

**'Identifying an approach for Aotearoa New Zealand
libraries and the Sustainable Development Goals'**

by

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Abstract

Research Problem: The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nation’s 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are seen as being very relevant for libraries and an opportunity for them to show their value. This research aims to fill a gap in understanding what approach New Zealand libraries could be taking in addressing the SDGs.

Methodology: An inductive content analysis using a qualitative approach was undertaken. Organisational documents and webpages were used as the data set from seven international and national library associations. A small case study was also conducted for the eight New Zealand universities and their libraries.

Results: An ad hoc approach to addressing the SDGs by library associations was found, especially in terms of setting targets and reporting on the SDGs. Three international library associations were found that showed a dedicated commitment. A model informed by systems theory was developed to attempt to explain how an ideal coordinated approach to the SDGs might look like for library associations and libraries. It suggests library associations should be setting targets and supporting their member libraries to develop SDG initiatives and in return, libraries contribute feedback in the form of stories showing impact.

Implications: The results imply that there is a need for leadership for New Zealand libraries to coordinate efforts towards the SDGs, to set targets, monitor progress and report on impact. Further research into New Zealand librarians’ views on the SDGs, their capacity and willingness to engage with them is required.

Keywords: Sustainable Development Goals, SDGs, libraries, Agenda 2030

Problem Statement

Sustainable development recognises that the world must meet its present needs by living in a way that does not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their needs. Economic, social and environmental factors must be considered together for this to be achievable. These concepts underpin the United Nation's (UN, 2015) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by UN member states, including New Zealand, in 2015. With 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets to be accomplished by 2030, the Agenda is an action plan intended to tackle multiple global challenges (see Appendix 1 for a list of SDGs). Agenda 2030 builds on the previous UN agenda of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which ran from 2000-2015 and had 8 goals aimed at increasing the quality of life of those in extreme poverty (UN, n.d.). However, unlike the MDGs, the SDGs are not focused solely on the world's poorest countries, but on all of them. The achievement of the SDG targets requires a concerted effort by all sectors of society, focusing on attaining zero poverty, equality and social inclusion for everyone, environmental preservation, and sustainable economic growth (UN, 2015). At the halfway point to 2030, the UN (2023) warned last year of the universal lack of progress towards achieving the SDGs and by implication a better future for all people and the planet. Its progress report urged governments to work more urgently towards the SDGs and highlighted how crucial data is in measuring progress.

The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) played a role in the formation of the SDGs and sees libraries as key players in their attainment, not least because without access to information, none of the goals can be achieved (Lison & Hinz, 2023). IFLA continues to be involved on the global stage in advocating for libraries' contribution towards sustainable development. For instance, at the 2023 UN SDG Summit, it argued for libraries to be more systematically integrated into strategies and plans for development (IFLA, 2023e). The SDGs were also prominent at last year's World Library and Information Congress, indicating their continued importance for libraries (IFLA, 2023d).

The body of research on libraries and sustainable development is growing. The literature review that follows indicates the SDGs are seen as pertinent to libraries for more reasons than the provision of information. They are perceived as an opportunity for libraries to ensure their own sustainability. There is an interest amongst all types of libraries from around the world in engaging with the SDGs, however, a common theme is that more could be done. Although IFLA is clearly urging libraries to contribute towards the SDGs, there does not seem to be a concerted effort to make this happen. This research investigates this topic for Aotearoa New Zealand libraries.

Literature Review

Sustainable development is a relatively recent research topic in the library and information studies (LIS) field, with an increase in publications from 2010 onwards (Khalid et al., 2021). In a comprehensive systematic literature review, Kamińska et al. (2022) found six main areas of focus for libraries concerned with sustainability: buildings, information, collections, education, culture and another quarter of publications categorised as 'other'. The 'other' category includes SDGs. Mathiasson and Jochumsen (2022) take a different approach with their review, categorising research into environmental, economic, social or a further dimension of cultural sustainability. They found that most literature focuses on either an environmental or holistic approach to sustainability. Looking at how libraries engage in sustainable development, Mathiasson and Jochumsen determined four reasons. Libraries try to optimise resource use and legitimise their activities. They also demonstrate sustainable development through the provision of information and education, and act as change agents in their communities. Both Kamińska et al. and Mathiasson and Jochumsen note that sustainability and sustainable development are used interchangeably by authors, although these would be slightly different concepts. Likewise, Dabengwa (2024) notes that the SDGs should not be confused with the broader term of sustainable development because they are a framework of specific, measurable, and time-bound goals, whereas sustainable development extends beyond these goals.

