



Enhancing United Nations' Sustainable Development Drive through Library and Information Practices: Library Associations for Bridging the Knowledge and Equity Gaps

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Abstract

In the reigning era of the information society, humanity would be lost if appropriate information is not provided in a timely manner. That is why contemporary society is termed an 'Information Society'. However, the Information society has its own set of issues and challenges, including the digital divide, information poverty, misinformation, disinformation, barriers to free access to information, and information overload. In addition to this, there is a new crop of emerging challenges, including the climate crisis, class-based disparities, ethnic conflicts, and political turmoil. Therefore, the strategic evolution of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by the United Nations aims to bridge existing gaps across class, culture, race, age, physical abilities, and political affiliations. Incidentally, SDGs happen to coincide with the basic philosophy of the library and information profession, which is based on 'equity' among communities in all respects. Therefore, the information profession, since its inception, has been planning, designing, and rendering library and information services around the basic principles of sustainability. The present paper discusses how the information profession is contributing to the progress of the United Nations' SDGs. Further, there is an emphasized highlight on the enormous contribution made by library associations in different parts of the world to pave a path to realize the United Nations' 2030 Agenda as swiftly and effectively as possible.

Keywords: Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), Library Practices, Library Associations Bridging Knowledge and Equity Gaps

Introduction

In the reigning era of the information society, humanity would be lost if appropriate information is not provided in a timely manner. That is why contemporary society is termed an 'Information Society', as information plays a pivotal and decisive role in it (Nath, 2017, p.19). However, the information society has its own set of issues and challenges, including the digital divide, information poverty, misinformation, disinformation, barriers to free access to information, and information overload. In addition to this, there is a new crop of rising challenges, such as the



climate crisis, class-based disparities, ethnic conflicts, and political turmoil. Therefore, the strategic evolution of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by the United Nations aims to bridge existing gaps across class, culture, race, age, physical abilities, and political affiliations. Incidentally, SDGs happen to coincide with the basic philosophy of the library and information profession, which is based on ‘equity’ among communities in all respects. Therefore, the information profession, since its inception, has been planning, designing, and rendering library and information services around the basic principles of sustainability. The present paper discusses how the information profession is contributing towards the achievement of the United Nations’ SDGs. Further, there is an emphasized highlight on the enormous contribution made by library associations in different parts of the world to pave a path to realize the United Nations’ 2030 Agenda as swiftly and effectively as possible.

United Nations’ Entrustment of New Meaning to Sustainability: Conceptual Evolution of ‘Sustainability’ in the Information Age

At the first instance, the concept of ‘Sustainability’ finds its mention in the ‘Population Theory’ by Thomas Robert Malthus (1798), which was technically addressed by the economist as ‘Responsible Consumption’. However, the concept was latent and gained recognition, after a gap of two centuries, that is, in 1968, when the United Nations organized a Global Congress on ‘Human Environment’. Whereby, sustainability was formally forwarded as an idea where it would be feasible to combine economic growth and environmental protection in one place. (Nolin, 2010, p.6). Afterwards, global nations came together to formulate ‘The World Commission on Environment and Development’ with well-defined goals, such as:

- To re-examine environment and development;
- To formulate innovative and realistic action proposals;
- To strengthen international cooperation, influence policies, and
- To raise the level of understanding and commitment to the environment.

(World Commission on Environment and Development, 1987, p.363)

Hereby, sustainable development emerged as a process that would meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (World Commission on Environment and Development, 1987, p.43). So, the concept of ‘Sustainability’ was initially enunciated with an emphasis on environmental and economic facets of human existence. However, with the passage of time, it was realized that it would be worthwhile to adopt an all-embracing approach, whereby the talents of each member of the community could be explored and utilized to an optimum level; therefore, concepts such as social inclusion, diversity, equity, and cultural competence were also incorporated. This would naturally entail the eradication of any future possibilities of intellectual, social, economic, or political depletion and would facilitate a social space for them to grow to the fullest. Apparently, this in turn incapacitates society to work forcefully towards economic and environmental sustainability



