



Libraries Engaged in VNRs

Part 3: Prepare your Data

Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) can be a great way for libraries to engage in discussions around the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and to be recognised for their contributions. This series offers ideas for key actions libraries and library associations can take to get involved.

The third step towards engagement in a Voluntary National Review (VNR) is to match the stories you have collected with facts and data. The 2030 Agenda includes a set of 232 indicators matching up with the different targets, with a number of these, such as literacy rates and connectivity rates, are highly relevant to libraries. Governments can also use their own measures in order to describe their situation.

As a result, there is a strong potential to include facts and data about libraries in your engagement in Voluntary National Reviews. Information about numbers of libraries, levels of use, laws and associations can help underline the potential of the library field as a partner for development. Meanwhile, information about services provided and their impact can help illustrate what is already happening.

Therefore, first of all, look at what data you already have available. IFLA's [Library Map of the World](#) (LMW) is a key source of country-level library statistics and information about the library environment in each country. There is data available on a range of metrics for most countries. Is your country on the map and is your country's data up to date? You may also have other national, regional or local sources of data which could be helpful!

Secondly, think about how easy it is for public and stakeholders to find information about libraries. In addition to adding relevant information to your own website, a great way of providing stakeholders at the national and UN level with an opportunity to easily access information about the library landscape is to have a full Country Profile on the Library Map of the World website. 14 countries have also already produced [Country Profiles](#), which provide a more in-depth vision of national library fields, and reference statistics.

There is guidance for contributors of [data](#) and [country profiles](#) on the IFLA Library Map of the World website. These include great resources about what to look for and how to present information effectively. You may not be able to do everything, so focus your efforts based on a judgement of what will have the greatest impact given your resources.

Third, try to find out who in your country is responsible for collecting data for the VNR. Get in touch with them to discuss what information they have about libraries and related issues. Encourage them to include library data in their contributions to the VNR.

Good luck, and let us know how you're getting on!