The following literature review will look at book chapters, articles and conference papers that focus specifically on the SDGs. This literature dates from 2018 onwards and is predominantly case studies of single or groups of public or academic libraries from diverse countries. The only systematic literature review found solely based on the SDGs is that of Dabengwa (2024), who analysed academic library contributions. They observe that research on academic library contributions to the SDGs is fragmented and lacks a focus. This statement could be applied to research on libraries and the SDGs in general. However, it does give a good insight into how some of the LIS profession views the SDGs.

SDGs as an opportunity for libraries

The SDGs are considered an opportunity for libraries for several reasons. Most authors mention IFLA's involvement in their creation and IFLA's continued advocacy for libraries and the goals. The idea of access to information being integral to the fulfilment of the SDGs and therefore libraries being important contributors to Agenda 2030 is also widespread. Sustainable development is seen as something that is already an intrinsic part of what libraries do, with libraries contributing towards the SDGs whether they plan for it or not (Connaway et al., 2023; Tbaishat, 2021; Tribelhorn, 2023b). However, the opportunity that the SDGs present goes beyond this. Hauke (2022) and Oomes (2020)

argue that they are a way for libraries to show their commitment towards a global ambition, especially one that their stakeholders are increasingly also committed to. Libraries have a chance to lead and, just as importantly, to be recognised as leaders in sustainable development (Aldrich & Kropp, 2023; Tribelhorn, 2023a). The SDGs can be a means of building partnerships and engaging with communities in a new way (Holmquist, 2021). Ma and Ko (2022) also consider the way that libraries could influence their users in this area, in their case, with students who will become future global citizens. For Dalmer and Griffin (2023), the SDGs inspired a reflection on the intersection of their own research interest in gerontology and libraries, and sustainable development to identify opportunities for the profession to change and grow, including the support required for this.

The main reason the SDGs are considered an opportunity for libraries, though, is for their potential use to demonstrate the value and impact that libraries have on their communities and beyond. Through communicating their contributions towards the SDGs, libraries have a chance to show their continued relevance and distinguish them from other information platforms like Google (Oomes, 2020). In terms of evaluating impact, the SDGs are viewed as a framework for a more meaningful and holistic approach to showing libraries' value (Missingham, 2021; Oomes, 2020; Pinto & Ochôa, 2018). They are a way to go beyond traditional library usage statistics, which do not provide an accurate picture of the positive change libraries influence in their communities. The SDGs make it possible for libraries to identify benchmarks and opportunities for future directions and to measure their progress towards sustainable development (Thorpe & Gunton, 2022).

Although the majority of literature is positive towards the SDGs, there are some critiques. Albright et al. (2022) question the use of SDGs as a framework for the library field because they are not widely used, and engagement is variable around the world. However, they concede that there is no other applicable global framework for sustainable development. Another critique of the targets is that they are often not very relatable to library activities and hard to measure against (Vitiello et al., 2023). Dabengwa (2024) and Holmquist (2021) both raise the matter of green- or SDG-washing. This happens when an organisation superficially engages with the SDGs, simply applying an SDG icon to any activity that fits (Heras-Saizarbitoria et al., 2022). Heras-Saizarbitoria et al. also report of cherry-picking happening, when organisations report on goals they are contributing well towards and ignore the ones where they are not. Holmquist notes the need for libraries to fundamentally change in order to address the goals, not continue what they are doing and add an icon to it.

Library contributions towards SDGs

Research conducted investigating libraries and the SDGs can be broadly divided into two categories. The first is research to determine librarians awareness of, agreement and engagement with, the

SDGs. The second is case studies of individual or groups of libraries' contributions towards the SDGs. Of the former, IFLA (2023a, 2023c) has conducted surveys to gauge IFLA committees and its member library associations' engagement with the SDGs, finding that there was a strong awareness of the SDGs amongst them and that they in turn raise awareness amongst their own members. In one of the only other large global surveys of librarians, it was found that around 60% were aware of the SDGs, however a low percentage actually incorporated the SDGs into their strategic plan (Connaway et al., 2023). IFLA also gathers data on library mentions in Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), which individual countries prepare to report their progress towards the goals. There are increasing references to libraries in VNRs, with around half mentioning them in 2023 (IFLA, 2023b). In that analysis, VNRs have reported libraries as contributing towards all but one of the goals.