(Loh, 2016) (Hall, 2010) (Groulx et. al., 2021, p.276). Therefore, a definition by Elkington (1997) positively suggested that ‘sustainability relates to achieving a balance between social justice (people), economic progress (profit) and ecological interests (planet)’ (Jeurissen, 2000). In this context, the United Nations, while drawing inspiration from the ‘Triple bottom line’ sustainability forwarded by Elkington, represented three dimensions, that is, ‘Social, Economic, and Environmental’ as essential components of ‘Sustainable Development’. Which further laid the foundations for the formulation of the SDGs, related targets, highlighting different aspects of sustainability right from ending poverty to protecting the planet and improving education world over (Meschede & Henkel, 2000, p. 1) (United Nations, 2022). And similar intent happens to underlie the very formulation of information institutions, that is, to introduce, enhance, and promote equity and inclusion through bridging existing information gaps for the educational, socio-economic, health, and well-being of the community.

Sustainable Developmental Goals and Foundations of Library Profession: Profound Common Grounds

It is heartening to notice that pioneers of Library Science like SR Ranganathan (1931), who devised the fundamental principles like ‘Five Laws of Library Science’ in the 1930s, were based on ‘Absolute democratization of Library Services’. In other words, each law elaborates an aspect of SDGs from the perspective of the information profession. Table 1 illustrates the Implications of the Five Laws of Library

Table1
Implication of Five Laws of Library Science from sustainability perspective

Laws of Library Science	Implications from Sustainability Perspective
Law I-Books are use	Open access; Open Educational Resources (OER)
Law-II- Every person his or her book	Equal access to information; democratization of information; gender equality; eradication of digital divide; freedom to information access
Law-III-Every book its reader	Open access; OER; information consumer outreach services; information client facilitation through reference service, information organization, lib-guides and UEP; strategic collection/selection development policies
Law-IV- Save the time of the reader	General well-being of the information client; direct access to information



	facilitated through range of information services; responsible resource (time) consumption on the part of library, staff and client
Law-V-Library is a growing organism	Flexible resource allocation; keeping ample space for future growth in collection, clients and staff; facilitating information consumers through mesh of information through well-designed library tools, techniques and services

(Ranganathan, 1931)

Thus, the very existence of the Information Profession revolves around the fundamental principles of sustainability as equity, democratization of information, open access, open educational resources, and facilitation of information clients in the ongoing Information Society.

The contribution of Information Institutions towards the Achievement of Sustainable Developmental Goals (SDGs) by the United Nations: The Information Society contexts

The contemporary ‘Information Society’ is viewed differently by different quarters, therefore sometimes addressed as a ‘Wired-Society’ (Barron & Curnow, 1979, p.1-437); ‘Knowledge Society’ (Machlup, 1980, p. 260); ‘Networked society’ (Castells, 2000, p.) and ‘Informed Society’ (Umesao, 1963). However, there are specifically visible common grounds, which actually reflect these perspectives, that is, the prevalence of Information Communication Technology (ICT), the emergence of a new social order, knowledge/information/ literature explosion, total transformations in information seeking behaviour and communication patterns. The trend further entails the emergence of unprecedented issues and challenges, such as disinformation, misinformation, digital divide, growing gaps between haves and have-nots, cyber-crimes, and barriers to free access to information. Therefore, the evolving strategic steps are Lifelong Learning, Open Access (OA), Open Educational Resources (OER), digitization of information resources, freedom of expression, social inclusion, cultural competence, and social justice. Keeping in this scenario, while providing due cognizance to the ongoing issues and challenges, the organizations of international repute, like the United Nations, have propounded Sustainable Development Goals along with pertinent targets, that is, in order to fill in the existing gaps. In this context, the Information Profession is uniquely placed at the ‘Centre’ of the Information Society, emerging as a complete decision support system, owing to its decisive bearing to extend support to every discipline in the ‘Universe of Knowledge’. Therefore, the information profession has a special contributory role towards the achievement of SDGs by the United Nations in the right direction, as depicted in Table2:



