


# The role of Libraries in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals





**ALA United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals**  
**At the**  
**ALA Connect Live: Sustainability**  
**February 25, 2021**


LIBRARY MAP OF THE WORLD


Selected library performance metrics provide national level library data across all types of libraries in all regions of the world. Adjust map view settings to search by country and explore worldwide totals.


 Number of Libraries


 Libraries with Internet Access


 Full-Time Staff

 Volunteers

 Registered Users

 Physical Visits

 Physical Loans

 Electronic Loans

WORLDWIDE TOTALS +

2.6 M

381,316

1.6 M

907,967

1,117.4 M


6,318.2 M

9,251.3 M






13,200.7 M

ADJUST SETTINGS

DATA

 2.6 M

Total Libraries

LIBRARY TYPE	TOTAL	YEAR
 National	351	2020
 Academic	95,171	2020
 Public	406,487	2020
 Community	25,587	2020
 School	2.1 M	2019
 Other	39,872	2020

<0.1%

3.6%

15.5%




1.0%

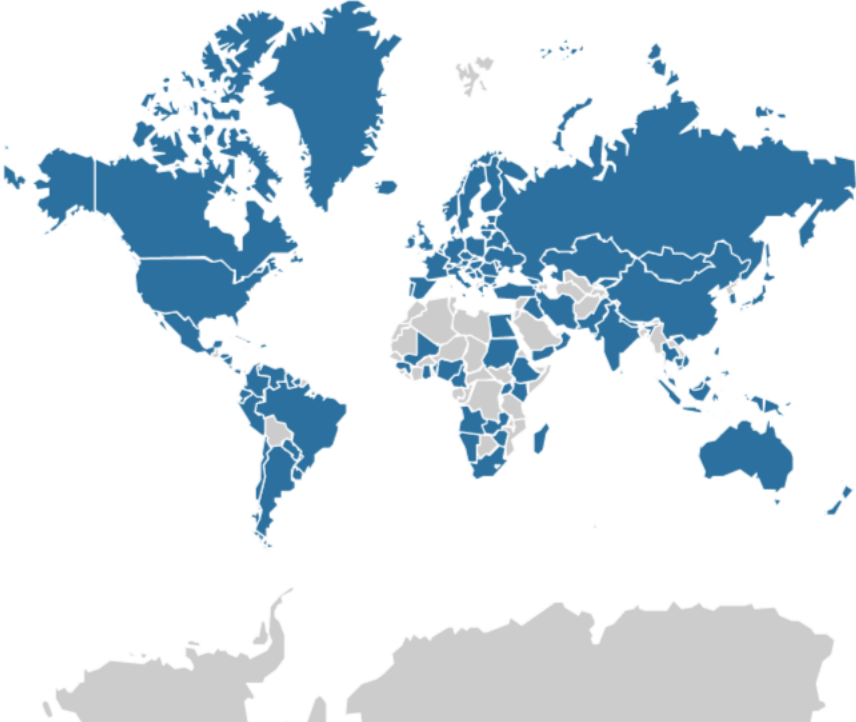
78.3%

1.5%

0%


100%






LEGEND

 Selected Country

 Data Available

 No Country Data

+

-

Visit our [COVID-19 Recovery pages](#) for updates and recommended resources.

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## ALA Task Force on United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals



### ALA Task Force on United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals

The American Library Association (ALA) has [created a Task Force on the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs) to develop a multi-year strategic plan in the coming year to increase participation by libraries in efforts to achieve the Goals.

The [UN Sustainable Development Goals](#) are a call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and improve the lives and prospects of everyone, everywhere. The 17 Goals were adopted by all UN members, including the United States.

The International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) has asked library associations around the world to join in a global effort to highlight how libraries contribute to the SDGs.

ALA's Task Force will be chaired by ALA Immediate Past President Loida Garcia-Febo and was initiated by ALA President-elect Julius C. Jefferson Jr. for his upcoming presidential year.





