



IFLA Section
**Environment,
Sustainability and Libraries**

ENSULIB Newsletter



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Table of Contents

Message from the Chair	3
About the Editorial Committee.....	5
Introducing incoming ENSULIB Standing Committee Members.....	6
IFLA Green Library Award: Follow-ups	8
Conference Report.....	12
Spotlight on Green Library Education.....	13

Green, Sustainable Libraries and Projects	14
China	14
Germany.....	17
Hungary.....	18
Italy.....	19
Pakistan	21
Spain	22
Switzerland	23
Turkey	24
Upcoming conferences.....	25
International Days Observed by the United Nations	26

Message from the Chair



Harri Sahavirta, ENSULIB Chair

ENSULIB Highlights 2022-2023

IFLA WLIC in Rotterdam is already in sight and all the sections are busy with final arrangements. This also holds true for ENSULIB. *However, there have been significant developments before the WLIC.*

The election of new Standing Committee members was completed in May and two new members will begin in ENSULIB Standing Committee (SC) in autumn. ENSULIB welcomes Torbjörn from Sweden and Vivienne from USA. New members increase our geographical diversity and strengthen our know-how.

Meanwhile the election of SC officers began couple days ago. The very first two year term for ENSULIB officers is thus about to end and new, or continuing, officers will be elected. For ENSULIB, this means that we are going to have at least a new secretary since Petra Hauke has announced that she will leave the position. Fortunately, Petra has agreed to stay with ENSULIB as a kind of senior advisor. Petra has been active with ENSULIB for years and has done valuable work first with the Special Interest Group and recently with the Section. I met Petra first in WLIC 2011 in San Juan and have had the joy of working with her ever since. I also confess that ENSULIB would not be a successful section without Petra's contribution during all these the years.

IFLA WLIC in Rotterdam will be the main event for 2023. ENSULIB will have several events there this year, including joint sessions with Library Buildings and Equipment Section on *Sustainability in practice - library design matters*, and also with Asia and Oceania regional group: *Regional responses to environmental challenges to the sustainability of library*

services. In addition, we will have a session with Science and Technology Libraries section on *Decoding Citizen Science*.

Our own session will focus on the IFLA Green Library Award 2023 and the winners for this year's competition will be announced in the session. The competition was stiff and the quality of the submissions seem to get better year after year. It is also a joy to note that libraries are taking environmental work seriously and wish to promote the UN SDGs.

The Award committee received 28 submissions of which 19 qualified for the long list, as evaluated by our international pool of reviewers. The Award was divided into two categories Best Green Library (including grand scale projects) and more modest Best Green Library projects. The long list was impressive and shows that all kinds of libraries are committed to environmental work all over the world.

Green Libraries and Grand Scale projects

- **China:** The Library of International Campus, Zhejiang University
- **China:** North Library of Suzhou Library
- **Colombia:** Biblioteca EPM
- **Estonia:** National Library of Estonia
- **Hungary:** "Illyés Gyula" Library of Tolna County
- **Phillippines:** Asian Development Bank Library

- **Singapore:** Singapore Management University Libraries
- **UK:** Hampshire Library Service
- **Vietnam:** Vietnamese-German University Library

Green Library Projects

- **Canada:** West Vancouver Memorial Library
- **Colombia:** Municipal Public library the garden
- **Colombia:** Biblioteca Pública Rural La Castellana
- **Croatia:** Public library “Petar Preradović”
- **Italy:** Biblioteca Civica Villa Valle
- **Korea:** Seoul Metropolitan Library
- **Malaysia:** Pustaka Negeri Sarawak
- **Spain:** Higher Polytechnic School Library (University of Zaragoza)
- **US:** Arlington Public Library
- **US:** University Library, San Diego State University

Long list submissions were evaluated by 20 reviewers who come all around the world and consisted of librarians, LIS students and architects. The reviews were done in accordance with the criteria for the Award : [IFLA Green Library Award 2023 Evaluation Criteria – IFLA](#). These criteria include some general requirements but also innovativeness. Even more weight is given to physical, economic, and social

sustainability without underrating the environmental aspects.

In the category *Best Green Library & Grand Scale Project* three libraries were qualified to the short list. These are:

1. **Colombia:** Biblioteca EPM

This submission was found complete and impressive, but most of all it was considered admirable since the library dealt with every aspect of sustainability and sustainability is in core to their strategy. It showed great social impact and awareness of environmental sustainability.

2. **Hungary:** “Illyés Gyula” Library of Tolna County

This submission showed a strong community involvement and included several partnerships with local, national and international organizations. In addition, the Hungarian submission shows a strong determination to do something that has a real impact.

3. **Vietnam:** Vietnamese-German University Library

This submission introduced an iconic building closely linked to the campus and a design based on energy saving. Additionally a highly effective, specialised work team specialized in carried out strategic action programs to promote sustainability.

The short list for Best Green Library Project is as follows:

1. **Canada:** West Vancouver Memorial Library

This entry has a particularly good emphasis on community (and diversity) and also reports the number of attendees to their events. The entry is innovative, and reviewers noted that the program combines fiction and climate programs in new way. Hence, it is a very different and unique project from all the others.

2. **Italy:** Biblioteca Civica Villa Valle

This submission introduced more than just a seed library, its sustainability is ensured. Long-term effects can be seen as well as a good community engagement.

3. **Korea:** Seoul Metropolitan Library

A very good and comprehensive submission with good storytelling. A reviewer noted that it was great to see a breadth of activities undertaken across various areas of sustainability as well as innovative and creative way to engage citizens and community they serve.

All these submissions are introduced in alphabetic order and the winners will be announced in ENSULIB’s Open session, in IFLA WLIC 2023. It will be a session one should not miss

About the Editorial Committee

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Introducing incoming ENSULIB Standing Committee Members

There are 20 Standing Committee members in IFLA's ENSULIB Section. In this issue, we introduce two incoming members in August 2023. Names are listed in no particular order.