Some surveys of smaller groups of librarians working at a local level have found a lack of awareness of the SDGs though, or a lack of understanding of sustainable development in a holistic sense as more than just environmental protection (Noh, 2021; Tribelhorn, 2023b). The goals that are not aligned with the traditional role of a library can also be hard for librarians to relate to (Hamad & Al-Fadel, 2022; Islam et al., 2022). Where research has found a general to good awareness of SDGs by librarians, there has been a mixed amount of SDGs related activities being carried out (Connaway et al., 2023; Dei & Asante, 2022; Islam et al., 2022). There is agreement amongst librarians that library activities do align with the SDGs though, which can be backed up with case studies of library contributions.

Studies investigating concrete library contributions towards the SDGs mostly focus on an individual or network of the same type of library. Some of the research is little more than describing a single library's activities and how they relate to the SDGs (for example Ma & Ko, 2022; Tbaishat, 2021). Others, like Doyle et al. (2023), use data and examples of initiatives to identify which SDG targets librarians are contributing towards. In Doyle et al.'s case, this was focused on how public libraries are contributing through providing access to legal information and services. Koscieljew (2020) similarly looks at how public libraries could be contributing towards the goals, however in a more general manner, linking library work to the SDGs through community, cultural, educational, economic and democratic contributions.

A number of researchers have begun to explore the practicalities of using the SDGs to communicate library value. Pinto and Ochôa (2018) were one of the first to attempt to develop an evaluation tool aimed at helping Portuguese public libraries collect evidence and show contributions towards six SDGs identified as priorities. In a different approach, Oomes (2020) suggests libraries should be aligning activities with SDG targets and collecting data, not just on what they have done, but on how this has

had a beneficial change to the individual and society. Oomes' research uses the SDG targets as performance indicators. In an attempt to make the SDG targets more applicable to libraries, Aytac (2019) examined all 169 targets, identified which related to libraries and created a corresponding 'library friendly indicator'. Her assessment tool is aimed at all types of libraries. In another approach altogether, Albright et al. (2022) created Information Action Briefs for Goals 10 and 17. Ten activities for each goal were identified by a working group, which libraries can undertake in order to work towards these goals, making this more an advocacy tool than one for measuring contributions.

Case studies have been used to attempt to map contributions of either one library or a network of one type of library to either all or a selection of SDGs. The ways they do this vary. Most of the case studies are of academic libraries. Dabengwa (2024) notes that the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings¹ measure universities' SDG contributions, so this may be a reason for this trend. Aytac (2019) does this with one academic library using the benchmarking tool she created. Bangani and Dube (2023) mapped South African academic library community engagement activities to three SDGs using a literature review, interviews and focus groups with library managers. They provide narrative examples as evidence. In a case study of Australian university libraries, Missingham (2021) uses a qualitative content analysis of the Council of Australian University Libraries Report to map both statistics and narratives to the four most relevant SDGs related to institutional priorities. In another qualitative case study, Thorpe and Gunton (2022) map the day-to-day work and annual planning activities of the University of Southern Queensland Library to all of the SDGs using content analysis, observation and staff self-reporting. Benefits of doing this exercise included raising awareness of SDGs and educating staff, users and stakeholders. As a direct result of this research, staff were more motivated and the SDGs became a key part of strategic planning. Tribelhorn (2023a) found similar benefits when she used a staff questionnaire and the library website to map activities of the San Diego State University Library to the SDGs. She concludes that now that the library has established a baseline, they can determine a future focus and plan to do more extensive mapping.

Libraries could be doing more

In their investigation of academic libraries in Jordan, Hamad and Al-Fadel (2022) found that engagement with the SDGs was still in the initial stages, only focused on access to information. They conclude that libraries need to be doing more, such as collaborating with external partners and training their staff. Much of the research on libraries and SDGs is in the beginning stages of engagement with the goals and that libraries could be doing more is a common theme. The idea of

¹ Not to be confused with the Times Higher Education World University Rankings, which measure performance across teaching, research, industry and international outlook.

libraries actively engaging with the SDGs is gaining traction. Mathiasson and Jochumsen (2022) conclude their literature review by observing that there has been a shift in focus away from libraries being passive providers of information to them taking a pro-active approach towards sustainable development. Albright et al. (2022) and Hauke (2022) agree, calling on libraries to commit to the SDGs and become ambassadors for them, acting as role models, educators and enablers. Libraries should be determining how they are currently contributing towards the SDGs and what they want to do in the future (Lison & Hinz, 2023).

