A European Library Agenda for the post-Covid age

Giuseppe Vitiello
EBLIDA Director
Covid 19: were European libraries in lockdown?

• Access to digital collections;
• Centralised access to Covid-19 related health information produced by governmental authorities;
• Covid-19 support service - 'Community Call' delivered via phone, text, email and through platforms;
• Use of social media to offer story time, through Facebook groups and YouTube profiles, or also for library exchange and (re-)use of digital products;
• Advanced social services for the elderly and vulnerable on lockdown, such as phone calls, storytelling, also food delivery where necessary;
• The provision of face masks for healthcare workers through 3D printers.

Libraries were more open than ever!
An extended concept of Library
During Covid 19: common to all libraries in Europe


Common to all libraries:

• Guidelines on library re-opening after the lockdown (DE, DK, EST, IT, NL etc);
• Covid-19 related health information produced by governmental authorities;
• Librarians’ homeworking;
• Digitised services to users (CH: ca 100%; EST: 1,400%, FR: substantial increase in 68% of French libraries; IRL: up to 313% and also 467%; IT: 104% in two months; 20 % in the rest of the year; LUX: 40%; NOR 139%; LT: 61%)

Digitized services boomed especially in public libraries
Covid 19: special activities in European libraries

• Use of social media to offer story time, through Facebook groups and YouTube profiles, or also for library exchange and (re-)use of digital products (BG, CH, DE, ES, NOR, SE);

• Advanced social services for the elderly and vulnerable on lockdown, such as phone calls, storytelling, also food delivery where necessary (CH, IRL, FIN, LIT, NL, NOR, etc.);

• The provision of face masks for healthcare workers through 3D printers (LIT, FR, PT).
Covid 19: activities in European libraries

Will not replicate:

• The provision of face masks for healthcare workers through 3D printers (LIT, FR, PT).
Covid 19: library activities

Will replicate:

• Content creation: use of social media to offer story time, through Facebook groups and YouTube profiles, or also for library exchange and (re-)use of digital products;

• In a hybrid way: advanced social services for the elderly and vulnerable on lockdown;

• Digitized services to users.

These are all SDG-oriented library projects
The post-Covid 19 Library

Implementing SDGs in Libraries

The socially inclusive Library

The digital Library
Thank you for your attention.

Giusepe Vitiello
EBLIDA Director