rooftop Solar PV System©Mehmet Küçük, licensed under CC-BY 4.0

However, our story extends well beyond physical or spatial transformations. Through collaborative

and creative programs developed with NGOs, schools, public institutions, and local communities, we work to integrate sustainability into every aspect of life. From workshops and environmental education sessions to the use of digital tools and interactive services, these initiatives foster a culture of sustainability in everyday practice, engaging participants of all ages.



Environmental awareness talk in collaboration with TEMA Foundation© Hidaye Nur Küçük, licensed under CC-BY 4.0

Every step we take is guided by the belief that public libraries—regardless of their size or location—can serve as powerful agents of change and development. We recognize that

sustainability is not an optional pursuit, but a shared responsibility for the future of our planet.



Science Festival organized through various institutional collaborations, engaging primary school students© Emine Kübra Erbaş, licensed under CC-BY 4.0



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From Burdur, we are sending a message to the world: sustainability is not about where you are—it's about where you begin. And true impact is

possible only through steady commitment and collective belief.

*Follow us on social
@burduril halkkutuphanesi*

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Turkey – “Community Power for a Green Future” Project – Without Wasting Any Time, A Green Idea Workshop

INTRODUCTION

Our goal is for libraries to take an active role in adopting sustainable development goals and to raise awareness as exemplary institutions for the community. Our slogan is “Community Power for a Green Future”, which is also the name of our project. We started by asking the questions of how aware we are and what we can do and designed the green idea workshop. After the

workshop, we carried out various activities and created new spaces in the library with our outputs. We want our work to inspire all libraries in our region.

SUSTAINABILITY

Our sustainability efforts, which we started after the pandemic period, have accelerated since 2023. We carry out activities integrated with sustainable development goals, responsible consumption, and responsible librarians. We also organize educational and awareness events to raise public awareness and leave a better world for future generations.

EVENTS IN 2024

- With the support of the university rector Prof. Dr. İsmail Hakkı Özölçer, soup is distributed every evening at 22.00 in the library for SDG1 and SDG2 awareness for students. This not only meets students' nutritional needs but also increases their motivation to study.



@Zonguldak Bulent Ecevit University

- 'Green Idea Workshop' was held with the participation of Prof. Dr. Bekir Hakan BAKKAL, vice rector of the university. In our event, Ayşegül TOK, e-Resources and Reference Unit Supervisor, made a presentation about the work we have done on Sustainability as a library and then made a presentation of our website and social media analysis and exchanged ideas about the work done. At the end of the event, a 3-minute brainstorming session was held with all library staff and everyone was asked to write an idea about sustainability by asking what everyone wanted to do in their unit or library.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N7H77utwt8U>



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@Zonguldak Bulent Ecevit University

- Library staff introduced the sustainability goals in a video entitled "Discover the Sustainable Development Goals". This video was posted on the you tube page and shared publicly with the entire university and the local community.

The development goals provide an important roadmap for a more just, equitable and sustainable world. As a library, we are committed to playing our part to achieve these goals. <https://www.youtube.com/shorts/TX9oAlfUKZ8>

- A sustainable information corner with a different theme each month was prepared at the library entrance. Current printed resources related to the relevant development goal were exhibited. The green library poster accepted by IFLA was placed in the sustainable information corner for 1 year.



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- Green office practices are spread throughout our library. In this way, we save energy, encourage waste recovery and aim to create a sustainable working environment.



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- The YouTube live broadcast on sustainability and the future of resources was hosted by an expert academican. Through these valuable discussions, participants gained in-depth knowledge on the subject and exchanged ideas on solutions. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sp56BIT-ToQ&t=15s>



@Zonguldak Bulent Ecevit University

- A sapling planting event took place in the library garden. With this event, we aim to raise awareness of protecting nature and leaving a green environment for future generations.

RESULT

Over the last few years, creative and very different approaches to empowering libraries on sustainability have emerged. New workshops are planned for the coming periods. We want to continue learning and raising awareness for a livable world and to show that libraries go beyond the shelves to have a significant impact on the real world. By living in harmony with nature, we can build a sustainable future.

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Turkey – Sustainability Works in Library Services of Local Governments: The Case of Esenler Municipality

INTRODUCTION

Local governments contribute to sustainability efforts with library services. Esenler Municipality stands out with its library services based on sustainability principles. This study explains Esenler's library services and the contribution of environmental awareness to sustainability. Libraries educate and raise awareness of the public with programs on sustainability such as recycling and energy saving.

SUSTAINABILITY WORKS IN ESENLER MUNICIPALITY'S LIBRARY SERVICES

The municipality contributes to the vision of sustainability in social life with its libraries.

1. Mother&Baby Library

It was established for babies to meet books at an early age and for their development. Supports language

development with reading/education with parental participation. Creates a sustainable cultural education basis designed with energy saving features.



Figure 1 Esma Biltaci Mother & Baby Library

2. Children's Library

Offers a variety of books and activities to develop children's social skills and creativity. Includes storytelling, drama and art workshops. Supports digital literacy with digital reading areas and e-books.