Keller (2023) uses a model from a business management perspective to propose a typology of sustainability in libraries. This four stage model moves from a low level of sustainability focused on making existing activities more efficient to incorporating sustainability targets into strategic planning. The highest level requires transformative change where the library no longer thinks of only its users, but society as a whole and this is where Keller suggests management should focus to make any significant contributions to the SDGs. She concludes that libraries have not been addressing sustainability at a management level and need to begin doing this. An absence of sustainable development policies in libraries and SDGs not being incorporated into library strategic planning was something noted in other studies too (Connaway et al., 2023; Dei & Asante, 2022; Islam et al., 2022). SDGs related activities may be happening more because library work is related to the SDGs and not through any deliberate planning. This is of concern because Connaway et al.'s (2023) data showed that if the SDGs are part of planning, then more SDG related activities are carried out.

There is also a general consensus that more research is required on sustainability, SDGs and libraries. Meschede and Henkel (2019) conclude their literature review on libraries and sustainable development by stating that the amount of research in this area did not reflect the prominence this topic is given by the general scientific community and recommend more research is needed, especially through empirical studies, practical solutions and evaluations. Mathiasson and Jochumsen (2022) concur, finding that more research needs to be done on how libraries are proactively finding solutions to societal issues and global challenges. Specifically mentioning SDGs, Koscieljew (2020) and Doyle et al. (2023) note that this is an underresearched area of the LIS field and more examples of best practice are needed.

The literature related to New Zealand libraries and sustainability is scarce. In one of the few studies looking at sustainability and New Zealand libraries, Evans (2024) investigated public library manager's attitudes towards taking an active role in environmental education. No prior research about New Zealand libraries and the SDGs was found and this research aims to begin filling this gap.

Study Objectives

This study can be understood as a type of environmental scan focusing on investigating some external factors influencing New Zealand libraries in terms of the SDGs. The research is mainly from a LIS perspective, looking at the relationship between library associations and libraries. It begins to paint part of a picture of the situation from an international and national perspective as at the first quarter of 2024. The objective was not to determine specific activities libraries can do for each SDG or identify which SDGs they should engage with, but focuses more on activities at a strategic level. The main objective of the research is to suggestion a direction for how New Zealand libraries could be addressing the SDGs.

Research Questions

The overarching question is:

What approache could New Zealand libraries be taking towards the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals?

This is a broad research problem, which could be analysed through several different perspectives and methods. Taking into consideration time and researcher constraints, the research focused on two sub questions that contribute towards answering the main question:

- 1) What national and international trends and priorities are there for New Zealand libraries in addressing the UN's SDGs?
- 2) How do these trends and priorities compare to New Zealand libraries' and their parent institutions' sustainable development / SDG priorities?

Methodology

To answer the research questions, an inductive content analysis using a qualitative approach was chosen. The nature of the research questions suggested a qualitative approach would be most appropriate. The general steps of qualitative analysis as outlined by Bryman (2016), where data collection, interpretation and identification of concepts or theories is an iterative process, provided a flexibility to explore the topic and its context in-depth. White and Marsh (2006) note that qualitative analysis produces a composite picture of the phenomena being researched, which aligns with the research objective.

Inductive content analysis (ICA) was undertaken using organisational documents and webpages in the public domain as the data set. Content analysis is a flexible research method able to be applied to many information studies related problems and has been widely used for such (White & Marsh, 2006). Documents are significant for their intended purpose and the audience they were written for (Bryman, 2016). Therefore, using documents produced by organisations for the purpose of providing a direction for libraries in addressing the SDGs was seen as a valid way of beginning to answer the research question.