Vivienne Byrd, USA

As a librarian at the Los Angeles Public Library (LAPL) with 18 years of experience in public programming and community outreach, Vivienne leads the LAPL's Full STEAM Ahead and Neighborhood Science initiatives. She has been collaborating with various community, municipal, and federal agencies, such as NASA/JPL and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), to promote conservation and environmentally-minded STEM education and empower communities to learn about local environmental concerns and sustainable practices through the participation of citizen science. Vivienne has been part of the ENSULIB as a volunteer and a co-opted member/observer since 2018. She currently serves as a library advisor for NASA's Eclipse Ambassadors Off the Paths project and is a Climate Reality Leader trained by former Vice-President Al Gore at the Climate Reality Project in 2019. Vivienne also co-chairs the Citizen Science Month Working Group of the U.S. Citizen Science Association.

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Torbjörn Nilsson, Sweden

Torbjörn Nilsson, City Librarian and Library Manager in Malmö. He has a master's degree in library and information science (Borås, Sweden). He has worked professionally for over 30 years. Malmö City Libraries is a network of library branches, for example Garaget ("The Garage") well known for activities connected to the SDGs and "The embassy of sharing" a building project in progress based on sustainability and circular economy. Torbjörn Nilsson has previously contributed to IFLA by being a member of the IFLA Governing Board 2017-2019. He has also been engaged in FAIFE and in the IFLA Public Library Section. He has also been a member of the Board of the Swedish Library Association.

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Meet and greet ENSULIB at WLIC 2023 in the Netherlands!

Come and join ENSULIB at one of our several sessions during WLIC 2023!

On Saturday, 19 August we will hold special satellite meeting titled *Libraries as Actors of Climate Empowerment*. The session will be held at Bibliotheek Midden-Brabant, LocHal in Tilburg, Netherlands. The day-long program will focus on how libraries can empower all members of society to engage in climate action as they are deeply connected to their communities and can reach out to people of all demographics. As such, they are in a unique position to raise public awareness and to create platforms for engagement in climate action for all members of society. The fascinating program and registration details are available [here](#).

On the afternoon of Sunday, 20 August from 1:30pm–3:30pm will be the ENSULIB business meeting, which anyone who is interested is welcome to join.

The main ENSULIB event for WLIC 2023 is of course the presentation of the IFLA Green Library Awards. This important event will be held on the afternoon of Tuesday, 22 August, from 4:30pm–5:45pm. We encourage everyone to attend and see the exemplary library sustainability work showcased by our winners.

ENSULIB is also proud to be participating in three joint sessions this year. On the afternoon of Wednesday, 23 August we will hold a joint session with the Library Buildings and Equipment Session on Sustainability in Practice – Library Design Matters. We are also collaborating with the Asia and Oceania Regional Group on a session called *Regional responses to environmental challenges to the sustainability of library services*, which will be held on Thursday, 24 August from 11:45am–1:15pm. On the same day, co-host a session with Science and Technology Libraries Section on *Decoding Citizen Science*, which will run from 1:15pm–2:30pm.

Be sure to schedule these fantastic events in your WLIC calendar. We look forward to seeing you there.

The graphic features a vertical title 'ENSULIB AT WLIC 2023' on the left side. To the right, there is a logo for IFLA WLIC 2023 Rotterdam, which consists of a stylized 'X' shape made of four colored triangles (red, blue, black, and white) with the text 'IFLA WLIC 2023' and 'ROTTERDAM' below it. To the right of the logo is the text 'Let's work together, let's library' and 'World Library and Information Congress 88th IFLA General Conference and Assembly 21-25 August 2023, the Netherlands'. Below this, a list of events is presented with dates and times, each preceded by a small 'X' icon. The events are: Saturday, 19 August (09:00-18:00: Satellite Meeting Libraries as Actors of Climate Empowerment); Sunday, 20 August (13:30-15:30: ENSULIB Business Meeting); Tuesday, 22 August (16:30-17:45: IFLA Green Library Award); Wednesday, 23 August (13:30-14:30: Sustainability in Practice - Library Design Matters); and Thursday, 24 August (11:45-13:15: Asia-Oceania Responses to Environmental Challenges to the Sustainability of Library Services; 13:15-14:30: Decoding Citizen Science: Putting Libraries in the Public Sphere). The graphic is decorated with a blue circle and a red circle at the bottom.

IFLA WLIC 2023
ROTTERDAM

Let's work together, let's library

World Library and Information Congress
88th IFLA General Conference and Assembly
21-25 August 2023, the Netherlands

ENSULIB AT WLIC 2023

- ✂ **Saturday, 19 August**
 - 09:00-18:00: Satellite Meeting *Libraries as Actors of Climate Empowerment*
- ✂ **Sunday, 20 August**
 - 13:30-15:30: ENSULIB Business Meeting
- ✂ **Tuesday, 22 August**
 - 16:30-17:45: IFLA Green Library Award
- ✂ **Wednesday, 23 August**
 - 13:30-14:30: Sustainability in Practice - Library Design Matters
- ✂ **Thursday, 24 August**
 - 11:45-13:15: Asia-Oceania Responses to Environmental Challenges to the Sustainability of Library Services
 - 13:15-14:30: Decoding Citizen Science: Putting Libraries in the Public Sphere

IFLA Green Library Award: Follow-ups

After the award – what happened next (Finland)

Minna Männikkö, Oulu City Library

In August 2021, the Oulu City Library in Finland received the IFLA Green Library Award recognition in the Best Project category. The response the library received in our home country and in other countries after the publication after the publication of the results surprised us all. The recognition generated a lot of interest and gave the library visibility both at home in Finland and in other countries.

Thanks to this recognition, we have been able to further promote our environmental work and our project. For example, *A Responsible Library as Promoter of Environmental Awareness*, was presented at a conference in Montreal, Canada, at a breakfast seminar in Malmö, Sweden, and at several different events to our colleagues in Finland. We have received several article requests for different publications in different countries, such as Belgium, Sweden and Austria.

The recognition has made Oulu City Library's environmental work and achievement visible, and we encourage everyone to participate IFLA Green Library Award and tell about their own development work. The recognition brought the Oulu City Library visibility around the world and gave the opportunity for new networks to be born.

The story continues – see you at the IFLA WLIC 2023 poster session in Rotterdam!