Table2
Contributions of Information Institutions to Achieve SDGs

Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)	Information Institutions' Prospective action to progress SDG
Goal-1: End Poverty in all its forms everywhere Goal-8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	There are several information institutions across GLAM sector. Whereby, each of them can equip their respective users with the skills to optimize their employability prospects.
Goal-2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture:	The goal can be achieved collectively by community libraries and research libraries extending support services to farmers and agricultural researchers working on food output, nutrition and sustainable agriculture, respectively.
Goal-3: Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages:	Hereby the public libraries have special role to play to create users' education modules around health information literacy.
Goal-4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all and Goal-10: Reduce inequality within and among countries:	The social equity, inclusion formulates and lifelong learning forms the very soul of public libraries, while quality education is ensured by academic and research libraries.
Goal-5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls:	Information institutions across GLAM sector practice through example when they adopt gender equality in all its practices.
Goal-6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, Goal-7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all and Goal 12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns:	There are instances, with special reference to underdeveloped world, where public institutions like libraries are the only place, where one read, write and practice intellectual pursuits without any charges (IFLA Report, 2022.)
Goal-9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation; Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable and; Goal-14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development	Information institutions across GLAM, follow SDG through 'Green Library Practices', thus set an example to promote sustainability.
Goal-13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts: Information institutions	Information institutions organize users' education programs to educate about



<p>Goal-15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss</p> <p>Goal-16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.</p> <p>Goal-17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.</p>	<p>responsible consumption through their partnership with local banks.</p>
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(United Nations, 2022) (IFLA, 2022)

Thus, there is a huge impact that information institutions across Galleries, Libraries, Archives, and Museums (GLAM) sector can make to progress the SDGs. There are already several significant initiatives undertaken by library associations in this direction.

Initiatives by library associations to contribute to the progress of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals: Major International and national contributions

Library Associations have been playing a major role in the achievement of the SDGs set by the UN. The key drives undertaken are as follows:

(A) International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA):

IFLA is providing leadership to the libraries and information institutions of the world with reference to sustainable development. While working with libraries and information institutions operating in 150 countries of the world, it has declared through a platform as UN, as “IFLA, the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions will work with our members, including library associations and institutions in 150 countries, to ensure their readiness to support implementation of the SDGs in their country and locally through library services and programmers, including public access to ICT”.(UN, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 2026)

Table 3
IFLA: Key Initiatives and Activities towards Achievement of SDGs

Key Initiative of IFLA towards SDGs	Promoted Practices at its Various Information Institutions	Pertinent SDGs
Advocacy to Access to	• Liberal Access to	• SDG 4 – Quality Education



Information	Information • Empowering Global Citizens with Knowledge, Digital Access and Lifelong Learning Opportunities	• SDG 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions • SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals
Promotion of Literacy and Lifelong Learning	• Reading culture • Information literacy • Media literacy • Digital literacy • Lifelong learning programmes	• SDG 4: Quality Education • SDG 5: Gender Equality • SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities
Bridging the Digital Divide	• Free internet access • ICT infrastructure • Computer training • E-government services	• SDG 1 – No Poverty • SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth • SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
Capacity Building and Professional Development	• Workshops • Webinars • SDG training programmes • Advocacy toolkits • International conferences	• SDG 4 – Quality Education • SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth • SDG 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions • SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals
Policy Advocacy and Global Representation	• Providing Representation to profession at UNESCO and the United Nations. • Advocating freedom of information and intellectual freedom. • Promoting open access and balanced copyright policies. • Encouraging recognition of libraries in national development policies. • Participating in global discussions on education, culture, and digital inclusion.	• SDG 4 – Quality Education • SDG 5 – Gender Equality • SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure • SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities • SDG 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions • SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Developing advocacy programmes and policy guidelines.• Supporting equal access to information and digital literacy.• Strengthening cooperation among libraries, governments, and international organizations.	
Preservation of Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Preserving manuscripts, rare books, historical documents, and cultural records.• Promoting digitization of cultural and historical resources.• Protecting indigenous knowledge and local heritage materials.• Providing technical support for conservation and digital preservation.• Encouraging international cooperation in heritage preservation projects.• Safeguarding cultural resources from deterioration and loss.• Supporting access to historical and cultural information for future generations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•SDG 4 – Quality Education•SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure•SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities•SDG 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions•SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals
Promotion of Open Access and Research Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Promoting free access to research and academic information.• Supporting open access publishing and open knowledge systems.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•SDG 4 – Quality Education•SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure•SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouraging access to scholarly publications, research data, and educational resources. • Assisting researchers, students, and policymakers with scientific information access. • Strengthening global research collaboration and knowledge sharing. • Supporting innovation and evidence-based decision-making. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •SDG 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions •SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals
Community Development and Social Inclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing health information and awareness services. • Offering career guidance and employment assistance. • Conducting women empowerment and literacy programmes. • Supporting migrants, marginalized, and disadvantaged communities. • Promoting social inclusion and equal access to information. • Identifying community needs and delivering community-based services. • Improving quality of life through educational and social programmes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •SDG 1 – No Poverty •SDG 3 – Good Health and Well-being •SDG 4 – Quality Education •SDG 5 – Gender Equality •SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth •SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities •SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities •SDG 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