ICA is commonly used to provide an overall summary of a text based data set by determining content categories from an iterative close reading of the texts (inductive analysis). A content category is defined as “a broad idea or concept within which a number of more specific content codes have been grouped” (Vears & Gillam, 2022, p. 114). ICA differs from deductive content analysis where pre-determined content categories, based on existing theories or models, are used to code. ICA is particularly beneficial when there is no well-established theory that could be used to determine content categories before analysis (Vears & Gillam, 2022). Existing theories and interpretations of similar phenomena can be used in the last stage of analysis to help interpret the overall significance of the content categories found within the data itself. No appropriate models were found to use to inform content categories in the initial stages of this research. In the final stages of analysis, systems theory was introduced to organise and make sense of the content categories found.

Sample

To examine international trends and priorities, data from the following international library associations was used:

- International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA)
- European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations (EBLIDA)
- Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals - United Kingdom (CILIP)
- American Library Association (ALA)
- Canadian Federation of Library Associations (CFLA-FCAB)
- Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA)

These six associations were chosen as a representative sample from the Global North that operate in a context that is broadly speaking similar to New Zealand. On a practical level, they all produce data in English. The library associations are also all members of IFLA and represent all types of libraries and librarians in their regions or countries (see Appendix 2 for a description of each association).

To examine national priorities and trends the following organisations were used:

- Library and Information Association of Aotearoa New Zealand (LIANZA)
- National Library of New Zealand Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa
- New Zealand Government

An attempt was made to identify New Zealand Government priorities in relation to the SDGs that may be applicable to libraries. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognises that each country will address the SDGs in different ways according to their own circumstances and priorities (UN, 2015).

To examine how the trends and priorities identified in the above organisations' data compares to New Zealand libraries' and their parent institutions' sustainable development priorities, a case study of the eight New Zealand universities was conducted to investigate what engaging with sustainable development may look like in practice. All universities indicate that they are working towards the SDGs and have sustainability policies or plans in place. They are also reporting on their progress in one form or another. No other institutions in New Zealand, such as local councils, were identified that engage with the SDGs at the same level of commitment.

Data collection

An internet search for open access information in the public domain was the main form of data collection. This was conducted in the first week of March 2024 (see Appendix 3 for a list of content analysed). Several different data types were identified for the various organisations, which make comparisons more difficult as the information may have been produced for different purposes. The following search strategies were used for sub question 1 to locate data from library associations and other New Zealand organisations in relation to the SDGs and/or sustainability:

1. Search box on organisational website using keywords "sustainable development goals", SDGs, sustainability, "Agenda 2030", UN, "United Nations"
2. Google search using organisation's website/name AND keywords from step 1.
3. Same search as step 2, but using different search engines
4. The organisation's websites were also browsed.

Scott (1990, as cited in Bryman, 2016) suggests four evaluation criteria for documents, that of authenticity, credibility, representativeness and meaning. Bryman (2016) notes that organisational documents are normally authentic and meaningful, that is, that they are genuine, clear and comprehensible. It is credibility, being free of error and distortion, and representativeness, the extent to which data is typical of its kind, that are most important to consider.

Ultimately, the most important evaluation consideration was whether the data was useful for answering the research questions (White & Marsh, 2006). Therefore, further criteria used to determine if data found was relevant were:

- Produced by or for the organisation being investigated
- Subject is SDGs, however if little or nothing was found, then sustainability was considered
- Data indicates a relationship between SDGs and the organisation or libraries ie. describes organisation's approach towards SDGs, examples of best practice
- From 2016 onwards (after SDGs developed)

For sub question 2, a similar search strategy was employed to that described for sub question 1.

For the case study of New Zealand universities, sustainability policies and plans were identified across the universities and were used to determine their priorities. Each university produces either SDG reports or webpages showing SDG contributions, which were used to investigate how libraries are represented in these reports.

Data analysis

Before data analysis was carried out, the different documents collected were converted into the same pdf format to make analysis easier. This also ensured that webpages were archived, as they have a tendency to change frequently (Flick, 2018). Bryman (2016) notes that documents should not be viewed in isolation. They are linked to other documents and have an intended purpose and audience. Therefore, an Excel spreadsheet was used to keep track of documents and their metadata.

Metadata included:

- Where accessed (website, URL)
- When accessed (retrieval date)
- Author/Organisation
- Date
- Title
- Brief description/topic
- Purpose
- Intended audience
- Type of document
- Notes (eg. special features, links)

To support with managing the data analysis process, the computer-aided qualitative data analysis software NVivo was used to store and code the texts.