A Progress report of our green library experience, by the Canopée Library (France)

Mavo Ranaivo Sabatier, Médiathèque de la Canopée la fontaine, Paris

IFLA awarded the Canopée Library the best Green Library project in 2022. Thanks to this award, the library has gained international recognition and numerous partnerships (SDG 17), including :

- Presentation at the Eurolis Library Seminar in London (11/2022)
- Article published in the newsletter and on the Latvian Library Portal (11/2022)
- Presentation of Canopée's actions at the TK Forum 2023 Thailand; and

invitation on the same theme from Korea

- Visits from colleagues from French institutes abroad in partnership with the Bpi, from Italian (Erasmus programme), Algerian, Czech, Danish colleagues.
- A collaboration with the Catalan library network

Since July, action has been pursued along three lines :

1. **Decarbonising the library** (SDG 11 and SDG 13)

The City of Paris has implemented an energy saving plan for its infrastructure.

In addition, as part of its environmental management system, the library has implemented its action plan in terms of :

- Waste sorting: installation of new containers
- Goal: 50% less lamination of documents and experimentation with a new recyclable material; numerous professional exchanges on this subject in France and internationally (Switzerland)
- Project to experiment with a sale of weeded documents.

2. Greening (SDG 12)

- Budget obtained in 2021 to green spaces and enrich our documentary collections, in particular with the implementation of a floating collection between the Centre's 4 libraries in collaboration with the Climate Academy, and the purchase of a cargo bike for book deliveries
- Project to add plants at the base of existing trees outside the shopping centre: to be assisted by volunteers familiar with the monthly Saturday cutting cafés

3. Sustainable development (SDG 1, SDG 2, SDG 3, SDG 5 and SDG 10)

- Continuation of solidarity breakfasts to fight against poverty and hunger beyond the winter break
- Installation of our ZAD (Zone à donner, or fringothèque) to promote the circular economy and allow people at risk to have access to quality clothes through donations. There is also an upcoming project to provide young people looking for a job with access to suits, in connection with a programme that provides support in writing CVs, etc. and in partnership with the SYCTOM and the Emmaus Alternatives recycling centre
- Continuation of our survey on gender including upcoming focus groups; reflection on the value of collections, services to be put in

place; cultural programming (forum of associations and LGBTQi+ editions in June 2023).

In addition, the library will publish the second part of its [Green Library Guide](#). We encourage libraries to apply for the IFLA Award because it recognises their commitment to sustainable development and the involvement of their staff in a societal project.

“Cultiver notre jardin” – “Cultivate our garden”, Voltaire

Inviting the public to take advantage of a privileged position in the French Limousin countryside (France)

**Roxane Sterckeman, Directrice Maison
du Père Castor, Meuzac**

The Maison du Père Castor emphasises the inclusion of all audiences, particularly those with disabilities. This is reflected in the development of the media library's tree-lined grounds and staff training to ensure a personalised welcome. The [cocoon hammocks](#) provide a time of "natural reading" and a channeling of emotions for

atypical people, while developing their access to culture

The echo of the longlist

After the publication of the longlist, we were lucky enough to [be quoted in an article in the media Actualitté](#), which is widely reported in media libraries and in the French cultural world.

This article encouraged several media libraries to contact us directly to find out about our site and be inspired by it, but it also called out to our local elected representatives, who were made aware of the importance of culture and our commitment to sustainable development.

To continue this good work, we will participate in the IFLA congress this summer and in the poster competition, the illustration of which was created by an artist committed to the protection of the environment, in residence this year at the Maison du Père Castor.

What's next?

In our opinion, a good project is born by being anchored to real human values ([responding to the UNESCO and sustainable development goals](#)), is tinged with originality, and brings well-being and knowledge to the public. This is the credo that drives us, and the impact of reading in the trees confirms that we are going in the

right direction. Now aware of the benefits of animal mediation, my little dog Thaïs will join the team this summer with our new reading with the dog programme, which encourages children with difficulties to read aloud. The Maison du Père Castor will also be partnering with UNESCO and the faculty of Limoges in 2024, during the SHF (Société des hispanistes français) congress, on the theme of the Amazonian forest, where we will be exhibiting the archives of Père Castor, who has been involved in the environmental cause and new education since the 1920s.



Cocoon hammocks



Labyrinthe été



Story time with the winner of the "Petits champions de la lecture" competition

Revamp of Choa Chu Kang Public Library (Singapore)

Gwen Chong, Senior Project Manager for Library Design in the Planning and Development Division at the National Library Board Singapore

Choa Chu Kang Public Library (CCKPL) reopened in October 2021. Themed as **(Re)Connect with Nature**, the library creates an experiential communal space that promotes sustainable living, and supports the sustainability pillars of environment, culture, and society.

In line with NLB's core service of knowledge-sharing, the library has introduced new offerings to support the theme, with a suite of eco-centric services and programmes, including the *Extended Hours Service*, *Nature Walls*, *Green Grove* (featuring *Hydroponics Showcase*, *Live Statistic Display*, *AR Learning Trail* and *Climate Action Corner*), *Community Wall* and *Indoor Garden*.

In the first year, the library has continued its effort to promote literacy in sustainability and reimagined the learning experience, with programmes such as *Hydroponics Showcase tours and workshops*, *Green Market*, the *Great Makeover Project*. In the first year, the library has attracted over thousands of visitors, with the *Hydroponics Showcase*, *Indoor Garden* and *AR*

interactives especially popular with library visitors. NLB has also collaborated with many *partner-organisations* in curating content and programmes and conducted numerous guided tours at the library.

As part of *Green Grove's* features, CCKPL offers up *Augmented Reality (AR)* experiences as a learning trail around the library. Since the launch, the library has added new AR interactive content in the form of the *AR Books*. In August 2022, the library released six AR mini-books, comprising excerpts from six nature-related books from NLB's collection covering the flora and fauna of Singapore. Users can scan the excerpts in the compiled mini-books to watch dolphins swim, pangolins curl up, and kingfishers fly, accompanied by the sounds that these animals make. The follow-up release in March 2023 included four additional books, showcasing iconic locations in Singapore. Users will be transported to sites like Gardens by the Bay and Kampongs in this final release and get to learn about sustainability and urbanization.