(IFLA, 2026-1&2)

In addition to this, IFLA undertakes several other initiatives to encourage professionals to adopt sustainable library practices. For instance, IFLA has been instrumental in : bringing out a



‘Toolkit : Libraries and Implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda’- as a part of IFLA’s response to Zero Draft; Green Library Award- as a part of IFLA’s ‘International Advocacy Program’; Toolkit (UN 2030)-revised version - as a part of IFLA’s ‘Library Map of the World’; IFLA storytelling manual- as a part of IFLA’s Global Vision Report; Development and access to Information report- as a part of IFLA’s ‘Toolkit on National Literacy and Reading Strategies’; Let’s Work Together and IFLA-UNESCO Public Library Manifesto 2022- as a part of IFLA joining High Level Political Forum; and Library SDG Pledge- as a part of librarying SDGs (Sapna et al, 2024) Recently, in 2025, IFLA in close partnership with UN, pitched its voice impressively through its participation in ‘High Level Political Forum (HLPF), organized in 2025, under the umbrella of ‘Economic and Social Council’ in 2025, whereby significant theme being ‘Advancing sustainable , inclusive, science-and evidenced based solutions for 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals for leaving no one behind’.(UN. High-Level Political Forum 2025)

(B) American Library Association (ALA):

The ALA, through its core values, leads by example, where it brings into practice actual free access to information by eradicating barriers to information. Which also represents an inspiring futuristic information culture, whereby information professionals advocate for public libraries as an essential public good and endeavour hard for free and equal library resources to all (Hall et al, 2016, p.664). ALA, which is one of the oldest library associations in the world, makes special mention of three dynamics of sustainable communities as ‘Economy, Ecology, and Equity’. Thus, ALA is currently following the motto ‘To thrive and evolve into the future, ALA must adopt the 'triple bottom line 'mindset of sustainability: We must embody practices that are environmentally sound, economically feasible, and socially equitable’. (ALA, 2022). In this context, the following Table 4 presents an overall view of key initiatives undertaken by ALA to support SDGs.

Table4
ALA: Key Initiatives and Activities towards Achievement of SDGs

Key Initiative of ALA towards SDG	Promoted Practices at its Various Information Institution	Pertinent SDGs
Literacy & Lifelong Learning	Reading programs, adult literacy initiatives	SDG 4 – Quality Education SDG 10 – Reduced Inequality
Advocacy for Access & Freedom of Information	Anti-censorship campaigns, Freedom to Read initiatives, digital rights	SDG 16 – Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions SDG 10 – Reduced Inequality
Community Engagement	Community events, makerspaces	SDG 5 – Gender Equality



	immigrant/refugee programs	Equality SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities SDG 11-Sustainable Cities and Communities
Environmental Awareness and Sustainability	Green Libraries, Users’ Education about sustainability	SDG 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production SDG 13 – Climate Action
Professional Development for Librarians	Training, conferences, leadership programs	SDG 4 – Quality Education SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth

(ALA,2026)

Summarily speaking, thus far, ALA is contributing towards achievement of UN’s SDG Programmes through four-directional efforts, as :

- SDG 4- Quality Education- This is supported through free early literacy programs, promoting digital skills training, and lifelong learning opportunities
- SDG 5- Gender Equality- This is achieved through the provision of safe, inclusive, community spaces and resources that empower women and marginalised user groups
- SDG 10- Reduced Inequalities- ALA acts enforce ‘Information Equity’ through extending free access to the internet, technology, and resources to ‘All’, including underserved populations.
- SDG 16- Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions- ALA sets an example while enforcing universal access to information. (ALA, 2026)