Data analysis began after data from all organisations for both sub questions had been collected. The ICA method outlined by Vears and Gillam (2022) was followed. Vears and Gillam set out a process designed to guide novice researchers with little prior experience:

1. Read and familiarise
Reading through each text to gain an idea of what they are about.
2. First-round coding—identify big-picture meaning units
Chunking each text into larger sections and determining what each section is about.
To answer sub question 1, the focus was on identifying trends and priorities in library associations data of how libraries could be addressing the SDGs ie. identifying what libraries should be doing.
To answer sub question 2, the focus was on university SDG priorities ie. what they say they will do and what they are reporting on.
3. Second-round coding—developing subcategories and fine-grained codes
Line-by-line coding resulting in new subcategories and refinement of initial big-picture categories.
4. Refining the fine-grained subcategories
An iterative process of coding, where subcategories may be grouped and regrouped to result in a refined coding tree or schema. This is where systems theory was used to organise codes into a schema of inputs, outputs, internal processes and transformations.
5. Synthesis and interpretation
The outcomes of this step form the results and discussion sections of this report.

Assumptions and limitations

One main limitation is that it is very likely that not all comparable data exists or is made publicly available by every organisation. Available data was found that was outdated and data was presented in different formats. The SDGs are mentioned within documents that do not at first appear to have anything to do with sustainable development and these will likely have been missed at the data collection stage. However, it was assumed that the data found was enough to reach a reasonable understanding and that data in different formats could be compared. Another limitation of the data is that because not much content was initially found from LIANZA, the search was broadened to include stories from Library Life, their trade magazine and a couple of relevant webinars. This type of content was not considered for any of the other library associations due to time constraints, however

had it been, a fuller picture may have been found. To fully answer the main question posed of how New Zealand libraries could be addressing the SDGs, gaining insights from interested parties such as librarians would produce a more informative picture of the topic. Due to time constraints though, this was not possible and is a recommendation for future research.

Another aspect to consider is that this study was conducted by a novice researcher working on their own to collect, analyse and present the data within a timeframe of around one semester. The question of whether one coder conducting content analysis ensures the research conclusions are trustworthy and valid are debated. White and Marsh (2006) state that in qualitative research it is not the consistency between coders that matters, but rather that the data supports the conclusions. This was assumed for this research too.

Ethical considerations

Many of the ethical implications mentioned for research revolves around studies that involve human subjects in some way. For instance, in a section on ethics and the internet, Bryman (2016) focuses on research using communications made by individuals through social media, blogs and the like. This research did not involve people as such, therefore issues such as invasion of privacy and lack of informed consent were not envisaged to arise. The information that has been used has been made openly and freely available by organisations on their websites and does not contain sensitive information about individuals. The use made of the data does not breach any of the website usage policies. Therefore, Human Ethics Committee approval was not sought.

Results

Content found on SDGs

By far the most content pertaining to the SDGs and produced by a library association came from IFLA. Around 40 documents were found that matched the criteria identified for this research. Over 2/3 of these were located in IFLA's institutional repository and over 2/3 of content was dated from 2021 onwards. Of the other library associations, EBLIDA and ALIA had the most content, with 11 found respectively. ALIA activity peaked in 2018 and then again in 2021, but most of EBLIDA content was produced from 2020-2023. 5 resources were found from the ALA specifically about the SDGs, however 10 more about sustainability were included for analysis as they cover a closely related topic. ALA content was mainly produced between 2020-2022. Less content was found from CILIP and all of it is from before 2019. Little content was found on the CFLA and LIANZA websites directly pertaining to the SDGs. For LIANZA, the content was broadened to include 3 webinars directly related to SDGs and articles from LIANZA's trade magazine Library Life. These were from the years 2018-2023.

Theoretical position

Systems theory, as applied to the management of organisations, has been used to underpin this research. Like sustainable development, systems theory takes a holistic approach. In an open system, organisations interact with the environment they operate in, taking resources (inputs) from that environment and transforming these into outputs like products and services (Robbins et al., 2018). Organisations will equally be transformed by changes in their environment. The way they act towards these changes can be either reactive or proactive (Hussey, 2013). The different parts of an organisation must work together to achieve a common goal, so relationships and interactions are important (Hussey, 2013).