In support of the library's effort in promoting sustainable living, last year, the *World Wide Fund for Nature Singapore (WWF)* donated a tiger statue named **Tribal Gold** to CCKPL. The statue, created by the Temenggong Artists-in-Residence and students from the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, was previously part of the *WWF Singapore's AR-mazing Tiger Trail*, a campaign held to raise

awareness on the declining number of tigers.

The library's pioneering effort was also awarded with the *Ministry of Communication and Information Awards 2022* for **Exemplary Innovator** for the **Hydroponics Showcase**, *OpenGov Asia Singapore for 2023 Recognition of Excellence* for the **Augmented Reality Books** and shortlisted for *President* Design Award 2023* for **Design of the Year**.

The library will continue its effort in bringing content and programmes to our visitors, to raise awareness on sustainability and reimagining learning experience to make content accessible to all.



Launch of AR Books, August 2022



Donation of statue **Tribal Gold** to Choa Chu Kang Public Library, from World Wide Fund (WWF), August 2022

Conference Report

Deepening Library Cooperation and Promoting Sustainable Development in Guangdong, Hong Kong and the Macao Greater Bay Area

Priscilla Pun, University of Macau Library

From 19-20 April 2023, University of Macau Library hosted the *2023 Annual Meeting of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau University Library Alliance and Forum on "Deepening Library Cooperation and Promoting Sustainable Development"*. Over 70 representatives from 30 academic libraries in 3 regions participated.

[The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau University Library Alliance](#) (GHMULA) was established in 2016 in order to support and follow the "One-hour Academic Circle" proposed by [the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau University Alliance](#). The purpose of the Alliance is to facilitate the deepening of academic exchanges and research cooperation across the three regions, to promote the cooperation among the major university libraries, and to provide support to the development of the Greater Bay Area in Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao.

The Council Meeting of the Library Alliance was held on 19 April 2023 in the University Gallery of UM. Academic libraries from the 3 regions reported on their recent, local collaboration projects and exchanged ideas for future development. Further cooperation was suggested by forming working groups on themes including training for young librarians, Chinese name authority related to the Guangdong area, and a library staff exchange programme.



The Council Meeting 2023 of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau University Library Alliance

The Forum on 20 April had the theme "Deepening Library Cooperation and Promoting sustainable Development". Fong Ka Kin, acting head of the Department of Higher Education of the Education and Youth Development Bureau of the Macao SAR government, gave an opening speech and expressed hope that the Alliance would continue to integrate the strengths of university libraries in the 3 regions and contribute to the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay

Area and [the Guangdong-Macao In-depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin](#). Presentations included "Open Access and Transformative Agreement – JULAC's Experience" by Flora Ng of the University of Hong Kong Libraries, "Strength in Numbers: Recent Collaborative Projects of the JULAC Learning Strategies Committee" by Christopher Chan of the Hong Kong Baptist University Library, "Library Cooperation in Supporting the Sustainable Development Goals" by Lily Ko and Leo Ma of the Chinese University of Hong Kong Libraries, "The Construction and Prospects of Guangzhou International Campus Library, South China University of Technology" by Wang Liping of the South China University of Technology Library, "Preservation of Ancient Books in the Age of Digital Intelligence" by Wang Lei of the Sun Yat-sen University Library, "Innovation and Development of the Macau University of Science and Technology Library" by Yan Shilei of the MUST Library, and "Reinventing the Image of University Libraries" by Wu Jianzhong of the UM Library.



The Forum on "Deepening Library Cooperation and Promoting sustainable Development"

Spotlight on Green Library Education

Lecture Series „Green Knowledge – Green Libraries for our Blue Planet”

Petra Düren and Ulrike Verch, Hamburg University of Applied Sciences. Faculty of Design, Media and Information. Department of Information

In the 2022/2023 winter semester at the Hamburg University of Applied Sciences we organized a German seminar series with students of our Department of Information about *Libraries and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals*.

Content

We identified experts from different specialist fields, organisations, and sustainability groups to speak and provide us with good practical examples and new ideas for how to implement sustainability in libraries. These are the topics of our lecture series.

- Greenpeace: Collaboration between universities and NGOs
- Seed-libraries in Public Libraries
- “Netzwerk Grüne Bibliothek” – German Network of Green Libraries

- IFLA Green Library Award winning library Stadtbibliothek Bad Oldesloe
- Deutscher Bibliotheksverband – German Library Association, its position and activities relating to sustainability
- Improvements to Library Buildings]
- Open Data and its impact on sustainability
- Digitization and sustainability in the book publishing industry
- Green libraries worldwide
- Ocean Future Lab bringing science and society together

Organisation

To reach a large audience, including outside of Hamburg, we presented the lecture series digitally and used a video conferencing tool, which is also data-saving and GDPR compliant. In addition, it was very important to us to reach our alumni with the lectures in order to stay in contact. For this reason, that the lecture series took place in the early evening hours so that professionals could also participate.

Our students were responsible for the set up and technical management of the video conferences. At the start of the seminars, they assigned themselves to one of the three organizational teams: website, marketing, and technology. The technical team was also responsible for recording and editing the videos. The website team regularly wrote announcement texts for our

WordPress-based website and uploaded all the speakers' presentations. The marketing team successfully designed our key promotional poster and updated our Instagram channel.

Conclusions

It was difficult to find experts as green knowledge and sustainability are not as deeply embedded in German libraries as expected. Some speakers also had to be replaced at short notice due to illness. Nevertheless, we delivered a very interesting lecture series. Videos of the lectures [can be found here](#).

Our students did a great job in preparing the speaker presentations (each student took care of one speaker) and moderating the post-presentation discussions. They summarized the speaker biographies well and arranged interesting questions to start off the Q&A sessions in case the audience was initially shy to ask the experts.

Each year our department organizes a lecture series. Recordings can be found [here](#).

As it is a good way to collect information about a special topic we will continue our lecture series in the upcoming winter semester with “The digital library? – Digital transformation of libraries”, another important topic “Green Libraries for our Blue Planet”.