Figure 2 Esma Biltaci Children Library

3. Public Libraries

Facilitate access to information for individuals from all segments of society. Increases general knowledge level with rich collections, digital

resources and programs. Green library projects create energy saving and recycling awareness. Waste management workshops support environmentally friendly behaviors.



Figure 3 Dr. Kadir Topbaş Public Library

4. Digital Library

Türkiye's first digital library has been opened. It was designed with environmental sustainability principles in a restored old church and received an environmentally friendly technology award. Digital resources reduce printed material consumption and paper waste. Other sustainability efforts include energy efficient designs, use of recyclable materials and environmental education programs. Example initiatives: "Recycling Fashion Show", waste management in libraries and "Smart Recycling Collection Point". Libraries are designed in accordance with green building standards.



Figure 4 Adnan Büyükdeniz Digital Library

CONCLUSION

Esenler Municipality libraries are centers that promote environmental and social sustainability. The digital library is an example of the transition to electronic resources. The future plan is to design all libraries in green building standards. These efforts facilitate access to information, promote equal education and support sustainable lifestyles. The local government mission is an important criterion for sustainability. Esenler Municipality continues this mission with library projects. Libraries contribute to the sustainable future of Esenler. Safe living spaces, social facilities and green areas are developed with urban renewal projects.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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USA – Promoting the Library as a Sustainable Practice

“Have you ever considered using the library as a sustainable practice?” That’s how I opened conversations with students at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette’s annual Fête de la Terre Expo celebrating Earth Month and sustainability on campus. Each year, the Office of Sustainability and Community Engagement invites campus and community organizations such as the Acadiana Native Plant Project, the Bayou Vermilion District, and the Energy Institute of Louisiana to table and talk with students about their own sustainable practices. These organizations are actively involved in environmental and sustainability issues—their inclusion is apropos. But what of the library? In order to make our presence valuable, we needed to connect the library to sustainability more directly.

Luckily, our library already had established programs promoting specific sustainable practices such as the Upcycle Table and the Library of

Things. Obviously, sharing materials between users as a library does eliminates waste from infrequently used items, as well as environmental costs of ordering in from convenient online marketplaces. With the Library of Things, our goal was to maximize these effects by increasing the range of our collections beyond print resources.

The Upcycle Table was originally conceived as an Earth Month activity. The User Engagement Librarian set up a centrally located table and invited folks from all over campus (many of whom came from inside the library) to donate unwanted bits and bobs to be nabbed by others. Like a Little Free Library, the Upcycle Table runs on a “Take what you need, leave what you can” principle. The table quickly grew from cardboard scraps and spare stickers to include food products, clothing, school supplies, and long-forgotten tech. The table grew in popularity to the extent that it now holds a spot in the library every April *and* November. Students, staff, and faculty alike look forward to the treasures they can find on the Upcycle Table and participate in a circular

consumption process without even consciously knowing it.

These two programs gave us a clear path toward marketing the library’s sustainable programs. Yet, considering a library in and of itself as a sustainable practice was a possibility perhaps yet unexplored. Likewise, literature largely focuses on conservation and sustainability initiatives libraries can take rather than a holistic view of libraries as inherently sustainable.

In answering the initial question I posed, students responded pensively. The question surprised them and made them actually think: about the library, its offerings, and its function as a central hub for borrowing and sharing resources. Indeed, I had converted students to thinking about the library as a sustainable practice. More importantly, I had converted them to thinking about the library at all. In connecting the library to a greater cause, students found greater purpose in their library activities and in some cases a reason to visit the library at all. In sharing this experience, I hope to reframe other practitioners’ thinking

about libraries and sustainability. While our specific environmental practices are certainly important, a full rebrand of the purpose and place of libraries in our global community could help to reaffirm their necessity.



A small sampling of upcycled goodies at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette Fête de la Terre. Image courtesy of UL Lafayette.

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International Days Observed by the United Nations July – December 2025

JULY

- 11 World Population Day
- 15 World Youth Skills Day
- 30 World Day Against Trafficking in Persons

AUGUST

- 09 International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples
- 12 International Youth Day
- 19 World Humanitarian Day
- 29 International Day Against Nuclear Tests

SEPTEMBER

- 05 International Day of Charity
- 07 International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies

08 International Literacy Day (UNESCO)

09 International Day to Protect Education from Attack

16 International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer

18 International Equal Pay Day

21 International Day of Peace

26 International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons

28 International Day for Universal Access to Information

29 International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste

OCTOBER

04 World Habitat Day

05 World Teachers Day

08 World Migratory Bird Day

11 International Day of the Girl Child

15 International Day for Rural Women

16 World food day

24 World Development Information Day

NOVEMBER

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

10 World Science Day for Peace and Development

20 World Children's Day

25 International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

DECEMBER

02 International Day for the Abolition of Slavery

05 International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development

05 World Soil Day

10 Human Rights Day

20 International Human Solidarity Day

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