



ENSULIB
Environmental Sustainability and
Libraries Special Interest Group
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ENSULIB announces the winner of the 5th IFLA Green Library Award 2020

Environment, Sustainability and Libraries ([ENSULIB](#)) is a special interest group under IFLA. With generous sponsorship from [De Gruyter Publishing](#) (Boston/Berlin), the group circulated a Call for Submissions for the [IFLA Green Library Award](#) for the fifth year in a row. To ENSULIB's great delight, more than 50 submissions were received from around the world, including Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Belarus, Brazil, Bulgaria, China, Costa Rica, Croatia, Egypt, Ecuador, France, China, Cuba, Hungary, India, Iran, Kenya, Lithuania, Nepal, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Portugal, Russia, Senegal, Slovakia, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, South Africa, Thailand, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, and United States.

When the call for reviewers went out, more than 30 people stepped up to help with the process. The reviewers were as diverse as those who submitted. They were a blend of LIS students, library professionals (from public and academic libraries) and architects as well.

After much deliberation, the winner was selected:

Thailand, Rangsit University Library: “Rangsit University Library and Sustainable Environment Management Report”

Rangsit University Library is a private institution, yet it is accessible to locals, and reaches out to local schools and a prison as well as teachers and students. In terms of educating the community, this library holds activities to enhance a leadership role for environmental sustainable management. They have committed themselves to sustainability goals as a managerial framework, and this shows in their professional, systematic and well-documented approach. Sustainability permeates nearly all of their infrastructure, operations and educational goals in an exceptional way. The library monitors its energy, paper and water usage as well as other activities, thus making it possible to evaluate how well the goals are being met.

The award will be presented at the World Library and Information Congress in Dublin, Ireland, Special Presentation of Awards Session, held on 18 August 2020, Expo Pavillon.

Five Runners Up

The five runners up for the award came from China, Croatia, Hungary, Senegal, and Sri Lanka.

The wide variety of submissions created a rich experience as well as a mighty challenge for the reviewers. For instance, cool weather countries grapple with warming buildings, while those in hot climates aim to cool them. Submissions addressed different populations, scales of projects and institutional best practices. Through multiple conversations reviewers worked together, pooled their responses and were able to make decisions that celebrates such diversity.

China, Hangzhou Public Library: “Our Green Mission Defend the City: Hangzhou Public Library’s Approach by Establishing Environment Branch to Get Involved”

Hangzhou Public Library is unique in its approach to siting the library on land previously used for a landfill and incorporating a tour of nearby landfill services. Architecturally, the library blends with its natural surroundings, using innovative green solutions for lightning, heating, furniture, recycling and growing plants on its premises. The staff are dedicated to educating Hangzhou’s public via various programmes and classes about local environmental challenges that are of global significance.

Croatia, Public Library “Juraj Šižgorić”, Sibenik: “Project Green Library”

This public library engages with their community beyond green building and library collections, to programmes that enhance mental and physical well-being. Educational programmes focusing on healthy lifestyles include art workshops with green and sustainability concepts, ecological contests and film screenings.

Hungary, Ezüsthegy Library, Budapest: “Library in the Garden, Garden in the Library – Green Complexity in the Life of a Public Library”

This library makes eco-awareness a principal feature. They have created an “Eco Corner,” a herb garden and a herbal tea room, a teaching garden, and a seed exchange. Serving a broad and varied audience, with an emphasis on community building, healthy lifestyle and cultural activities, they cooperate with local NGOs and municipal authorities, and have completed an extensive green renovation programme.

Senegal, Lambaye Learning Center: “An Ecological Learning Center”

Senegal’s Lambaye Learning Centre displays a clear understanding of sustainability along with their practical community-oriented focus. Lambaye Center is one of the few reviewed proposals located in a rural milieu, responding to the vital needs of poorer people in ecologically vulnerable region. Green thinking permeates all aspects of physical infrastructure, including rainwater collection, a waste disposal system and solar panels. The design incorporated recycled materials whenever possible, including materials for innovative furniture. Most important is their social mission to educate the community with gardening, health and environmental knowledge, empowering rural women from nearby villages.

Sri Lanka, Battaramulla, National Environmental Information Centre: “Protect Environment Through the Information”

Sri Lanka’s impressively well thought-out National Environmental Information Centre co-ordinates and organizes the use of scientific and social scientific knowledge for environmental and sustainability goals, with a wide variety of activities and community outreach. Archiving and dispersing environmental information, their well-planned projects put that knowledge to work to meet the Sustainable Development Goals.