Green, Sustainable Libraries and Projects

China

From Water Tower to Library : Adaptive Reuse Gives Defunct Building New Life

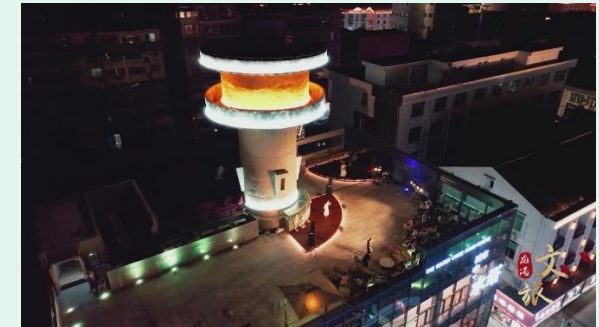
Tu Shumin, Yin Yelin and Du Xueqin, Zhejiang Library; Yang Shoujiang, Longgang Public Library

The renovation and reuse of old buildings is an eco-friendly approach not only reduces urban waste, but also revitalizes cities. The "Water Tower" Library on Longyue Road in Longgang, a county-level city in Wenzhou, Zhejiang Province, serves as an successful case. The original water tower was built in 1983, which was the representation and memory of the city. However, this construction was abandoned in the process of urbanization. The "Water Tower" Library rebuilt on the dilapidated building gave it a new life. The whole library of three storeys covers an area of 1,600 square meters with a modern transparent box-style building decorated with elements such as old faucets, water pipes, and water meters. In

this case, this modern library is coupled with an overwhelming weight of history. Acting as a new landmark of Longgang city, the revitalized library has become an important place for local residents to read and study, attracting a constant stream of visiting tourists.



Building Exterior



Roof Terrace

The city's "Water Tower" Library is not merely a renovation of Longgang's old water factory. It is also an exemplary instance of repurposing abandoned buildings by revitalizing them and maximizing their environmental and sustainable potential.



The Original Water Tower

Practitioner of environmental protection

It is clear that the reuse of abandoned buildings can have positive impacts on the environment. Instead of demolishing and rebuilding, renovation can save valuable raw materials and reduce energy consumption which is required in the construction of new buildings. In turn, it can effectively reduce the generation of construction waste, environmental pollution, and the waste of resources. The renovation process additionally applied plenty of green and energy-saving technologies, such as glass curtain walls, glass stairs and glass bookshelves, which increase natural daylight and reduce indoor lighting power consumption; solar energy that significantly reduces energy consumption and carbon emissions was also used, thereby minimizing its environmental impact.



Glass Bookshelf

Protector of City Memory

The transformation of historic buildings can be seen as a way to protect city history. The "Water Tower" Library serves as a carrier of memorable heritage of the city by integrating the development history of Longgang city into the building. On the beautiful glass stairs in the library, every two of them are marked with big events promoting the development of this city. Therefore, each and every visitor to the library could have a general idea of the reform and development process and cultural spirit of Longgang.



Glass Stairs which Marked with Big Events of Longgang City

Catalyst for Economic Growth

The revitalization of abandoned buildings offers more than just resource conservation, it also serves as a catalyst for economic growth within the city. For instance, the "Water Tower" Library in Longgang has provided various job positions for the locals, including workers in the study and cultural activity planners, thereby driving the development of the local economy. By repurposing these transformed spaces, Longgang has created multifunctional areas for cultural, tourism, and commercial purposes, ultimately enriching urban life and enhancing the overall quality of the city.



Reading Salon in "Water Tower" Library

Service Provider of Local Community

The “water tower”Library has been instrumental in the development of local community. As the basic unit of sustainable urban development, the community, benefits from the construction of cultural facilities. These facilities not only improve the cultural literacy of the residents and quality of their life, but also promote the integration and overall development of the community. All three layers of the “Water Tower” Library contain a collection of more than 25,000 books, with various functional areas including leisure areas for viewing the landscape and for reading, a multifunctional salon, bookstore, water bar, dessert workshop and others. In this library, besides basic lending services, interactive activities like cultural salon and book sharing have also become a routine. In this regard, the Longyue Road City’s Study with friendly and comfortable environment and diversified services has played a crucial role in providing a place for residents to study, communicate, have fun and spend their leisure time. As a result, the city’s study has already been seen as a life center of the community, which not only enriched the cultural life of residents, but has also been a facilitator of community development.]

Fine out more about the library in this [promotional video](#).



Water bar and Dessert Workshop



Reading Area



Reading Area



Reading Area for Landscape by Windows

Germany

Networking “Green Librarians”: An Extraordinary Case from Berlin, Germany

Angelika Krieser, Assistant for Collection Development, Library for Social Sciences and Eastern European Studies, Berlin



Librarians have been networkers since ancient times. They not only bring together people and information but also people from diverse backgrounds. Here

is a somewhat unusual case of “green networking” from the university library of *Freie Universität Berlin, Germany*.¹ The

¹ Sustainability and responsibility are core values anchored in the “*Strategy for the University Library of Freie Universität Berlin 2020 – 2025*”, <https://www.fu-berlin.de/en/sites/ub/ueberuns/strategie/index.html>

² <https://www.polsoz.fu-berlin.de/bibliothek/index.html>

³ <https://www.fu-berlin.de/en/sites/philbib/index.html>

main actors are three librarians: Jonas Schramm and Angelika Krieser, both from the *Library of Social Sciences and Eastern European Studies*² and Janet Wagner from the *Philological Library*³. All three are active in *GreenFUBib*⁴, a permanent working group committed to sustainable action in everyday library life at Freie Universität. The setting is a green area of around 450 m² just outside of the *Library of Social Sciences and Eastern European Studies*. It is an ideal place for a flowering meadow rich in species that contributes to the preservation of biodiversity, but could it be protected against the always busy lawn mower which is not the library’s responsibility?

In June 2022, the team of three went in search of support within the university’s administrative structures. They found it in the Dean of the *Department of Politics and Social Sciences*. He personally visited the site accompanied by a colleague of the *Research Center of Sustainability*⁵, two student representatives and one member of

⁴ <https://www.fu-berlin.de/sites/ub/ueberuns/nachhaltigkeit/greenfubiballeinfos/index.html>. Head of the working group is Janet Wagner. See also *ENSULIB Newsletter*, December 2021:

<https://www.ifla.org/news/the-december-2022-issue-of-the-ifla-ensulib-newsletter-now-available-online/>

⁵ <https://www.polsoz.fu-berlin.de/en/polwiss/forschung/grundlagen/ffn/index.html>

the *Unit for Sustainability and Energy Management*⁶. One month later, the department council came to the unanimous decision to take a formal patronage over the meadow so that it would be excepted from mowing in future.