(C) Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP), UK:

As CILIP is a leading library association, which represents library and information profession in United Kingdom with a strength of 87,000 information professionals, spread at 20,000 different locations extending quality resources and digital access to 68 million hours of internet access delivered via 30,000 PCs and 99% free Wi-Fi coverage, demonstrated by 265 million visits made by diverse audiences to public libraries alone in 2015 (CILIP, 2016, p.4). Thus. While forwarding the SDGs of the UN, CILIP helped create active and literate citizens and resilient communities, as shown in Table 5

Table5



CILIP: Key Initiatives and Activities towards Achievement of SDGs

Key Initiative of CILIP towards SDGs	Promoted Practices at its Various Information Institution	Pertinent SDGs
CILIP Libraries Change Lives Campaign	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advocacy program for libraries promoting literacy and social inclusion• Storytelling depicting case studies showcasing library-led community projects• Forming partnership with local bodies to close social inequalities and support vulnerable and underserved population groups	SDG 4- Quality Education SDG 10-Reduced Inequalities SDG 16- Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
Information Literacy for All (ILA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To fight misinformation through development of digital and media resources – that is to create awareness, skills and empowered information users• Introduce critical thinking and research skills among educators and library workforce• Work in close coordination with local educational institutions to integrate ‘Information Literacy’ with School Curricula	SDG 4 -Quality Education SDG 9 -Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure
Health Information and Social Inclusion Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Free access to health information through public libraries• Special drive for ‘Free Information to All’ with an emphasis on marginalized	SDG 3 - Good Health and Well-being SDG 10 - Reduced Inequalities



	<p>user population as old-aged and immigrants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strategic liaison with local public health bodies to organize training programs and workshops on ‘Health Literacy’	
CILIP Ethical Principles and Continuous Professional Development (CPD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction of professional code of conduct encompassing equitable access to information• Training programs with facilitated online resources, information literacy skills, practical inclusivity and ethical data handling• Promoting lifelong learning through digital literacy programs	SDG 4 - Quality Education SDG 10 - Reduced Inequalities
Sustainable Libraries Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Design, develop and implement green library practices• Conduct environment awareness programs and extending support to research on ‘Sustainable Development’• Development of appropriate ‘Collection Development Policies’, reflecting climate change and sustainable development	SDG 12 - Responsible Consumption and Production SDG 13 - Climate Action SDG 11 - Sustainable Cities and Communities

(CILIP, 2019)(CILIP, 2020a)(CILIP, 2020b)(CILIP 2021)(CILIP 2022)

Here, it would be worthwhile to mention “Green Libraries Campaign”, which aims at underlying goals as: ‘sustainable efforts within libraries; facilitating community engagement while aligning

with local environment initiatives; and positioning libraries as vital contributors to climate action'.(Morris, 2024. Recently, while taking a step further in this direction, CILIP announced the launch of the 'Green Library Hubs' program across the United Kingdom. Whereby, it is intended to create climate awareness at the grassroots level with an underlying strategy that involves local libraries acting as a catalyst for creating community awareness towards environmental and climate change emergencies and thus bringing in pertinent behaviour change at the grassroots level, leading to action on climate change. The following figure depicts the process involved in 'CILIP's Green Hubs' Program.