## Working Toward a Sustainable World

### United Nations book club inspires students to make a difference

*In 2019, Batesville (Ind.) Intermediate School began a book club using selections inspired by the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the organization's blueprint for addressing global challenges like poverty and climate change by 2030. Batesville's students use lessons they glean from the club to engage with their community and the world, earning the school the American Library Association's 2020 Sara Jaffarian School Library Program Award for Excellence in Humanities Programming.*

No poverty, zero hunger, good health and well-being, and quality education: These are some of the 17 SDGs the UN established in 2015. In May 2019, the UN launched the [SDG Book Club](#); each month, it posts on the club website a selection of books for children ages 6–12 that illustrate a particular SDG to help young people interact with these principles.

Our school launched the Junior Ambassadors program in August 2019, using the SDG Book Club as a springboard to introduce students to a more global perspective on world issues. Twenty-four 4th- and 5th-graders met for 30 minutes four days a week to read, discuss, research, learn, plan, and execute the sharing of knowledge and solutions to these issues. Fellow teacher Angie Moster and I used the book club to initiate discussion, then offered additional opportunities for junior ambassadors to build knowledge of SDG topics such as poverty and hunger through research activities, special projects, and guest speakers. What began as a desire to help small-town children expand their views of the world grew into a broader program that affected our school, community, and beyond.

The UN's recommendation of *Serafina's Promise* by Ann E. Burg was perfect for our junior ambassadors to begin their study of the first SDG: no poverty. Its story demonstrates how poverty, hunger, health, and education are interwoven. The book is set in Haiti, so Angie and I invited members of local Haitian ministry groups to speak to the program participants. The speakers gave students new perspectives on activism and commitment. They shared how their groups try to meet immediate needs while creating long-term sustainable solutions to global problems.



Batesville (Ind.) Intermediate School students held a read-a-thon to raise money for the nonprofit Grain of Rice Project. Photo: Batesville (Ind.) Intermediate School

<https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/2021/01/04/working-toward-sustainable-world-un-sustainable-development-goals/>

## SDG Book Club Blog

Welcome to the SDG Book Club Blog where we feature stories from book clubs from around the world!

Reading is a great way to better understand what people from across the globe struggle with in their everyday lives, and it helps us reflect on our own situation. But reading is just the first step: now it's time to share your book club experiences and how you plan to take action. Each month, we will feature a couple of book clubs on our blog, so get ready to share your story through social media, by using #SDGBookClub and tagging @UNPublications.

We appreciate your participation, and admire you for taking the initiative to educate your communities about the Sustainable Development Goals. It is important that we all participate to help make this world a better place for everyone.



### SDG Book Club Serbia at Pozega

As an initiative of Pozega Public Library, librarian Daniela Skokovic and Marija Jevericic, professor of Serbian language at Gymnasium "Sveti Sava", started activities dedicated to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in their newly established "SDG Book Club Serbia" for first year high school students. The goals of the Book Club are to promote the SDGs among teenagers, educate them, and improve their reading competencies. Together, they created a reading list of books dealing with topics of hunger and poverty. Students work in groups of four to five, give their recommendations, read books and write brief summaries which they then translate [...]



## Downloadable poster


# This library supports

the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals



## Downloadable bookmarks

**4** **QUALITY  
EDUCATION**



the place for  
**lifelong learning**

*Add your library logo  
here*

*Add contact information,  
social media handles, or  
information about your  
library.*

**SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS**

**5** **GENDER  
EQUALITY**



making space for  
**girls in STEM**

*Add your library logo  
here*

*Add contact information,  
social media handles, or  
information about your  
library.*

**SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS**

**10** **REDUCED  
INEQUALITIES**



helping to  
**reduce  
inequalities**

*Add your library logo  
here*


*Add contact information,  
social media handles, or  
information about your  
library.*

**SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS**

**16** **PEACE, JUSTICE  
AND STRONG  
INSTITUTIONS**



providing  
**access to  
information**

 **LOS ANGELES  
PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Connect with LAPL  
[facebook.com/lapubliclibrary](https://facebook.com/lapubliclibrary)  
[twitter.com/lapubliclibrary](https://twitter.com/lapubliclibrary)  
[instagram.com/lapubliclibrary/](https://instagram.com/lapubliclibrary/)  
[snapchat.com/add/lapubliclibrary](https://snapchat.com/add/lapubliclibrary)

**SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS**

Example

# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

<b>1</b>  <b>No Poverty</b>	<b>Libraries helping communities meet the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in the times of COVID-19</b> created by the ALA Task Force on United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals			<b>2</b>  <b>Zero Hunger</b>  Referring people to food pantries and organizations with free food; hosting city free meal programs.
<b>3</b>  <b>Good Health and Well-Being</b>  Developing guides to understand COVID-19, how to stay safe & healthy.	<b>4</b>  <b>Quality Education</b>  Providing access to eLearning to help students with homework.	<b>5</b>  <b>Gender Equality</b>  Livestreaming events to empower women and teach them how to achieve goals.	<b>6</b>  <b>Clean Water and Sanitation</b>	<b>7</b>  <b>Affordable and Clean Energy</b>  Providing services usually provided at the library building, remotely.
<b>8</b>  <b>Decent Work and Economic Growth</b>	<b>9</b>  <b>Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure</b>  Advocating for Open Access for Eresources to help researchers and students studying from home.	<b>10</b>  <b>Reduced Inequalities</b>  Making available resources to learn languages and new skills from home.	<b>11</b>  <b>Sustainable Cities and Communities</b>	<b>12</b>  <b>Responsible Consumption and Production</b>  Safeguarding and preserving cultural heritage records & research from the pandemic.
<b>13</b>  <b>Climate Action</b>  Moving reference services and library instruction to innovative online spaces.	<b>14</b>  <b>Life Below Water</b>	<b>15</b>  <b>Life on Land</b>	<b>16</b>  <b>Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions</b>  Offering free access to information to dispel misinformation about the virus.	<b>17</b>  <b>Partnerships for the Goals</b>  Partnering with public & private agencies to provide services.



Create your own  
SDGs library  
chart!

Your Library Logo

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

Libraries helping communities meet the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

<b>1</b> <b>No Poverty</b> Type goals here	<b>2</b> <b>Zero Hunger</b> Type goals here	<b>3</b> <b>Good Health and Well-being</b> Type goals here
<b>4</b> <b>Quality Education</b> Type goals here	<b>5</b> <b>Gender Equality</b> Type goals here	<b>6</b> <b>Clean Water &amp; Sanitation</b> Type goals here
<b>7</b> <b>Affordable &amp; Clean Energy</b> Type goals here	<b>8</b> <b>Decent Work &amp; Economic Growth</b> Type goals here	<b>9</b> <b>Industry, Innovation &amp; Infrastructure</b> Type goals here
<b>10</b> <b>Reduced Inequalities</b> Type goals here	<b>11</b> <b>Sustainable Cities &amp; Communities</b> Type goals here	<b>12</b> <b>Responsible Production &amp; Consumption</b> Type goals here
<b>13</b> <b>Climate Action</b> Type goals here	<b>14</b> <b>Life Below Water</b> Type goals here	<b>15</b> <b>Life on Land</b> Type goals here
<b>16</b> <b>Peace, Justice &amp; Strong Institutions</b> Type goals here	<b>17</b> <b>Partnerships for Goals</b> Type goals here	<div>2030 AGENDA</div> <div></div> <div>FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT</div>

# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

<p><b>1</b>  <b>No Poverty</b></p> <p>LAPL's Career Online High School enables adults to earn a free, accredited high school diploma, which can lead to higher paying jobs and a brighter future.</p>	<p>Libraries helping communities meet the</p> <h2>United Nations Sustainable Development Goals</h2>		
<p><b>2</b>  <b>Zero Hunger</b></p> <p>LAPL partners with a local food bank to provide free lunch to children during the summer and provides information on food subsidy programs and resources to Angelenos.</p>	<p><b>3</b>  <b>Good Health and Well-Being</b></p> <p>LAPL's partnerships with local agencies and organizations provide Angelenos with free dental and eye exams, eyeglasses, flu vaccines and access to health insurance.</p>	<p><b>4</b>  <b>Quality Education</b></p> <p>LAPL provides every student with a Student Success library card to access resources that will help them succeed in school, and empowers parents to get their children ready for kindergarten with crucial early literacy skills.</p>	<p><b>5</b>  <b>Gender Equality</b></p> <p>To actively encourage empowerment of girls, LAPL offers workshops on biodiversity, coding and more.</p>
<p><b>6</b>  <b>Clean Water and Sanitation</b></p> <p>LAPL installed drip irrigation systems and rain sensors on the past five landscape improvement projects on library properties.</p>	<p><b>7</b>  <b>Affordable and Clean Energy</b></p> <p>Seven LAPL branch libraries serve as venues for LADWP owned solar panels: Silver Lake, Sun Valley, Canoga Park, Lakeview Terrace, Ascot, Hyde Park and Exposition Park.</p>	<p><b>8</b>  <b>Decent Work and Economic Growth</b></p> <p>LAPL partners with local organizations, city departments and the Chamber of Commerce to offer virtual and one-on-one assistance to job seekers and small business owners.</p>	<p><b>9</b>  <b>Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure</b></p> <p>LAPL's makerspace, Octavia Lab, provides a source of innovation for the community to interact with cutting edge equipment. Staff and volunteers have used 3D printers to create face shields for frontline health care workers during the pandemic.</p>
<p><b>10</b>  <b>Reduced Inequalities</b></p> <p>Libraries are free for all and welcome everyone regardless of status. LAPL makes information and learning available and accessible to all and provides equal services. LAPL's New Americans Initiative makes all of its library locations gateways to citizenship.</p>	<p><b>11</b>  <b>Sustainable Cities and Communities</b></p> <p>LAPL is committed to building green and sustainable libraries and has constructed 5 LEED library buildings: Platinum-Lakeview Terrace and Silver Lake; Gold-Exposition Park and Sun Valley; and Certified-Harbor Gateway.</p>	<p><b>12</b>  <b>Responsible Consumption and Production</b></p> <p>As a City Department, the library plays a role in achieving the Mayor's LA Green New Deal and participates in the Sustainability pLAn.</p>	<p><b>13</b>  <b>Climate Action</b></p> <p>LAPL's Neighborhood Science program empowers "citizen scientists" to gather and share data for projects that monitor air and water quality, heat islands and cloud formations.</p>
<p><b>14</b>  <b>Life Below Water</b></p> <p>By offering hands-on opportunities, LAPL's Neighborhood Science programs help scientists/researchers map and classify coral reefs and uncover the history of Giant Kelp forests around the globe in an effort to better understand threatened ecosystems and develop effective preservation measures.</p>	<p><b>15</b>  <b>Life on Land</b></p> <p>Libraries provide data and research resources to promote sustainable ecosystems. LAPL partners with science organizations to track mosquito habitats and biodiversity trends.</p>	<p><b>16</b>  <b>Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions</b></p> <p>LAPL's Teens Leading Change program empowers teens to find solutions and effect change, addressing local issues ranging from teen homelessness to media illiteracy to pollution.</p>	<p><b>17</b>  <b>Partnerships for the Goals</b></p> <p>LAPL partners with organizations to extend our reach and impact, including NASA, the Environmental Protection Agency, International Rescue Committee, United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, Network of the National Library of Medicine, etc.</p>