The story doesn’t end here. In early June 2022, Angelika read in a magazine article⁷ about the *Rillig Lab*⁸ for research on soil ecology and global change biology at Freie Universität. In the hope of professional support for the flowering meadow project the three librarians decided to contact Professor Matthias Rillig and his team in late August. Luckily, they received positive feedback on the same day.

Rebecca Rongstock⁹, a doctoral student member of the *Rillig Lab* was especially taken by the idea of getting a new area for her own soil research. She immediately planned a dissertation project on the subject: “What treatments can mitigate drought stress in urban areas and promote

⁶ <https://www.fu-berlin.de/en/sites/nachhaltigkeit/stabsstelle/index.html>

⁷ Grolle, J. (2022). Unserem Planeten geht fruchtbarer Boden aus – und wir sind schuld. *Der SPIEGEL*, no. 22, 30.05.2022

⁸ <https://rilliglab.org/>

⁹ Rebecca Rongstock is also coordinator and speaker of the initiative *Blühender Campus* (*Blooming Campus*),

biodiversity and soil quality?" For this purpose, she intended to divide the area into seventy plots and protect it with a simple wooden fence. The *Department of Politics and Social Sciences* did not raise any objections. Even the university's fire protection officer agreed. His approval proved to be necessary because the meadow is actually assigned as meeting point for emergencies; however, it is fortunately spacious enough to host a testing ground as well.

Finally, the winter had passed and Rebecca could start realizing her project at the end of February 2023. Turning over the soil to create the seventy plots with nothing but a spade meant arduous work for her and her helpers in all weather. To organize the necessary additives such as biochar, clay, mycelium, silicate, and compost she had to contact various institutions within and outside Freie Universität. In this way, she started to create her own network in the academic world. At the time of completing

this article at the beginning of May 2023, the plots are dotted with tiny green sprouts.

This collaboration of the *Department of Politics and Social Sciences*, the *Institute of Biology* and the university's *Engineering and Utilities Division* around a green meadow in front of library windows might surely be called unique in the history of *Freie Universität Berlin*, if not throughout Germany.

In two to three years the project will be completed. Jonas, Angelika and Janet hope together with Rebecca for a particularly beautiful flowering meadow as final result. This would be the happy ending of a story that began with three German "green librarians" doing a little networking.



Hopefully, this story will encourage librarians far and wide to start similar projects, true to the motto: Protecting biodiversity starts at your own library's doorstep!

Hungary

Developing a virtual Green Collection in a University Library Network

Fruzsina Pataki, Eötvös Loránd University

Sustainable development is today's global problem. Avoiding a climate catastrophe has become an increasingly urgent task for the inhabitants of the planet. Universities and university libraries have a major role to play in promoting green literacy and awareness-raising, as they offer a wide range of literature on sustainable development, in addition to university courses on sustainability. The question is how to make the diverse range of literature on sustainable development available in some faculty libraries accessible to students online.

The [Green Library Team](#) of the Eötvös Loránd University's University Library Service strives to minimize the negative impact of the institution's operations on the environment and to promote "green" solutions for sustainability wherever possible, in line with the environmental thinking of the 21st century. The aim of the

working group is to reduce the institution's ecological footprint and develop a human ecological mindset.

In 2021, members of the Green Library Team came up with the idea to create a [Virtual Green Library Collection](#) of printed and online documents from the university's faculty libraries, thus helping the university's citizens to think in human ecology terms.

As a first step, the members of the working group drew up a list of topics that they thought all libraries had resources on. They then consulted the library catalogue to see exactly which subject headings were used to list books on ecology, environment and sustainable development that were relevant to us. After this analysis, the members compiled a list of English and Hungarian subject headings and grouped them by different themes (Climatic changes, Environmental education, Environmental ethics, Environmental protection, etc.). Clicking on the book titles in the recommendation section will take you to the [online catalogue](#), where you can find specific information on the location and availability of items. After each description, the linked keywords will take you to the catalogue where you can find further documents on the subject.

The Green Library Team created the collection with the aim of bringing together sustainability-related materials from the various physical library locations of Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE) in a virtual space, thus contributing to awareness raising, environmental education and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Italy

BiblioScan: Document scanning service in the University of Florence Libraries

Francesca Palareti, UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI FIRENZE. Biblioteca di Scienze sociali



From 14 December 2022, in ten branches of the University of Florence Libraries, it is possible to scan documents (journal articles, parts of books, handouts) using the [BiblioScan service](#), activated in collaboration with the University's Area for Innovation and Management of Information and IT Systems.

Background and motivation for the project

The previous cross-sector photocopying service for the entire University Library System (ULS), which ended in 2021, proved problematic for administration and unsatisfactory for users.

Because of the high demand for a digital reproduction service that was not in the ULS, it was necessary to organise a new, free, self-service that would meet the requirements of eco-sustainability, energy saving, accessibility, usability and user-friendliness. Therefore, a working group drew up a project that would carry out all the necessary preliminary verification and testing activities, as well as the definition of the operational setup.

The objective was to make users autonomous in the digital duplication of library documents for immediate availability and to reduce the demand for electronic document supply, which fell entirely on the digitisation service.

The main reasons for choosing a digital-only reproduction service are as follows:

- the progressive trend of society and services toward digital;
- consistency of digital with the university's formal commitment to sustainability, a choice shared by other prestigious Italian universities;
- managerial complexity of identifying a supplier through a tender procedure, which would have led to a lengthening of the time needed to activate the service compared to a direct assignment;
- need to speed up procedures in the absence of a reproduction service;
- the added value of free vs. paid service;
- simplification of duplication, with the elimination of two critical steps such as printing and payment;
- lower costs for paper, maintenance, consumables and on-site technical support.