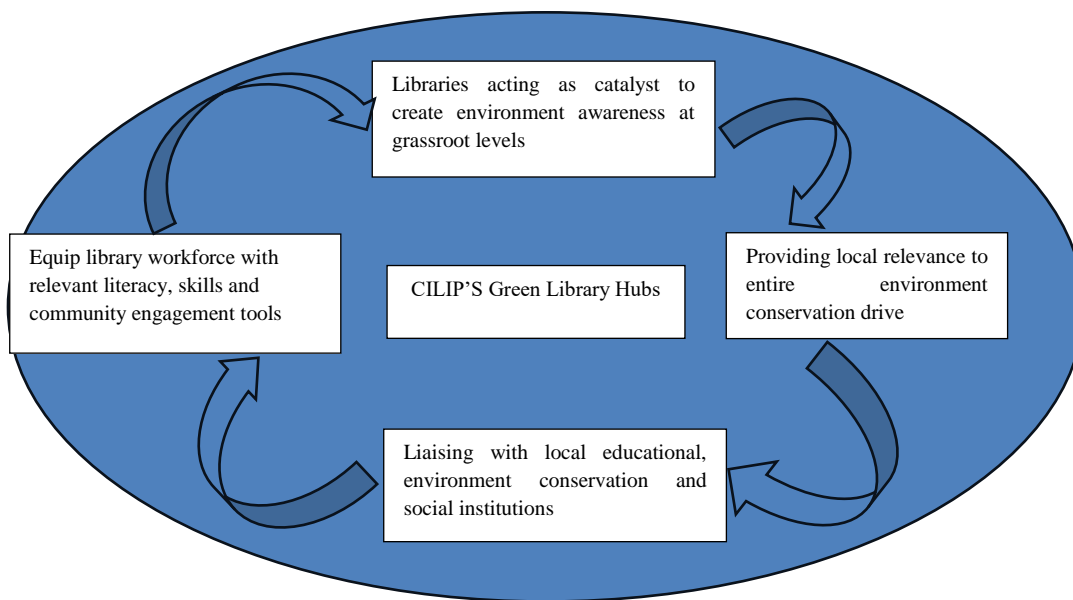


Fig. 1

Process Flow at 'CILIP's Green Hubs'

(CILIP, 2025)

Thus. While forwarding the SDGs of the UN, CILIP helps create active and literate citizens and resilient communities performing their part towards a 'Green Planet' and a safer environment.

(D) **European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations (EBLIDA)**

EBLIDA is another international organization, representing libraries, information, and documentation associations active in Europe. EBLIDA, since its inception in 1992 is committed to : 'promote a sustainable society where citizens in Europe enjoy freedom of expression and free access to information, education and culture; to engage libraries in maintaining a high level

of democratic participation of all European citizens in the political debate based on verified information in order to reinforce social cohesion, individual accomplishment and economic development; to advocate for equitable access to library collections and resources by pursuing a strategy of sustainable copyright'. (EBLIDA. Strategic Plan, 2025). The chief contribution of EBLIDA towards the achievement of SDGs is depicted in the Table6.

Table 6
EBLIDA: Key Initiatives and Activities towards Achievement of SDGs

Key Initiative of EBLIDA towards SDGs	Promoted Practices at its Various Information Institutions	Pertinent SDGs
Advocacy and Policy Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognition for libraries as essential partners for achieving SDGs • Projecting libraries through reports, policy recommendations and engagements with European institutions of repute • Working for governments and library associations to align their respective strategies with SDGs 	SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals
Raising Awareness among Libraries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertakes various projects empowering libraries to take active participation towards SDGs • Responsible for an 'Awareness Drive' among the information Institutional workforce through publications, workshops, conferences and surveys towards UNs 2023 agenda, SDGs and strategies to achieve these 	SDG 4 – Quality Education SDG 13 – Climate Action
Supporting Quality Education through financial,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobilize libraries to undertake activities and 	SDG 4 – Quality Education



infrastructural and technical assistance	<p>programs to run lifelong learning, literacy and information literacy programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Projects libraries as educational centers through knowledge sharing initiatives and digital skills training programs• Practices inclusive and equitable quality education to all	
Promoting Digital Inclusion and Reducing Inequalities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advocacy for equitable access to information and digital technologies• Special drive to serve ‘Disadvantaged Population Groups’• Promoting Free Access to information to all through practice	SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities
Strengthening Sustainable Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Through its targeted efforts EBLIDA has helped libraries achieve their place as community hubs for social cohesion, cultural engagement and civic participation• Encouraging libraries in urban civic participation, intercultural dialogue and public engagement thus towards creation of sustainable communities	SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities
Environmental Sustainability and Climate Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Engages in environment education, climate awareness campaigns through initiatives like ‘Libraries for the Planet’	SDG 13 – Climate Action



