A European Library Agenda for the post-Covid age

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A European library agenda for the post-Covid 19 age: resulting report

1. Exponential social distancing: a well-connected two-meter library
2. Technologies are mutating and shaping libraries in new ways
3. Uncharted economic territory: review the library budget composition
4. Library governance at central and local levels
5. Do not forget the climate change opportunity and threat
Library resilience combined with innovation

- National health regulations
- Risk perception
- The size and the arrangement of library spaces
Guidelines on access policies, personnel security, social distancing and sanitation of collections

• The 72-hours isolation for books after they are returned
• Library spaces and offices are being re-designed
• Avoid touching handles and pressing buttons
• 2-meter society
• Library services were fine-tuned to meet customers’ needs under extreme circumstances
THE DAILY
CORONAVIRUS
FAKE NEWS
The spread of COVID-19 fake news

STORY TIME!

YouTube
Facebook
Phone
3D printers at Suffolk Cooperative Library System in Bellport
• If libraries are community hubs, the first lesson to be learned is that this library function is easily lost if the communities they refer to are not circulating.

• Resorting to digital platforms in order to enhance library services - has to be inflected in relation to short- and long-term visions.

• Libraries should be able to decouple connectivity and technology.

• Libraries should maintain their focus on sustainable development goals and R&D, in spite of possible financial cuts generated from the contraction of national GDPs.
Exponential social distancing: a well-connected two-meter library

Technologies are mutating and shaping libraries in new ways

Uncharted economic territory: review the library budget composition

Library governance at central and local levels

Do not forget the climate change opportunity and threat

Recommendations and guidelines for handling physical material in libraries: access policies, personnel security, social distancing and sanitation of collections

Home delivery services were often activated with book packages to be picked up at the door

Creation of platforms ensuring centralised access to Covid-19 related health information
e.g. FR, IT, SE

Combating fake news on Covid-19
e.g. FR, PT

Support education, to offer services to elderly people, including food delivery and children care, and to providing a one-stop access to information
e.g. IE, FI, NL, CH

Social media was used to offer story time
e.g. CH, DE, ES, NL, NO, All countries

Promotion of access to online resources via their websites pointing to platforms of e-books, and e-media. Visits increases in quantity (doubled or tripled)...

... and in quality: online meetings with authors, self-training, video on demand, music, press, e-books

BG, NL

3D printed face masks

LT, FR, PT

Special contracts with publishers increasing access to digital collections

LV, SE

Local governments to find additional budget for library services at national and European level in order to compensate for shortcomings in library’s future budgets

Adopt flexible forms of library governance

Apply the taxonomy regulation on social development set up by the European Commission in all library operations, for instance, in library procurement policies
Libraries should:

1) be integrated into national health policies and services through voice calls, audiobooks and making (3D printers), as a complement to visual-based services (consultation of websites, and visual tools).

2) re-designing people flows-in/flows-out matching them with movements of resources, ideas, and equipment.

3) be a one-stop access to accurate health information produced by national and international governmental authorities combatting misinformation and disinformation through fake news.

4) embark upon a fully-fledged strategy aimed to the vulnerable, the elderly and left-behind, also delivering food where necessary, and adopt hybrid methods (physical and technological) to reinforce their action.

Social axe
5) reinforce its focus on e-copies and design new models of e-copy distribution in libraries, taking into account the strategies of information service providers and aggregators.

6) reinforce digital literacy activities for targeted categories of people in order to fight the digital divide, foster digital intelligence in libraries and stimulate multiple use of technologies.

7) be active partners in national digitalisation and artificial intelligence plans, and combining physical and digital in order to meet library objectives.

8) pursue distance-learning objectives in alliance with educational establishments, stretching out as far as possible the virtual dimension.

9) In compliance with privacy regulations, exert control over data and metadata affecting library operations and re-use them for policy-making and decision-making processes.

10) be active actors in the distribution cycle of the post-production events likely to be built around music, performing arts and live performance, and request cultural agencies to redesign the system of local aids, fiscal incentives, policy measures to culture in a broader holistic perspective.
11) request local governments to find additional budget for library services at national and European level in order to compensate for shortcomings in library’s future budgets.

12) think of themselves as “structurally” essential to the development of a country and, in this way, manage possible financial resources generated from the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) 2021-2027.

13) link the development of the public library to sustainable development activities at local and national level.

14) encourage libraries to be champions of sustainable development by and apply the social development taxonomy set up by the European Commission.

15) adopt flexible forms of library governance in order to manage European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) 2021-2027 in an appropriate way.
Implementing SDGs in Libraries

The socially inclusive, digital Post-Covid Library

1. NO POVERTY
   - Bulgaria: Book start
   - Bulgaria: Media Library for All and E-skills for E-Inclusion
   - France: Extranet public in French public libraries
   - Germany: FEDIS project
   - Netherlands: FEU projects

2. zero hunger
   - Serbia: Agribis - Ja Information Share Project

3. GOOD HEALTH AND WELL BEING
   - Italy: Born to Read
   - Lithuania: 20 libraries supplying masks
   - Netherlands: Book start

4. QUALITY EDUCATION
   - Many countries: Digital Literacy
   - Many education and training and linking learning projects across Europe (also be matched with Euroskills)

5. DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH
   - Bulgaria: Media Library for All and E-skills for E-Inclusion
   - Germany: Representative Schools
   - Spain: Consider Equality

6. CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION
   - France: Green Libraries
   - Germany: Green Libraries
   - Netherlands: Green Libraries

7. SUSTAINABLE AND RESPONSIBLE AIRPORTS
   - Denmark: Climate Science project

8. DECLINE AND CONTROL
   - Bulgaria: Book start
   - Bulgaria: Digital Skills for SME
   - France: Extranet public in French public libraries
   - Netherlands: Book start and FEAD projects

9. INDUSTRIALIZATION AND INNOVATION
   - Bulgaria: Digital Skills for SME
   - Spain: Digital Literacy
   - Many countries: Digital Literacy

10. SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE
    - Bulgaria: National Library established as a technological Centre of Excellence
    - France: Economic public in French public libraries
    - Germany: FEDIS project
    - Spain: Digital Library

11. CLIMATE ACTION
    - Bulgaria: Air services
    - Romania: Ulaanbaatar

12. COORDINATION AND PARTNERSHIP
    - Bulgaria: Library projects concerning circular economies

13. SPANish: SDG standardisation: SDG 14 (RE): Environmental management systems - Requirements with guidance for use

14. PORTUGUESE: SDG 1 (PE): Social inclusion projects (Social Inclusion, Education, Health, etc.)

15. ITALIAN: SDG 6 (IT): Water and sanitation projects

16. FRANCE: Fighting fake news
    - Germany: Fighting fake news
    - Italy: Fighting fake news

17. MANY COUNTRIES: Digital Literacy

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Prepared by The European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations (EBLIDA)
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