Description of the BiblioScan service

The system uses PaperCut, multi-platform software distributed in agreement with the Tuscany Region that enables the management of multifunction printers and network scanners, provided by the Tuscan company Tecnosistemi with service and warranty.



All institutional and authorised external users of the University of Florence can use the service: it is free of charge and self-service, and its functioning is quick and easy¹⁰: once the scanner has been accessed by entering an identification code recovered from a personal PaperCut area or with student card thanks to the RFID reader integrated into devices, it is possible to send and save the scanned documents in PDF or graphic format on a USB key or one's Unifi Google Drive space.

Scanning must follow current copyright law (No. 633 of 22 April 1941, as amended), which allows the reproduction of no more than 15% of a work.



BiblioScan is also an eco-sustainable service, in line with the university's strategic objectives: without print, toner and paper, you can contribute to safeguarding the environment.

¹⁰ There is also a downloadable online user guide in PDF format and an e-mail box for technical information on the service.

Pakistan

Green Library Movements in Pakistan

Abid Hussain, Deputy Director, Library at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad

Global warming and climate change has been a topic of great concern for the entire world and has harmful consequences for human life across the globe. World institutions are converting their businesses to go green in all sectors of life. Libraries are places of great ideas and deal with the general public in almost all countries. The modern world is trying to minimize the negative impact of the natural environment and maximized indoor environment quality through careful site selection and enhanced conservation of resources like water, energy, and paper and recycling waste disposal to protect the environment from huge catastrophes. Different scholars have used the concept of the green library through different lenses. The International Federation of Library Association and other associations are working jointly to create a conducive environment that is helpful for humanity.

Some worthy steps IFLA takes are project planning, finance design of the building, reducing the energy and going green for the

library to protect the environment from non-traditional security threats that the world faces these days. Libraries in developed countries are going green; however, in developing countries like Pakistan, only a few organizations have taken these steps to protect the environment for this that adopted the policies of developed organizations.

Some scholars believe that university libraries have been reluctant to adopt sustainability indicators; however, most librarians and stakeholders in Pakistan need better policies for green libraries. Only a few studies have been conducted by Pakistani scholars on green libraries; among them, a qualitative paper by Dr. Pervaiz Ahmad stated that libraries in Pakistan should move forward to take necessary steps for environmental protection. He further articulated that there is no policy for green libraries like technologies for paperless environments, biodegradable products, and recycling waste disposals. Future studies regarding green libraries will further elaborate on the scope of going green libraries. For this, the stakeholders and the Ministry of climate change should take steps to start awareness programmes and educate the staff and consumers. The Pakistan Libray Association (PLA) and other provincial associations should organize awareness programmes.

A few economic steps can be taken by the librarians at the university and college level, like the use of solar panels instead of using

fossil fuel powered electricity, the use of laptops instead of a desktop computers, reducing the use of paper like photocopying and printing inside the library, greening the library with plants inside the library and reduce the use of water in library washrooms etc. Some other necessary steps like the use of sensors to illuminate library spaces when in use, encouraging library users to use sustainable library collections like ebooks and e-journals, scanning documents rather than printing and above all, the library rooftops may be planted with small trees and vegetables to reduce heat inside the library.



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Spain

Global Health Messengers help spread science from the library

Andrés Yubero, Marta Carracedo, Alberto Bernués, Centro de Investigación y Tecnología Agroalimentaria de Aragón (CITA)

"Global Health Messengers" is an innovative educational project launched in 2022 developed by the Information, Documentation and Scientific Culture Department of the Aragon Centre for Agricultural and Food Research and Technology (CITA). The project aims to disseminate the results of CITA research in the context of global health (One Health), with the objective of stimulating scientific careers among primary school and special education students, where the participants become messengers of evidence-based results.

The project was an initiative of CITA Library. Based on its experience in handling the scientific output of the Centre's researchers, the Library saw an opportunity to disseminate to society, and young people in particular, the knowledge that the Centre has accumulated in global health.

Funding was obtained through the FECYT's call for grants to promote the culture of

science, technology and innovation for the year 2022.

In the project, participants must first learn the key concepts and scientific foundations of global health, CITA's research focus areas in this field, the scientific methods, and dissemination tools to become global health spokespersons.

The project designed pedagogical support instruments to encourage scientific vocations that facilitate the learning process in the agri-food domain, with experimental and gamified tools, and support for the development and achievement of the objectives presented, which include visual pedagogical material, experimental material and support material for teachers.

Specifically:

- Travelling Escape Box "Global Health Messengers" for Primary Education.
- Sensory Box aimed for Special Education.

For the selection of the target audience, several areas were selected:

- Young audiences, for the promotion of scientific vocations:
 - Zaragoza City Council's Municipal Library Network (10 libraries).

- Zaragoza City Council's Water and Environment Documentation Centre (CDAMAZ).
- Primary and special education centres (20 centres).
- General public, to raise awareness on the concept of Global Health:
 - Scientific dissemination events: Science Fair, Researchers' Night...
 - Agri-food events (Agri-food markets of the University of Zaragoza and Agri-food fairs in rural areas).

This is a pioneering project as it is the first initiative that presents global health research to primary and special education children, and emphasises all parts of the research process through a gamification methodology: exploration, research, collection of results, analysis and conclusions and dissemination of results.

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Switzerland

Available now in German and French: Online game *Lilu's Library* and new guidebook with best practice examples of sustainability projects in libraries

Florian Gredig, project manager, biblio}suisse

Biblio2030, the commission for sustainability at Bibliosuisse, proudly presents two new tools (both available in German and French) for informing librarians and library staff on projects and practical measures to promote sustainability in libraries and work towards the goals of the 2030 Agenda.

Lilu's Library – Illuminating library sustainably

Introducing: Lilu's Library, the sustainability game for librarians! Explore the library at night and discover how you can make your library even more sustainable. Lilu the firefly is at your side to keep you company. The more sustainable the library becomes, the brighter it shines.

The aim of the game is to provide library employees from all areas with practical knowledge about sustainability in a fun way.

It also aims to reinforce library staff in the knowledge that they can implement numerous measures in their library – whether large or small – to contribute to achieving the sustainability goals of the 2030 Agenda.