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Act as social platform to inform global citizens about ongoing climate crisis and aligning their programs with environment conservation drive	
Development of SDG Indicators and Assessment Tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Has developed methodologies, and indicators to measure libraries' contribution towards SDGs through ELSA (European Libraries and Sustainable Development Assessment)• Encourages evidence-based advocacy, enhance transparency and institutional accountability	SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals SDG 16 – Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions
Promoting Partnerships and International Cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Actively collaborates with libraries, governments, NGOs and European institutions towards achievements the SDGs• Fosters effective networking, knowledge exchange and joint collaboration at international level	SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals

(EBLIDA, 2020), (EBLIDA, 2026), (EBLIDA, 2022), (EBLIDA Strategic Plan 2022-2025)

The Indian Library Association (ILA)

The Indian Library Association (ILA), the national professional body leading the information institutions operating in India, extends support to the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through the promotion of free access to information, literacy, digital inclusion, knowledge sharing, and lifelong learning. The major contribution made by ILA towards the SDGs is enumerated in Table 7.



Table7
ILA: Key Initiatives and Activities towards Achievement of SDGs

Key Initiative of ILA towards SDGs	Promoted Practices at its Various Information Institutions	Pertinent SDGs
Protecting the cultural heritage through preservation of rare books, manuscripts and records of cultural and historical significance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Protecting heritage through preservation of rare books and manuscripts•Undertakes initiatives at various levels to preserve, systematize and provide free access to indigenous knowledge•Maintains systematic records of cultural and historical significance	SDG11 - Sustainable Cities and Communities
Ensuring quality education systematic development of academic libraries, information literacy programs, lifelong learning and professional development programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Promoting systematic development of libraries in educational institutions•Encouraging running information literacy and lifelong learning programs•Organizes professional training programs for library workforce on regular bases•Works for equal access to educational resources to all	SDG – Quality Education
Advocating for establishment of country wide open access information repositories on the principles of equity and free information to all	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Advocates strengthening of good library system across India•Supports open access to knowledge and information repositories•Works for ‘Free information to All’, on the principles of ‘Equity’	SDG 16 - Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
Works for filling in digital	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Motivates information	SDG 9 - Industry,



divide through digital inclusion, rural libraries and mobile libraries	<p>Institutions to provide free internet and ICT facilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develops and delivers digital literacy among library users• Works for reducing the digital divide between urban and rural populations.	<p>Innovation and Infrastructure</p> <p>SDG 10 - Reduced Inequalities</p>
Implements gender parity and reduce inequality in context of information access and professional training	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Empowering women workforce through professional development programs and scholarships• Brings out publications on gender equality• Hosts professionals meet at various levels to 'promote access to information as a tool for inclusion' while aligning with IFLA's Library Map of the World.	<p>SDG 5 –Gender Equality</p> <p>SDG 10- Reduced Inequality</p>
Maintaining close liaison with information institutions, library bodies and governing bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Realizing partnership through professional meets at various levels• Advocating drafting and implementing library legislation in liaison with government agencies• Working for knowledge sharing in collaboration with international library organization of repute	<p>SDG 17- Building Partnerships for Sustainable Development Goals</p>

(ILA Newsletter, 2019)(ILA, 2026) (IFLA, 2026) (UN, 2026)

The ILA forwards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development mainly through its professional development programs, organization of national conferences, seminars, workshops, and training programs, bringing out publications, library advocacy policies, and collaborative ventures with national and international organizations.



Conclusion

As the concept of ‘Sustainability’ incorporates each aspect of human existence, so does the information profession. Therefore, the concept of SDGs resonates well with the basic philosophy of the information profession. The UN 2030 has provided a prime place to the ‘Knowledge Portal’, which performs the focal function of disseminating information to all parts of the globe. On the other hand, the information profession, while keeping up with its ‘Soul Objectives’, lends a hand to the realization of the SDGs and targets. Hereby, library associations at the local, national, and international levels are also contributing through working strategically, collaboratively, and systematically across all the nations. Hereby, under the leadership of organizations such as IFLA, library associations, Information Institutions, and library professionals are finding ever new ways and means to progress the SDGs with impressive orientation and results. And it is likely that the positive trend will continue as 2030 approaches with an ‘Information Society’, with equity, open and free information to all, quality education and resources to all, filled in gaps between haves and have-nots, healthy lifestyle and congenial environment for one and all.

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