Over the past year, the commission Biblio2030 has worked with game designer Michael Pfluger and illustrator Gregor Forster to develop the game. Thanks to the kind support of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network Switzerland (SDSN), the game is now available and can be played online:

www.liluslibrary.ch (currently in German and French; an Italian version is in preparation)

Playfully test your knowledge of sustainability in libraries – explore Lilu's Library!

Guidebook with best practice examples of sustainability projects in libraries

Making library services sustainable can be challenging. A comparison of existing practical examples can help. The commission Biblio2030 has published a guidebook with best practice examples on sustainability, which presents interesting projects and measures in libraries. Aspects such as time required, financial outlay, staff involved and coverage of SDGs are compared, making it easier to find target-oriented actions to promote sustainability in one's own library. The guidebook (in

German or French) is available free of charge via download. Printed copies can be obtained from the Bibliosuisse [website](#). The commission would like to thank the Sustainable Development Solutions Network Switzerland (SDSN) for their kind support.

[Download guidebook \(Deutsch, PDF\)](#)

[Download guidebook \(Français, PDF\)](#)

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Turkey

Don't Buy, Just Swap: Consume responsibly for a more sustainable world

Ebru Gönül Türk, Academic Engagement & Reference Librarian, Koç University Suna Kiraç Library

Koç University Suna Kiraç Library not only adopts United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) but also implements and updates its services according to them. Our library provides equal access to information, actively works for the improvement of education quality and prepares services and activities within the scope of different SDGs. Together with our library staff, we have established a Sustainability Committee. The main purposes of the committee is to raise awareness about SDGs on campus by organizing services, activities and training on environmental and sustainable issues.

One of the first accomplishments of the Sustainability Committee was to translate the definition of IFLA ENSULIB' "What is a Green Library" into Turkish. The Turkish translation is now accessible on IFLA ENSULIB's website. This translation's valuable content has made a big impact and

it also showed us that more work needs to be done in this field. Therefore, we are also planning to translate IFLA's other texts on Green Libraries.

We also participated in the "Trade Fair Event" held at the Koç University's main campus with Suna Kiraç Library Book Swap stand. One of the first things that comes to mind regarding book swaps is ensuring the process to exchange the books is simple. Since consumption habits are one of the most critical behaviors that need attention and change for a more sustainable and green future, our aim while planning the book swap was to draw attention to responsible consumption.



¹¹Swapping books at Trade Fair

Sticking to this idea and keeping the SDGs in mind, we designed a poster for the Book Swap. We also included related UN SDG

icons in our poster. Thus, we informed those participating in the Book Swap how they can support the environment and ensure sustainability.



Suna Kiraç Library Book Swap Poster

During the Book Swap, we had many visitors and supporters. We re-enforced the message that by swapping books, visitors could not only easily access what is needed, but could also support the environment and sustainability. Our participants were impressed at how a simple exchange action can have such a positive impact.

Following positive feedback, the Sustainability Committee is planning Textbook Swaps. Suna Kiraç Library continues to work on projects to address and draw attention to SDGs, environmental and climate issues while supporting an equal, quality education across the University.

¹¹ Photograph by Tuba Akbaytürk Çanak

Upcoming conferences

The Green Shift: An International Conference on Circular Economy and Sustainable Development in Arts and Culture

Čačak Public Library, Serbia, 28-29 September 2023

Čačak Public Library, Serbia, together with the Desk Creative Europe Belgrade, is organizing an international conference on the circular economy and sustainable development, "[The Green Shift](#)", Čačak, 28-29 September 2023.

Preservation of the cultural heritage and support to contemporary artistic practice in the context of sustainable development, both seen here as an economic development and sustainability-aware development, will be the focus of the planned conference. The event will provide a forum for presenting or initiating local actions, as well as national and international projects in cultural and creative industries, that will provide development of more inclusive societies aware of climate issues, but also of alternative economic principles applicable in

culture and resource-efficient use of material in the creative sector.

The main themes of the conference are:

- sustainable activities in culture and creative industries to support the circular economy
- processes which are environmentally sustainable and economically viable, with the respect to reuse of resources
- sustainable and green buildings, offices, and equipment
- management of resources, institutions, projects and people to support the SDGs
- examples of best practice in education, literacy, community engagement, cross cultural diversity, social inclusion, and overall participation of communities in artistic and creative green agenda projects
- artistic creativity and sustainable development today.

More information about the conference and an email contact address for communication can be found at [here](#).

Contact:

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Let's go green! The Second NSK International Green Libraries Conference

National and University Library in Zagreb, Croatia, 9-10 November 2023

[Let's go green \(nsk.hr\)](#)

Let's go green! The Second NSK International Green Libraries Conference seeks to encourage libraries and librarians to play an active role in promoting sustainable practices and behaviors through [four main topics](#). The conference aims to showcase examples of good practice, explore the public reception of green literacy programs in libraries, and offer continuing professional development about library sustainability. The conference also seeks to connect libraries and experts in the field of sustainability to promote sustainable development and a cleaner, healthier environment for future generations.

International Days Observed by the United Nations

July–December

July

11 World Population Day

15 World Youth Skills Day

30 World Day Against Trafficking in Persons

August

09 International Day of the World's
Indigenous Peoples

12 International Youth Day

19 World Humanitarian Day

29 International Day Against Nuclear Tests

September

05 International Day of Charity

07 International Day of Clean Air for Blue
Skies

08 International Literacy Day (UNESCO)

09 International Day to Protect Education
from Attack

16 International Day for the Preservation of
the Ozone Layer

18 International Equal Pay Day

21 International Day of Peace

26 International Day for the Total Elimination
of Nuclear Weapons

28 International Day for Universal Access to
Information

29 International Day of Awareness of Food
Loss and Waste

October

04 World Habitat Day

05 World Teachers Day

08 World Migratory Bird Day

11 International Day of the Girl Child

15 International Day for Rural Women

16 World food day

24 World Development Information Day

November

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

10 World Science Day for Peace and
Development

20 World Children's Day

25 International Day for the Elimination of
Violence Against Women

December

02 International Day for the Abolition of
Slavery

05 International Volunteer Day for Economic
and Social Development

05 World Soil Day

10 Human Rights Day

20 International Human Solidarity Day

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