This suggests that libraries do not work in a vacuum, they are part of larger institutions and will react to external influences, of which sustainable development and the SDGs as a global societal ambition are a part. EBLIDA notes that applying SDGs in libraries requires a two-step process (European Libraries and Sustainable Assessment Working Group, 2020). Firstly, libraries must reorganise themselves to be SDG compliant and secondly, they will interact with their communities to further progress on the goals. How libraries reorganise themselves may be influenced in part by the library associations they belong to.

To make sense of the content analysis, a systems thinking lens has been used to order themes. Findings are grouped by whether they relate to internal processes, inputs and outputs of library associations. Lastly there were themes concerning the transformation that could be achieved for communities by libraries and library associations engaging with the SDGs. These processes are all inter-related because what might be an output for a library association could become an input for a library. Or an internal process like a strategic plan may lead to initiatives that achieve some sort of transformation.

Internal processes

The themes identified in this section are related to what is happening within the organisations that point towards their priorities and trends for engaging with the SDGs.

Strategic plans and committees supporting SDGs

In their survey of library associations, IFLA ask whether they have incorporated the SDGs into their strategic planning and whether they have either staff or a committee dedicated to the SDGs, suggesting that this is an expectation from IFLA. In turn, both EBLIDA and ALIA suggest that libraries themselves should be including the SDGs into their planning or policies:

“SDGs should be considered as part of the core library’s missions.” (EBLIDA, report)

To understand the extent to which library associations are incorporating the SDGs into their planning, their strategic plans were analysed for SDG mentions. CILIP and ALA have never referred to them in their strategic plans. The ALA has sustainability as one of its values and in CILIP’s latest strategic plan 2022-2027, environmental sustainability is one of four contexts identified in which libraries operate. The rest of the library associations have referred specifically to the SDGs as a strategic direction in at least one of their strategic plans since 2015. Most commonly, as is the case with IFLA, CFLA, ALIA and LIANZA, the SDGs come under a goal of advocating for libraries by showing their contribution towards Agenda 2030. IFLA and CFLA pledge to use tools to show this impact. IFLA has recently released a draft of its proposed future strategy where it recognises a need for libraries to have structures and capacity to deliver on development goals.

The most expansive and concrete initiatives come from EBLIDA’s 2022-2025 and ALIA’s 2021-2024 strategic plans. Both detail strategies for how they will advocate and communicate on the SDGs and support their members through tools, indicators/stretch targets, research and professional development. Interestingly, while IFLA, CFLA and EBLIDA have initiatives focused on the SDGs in their current strategic plans, ALIA and LIANZA no longer do. ALIA’s 2024-2026 plan has one general mention about libraries contributing to the SDGs but the other mentions of sustainability are in relation to the future sustainability of the association itself. LIANZA’s 2023-2026 plan is similar, although they do also note sustainability/climate action as a key advocacy issue that they will support the LIS field to progress.

Only EBLIDA and the ALA have specific SDG related committees. The ALA Task Force on United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals was formed to develop a multi-year strategic plan to increase American library engagement with the SDGs. EBLIDA has a European Libraries and Sustainable Development Implementation and Assessment Expert Group (ELSIA) which is working on assessing European library contributions towards the SDGs. IFLA does not have a specific committee for the SDGs, however their survey of committees’ awareness of, and work towards, the SDGs would indicate that they expect all of their committees to incorporate them. The other associations have groups aligned with environmental sustainability instead. ALIA has a Sustainable Libraries Group (ALIA Green), while CFLA and LIANZA both have Climate Action Committees. CILIP does not have a committee as such, however it does have a Green Libraries Campaign.

Monitoring

In line with their commitment to the SDGs, some library associations are monitoring progress, which is closely related to reporting on progress as an output. IFLA does this in several ways. It is monitoring global progress towards, and the benefits of, meaningful access to information within the framework of the SDGs. The outputs of this are its Development and Access to Information (DA2I) reports from 2017, 2019 and one published very recently in May 2024 which was too late to be included in this analysis.

IFLA has also carried out surveys monitoring its committees and member associations' progress towards the SDGs. Through its Library Map of the World website, it additionally collects data and stories from libraries globally. Each year it monitors the extent to which libraries are mentioned in Voluntary National or Local Reviews (VNRs and VLRs). IFLA provides guidance and encourages library associations to actively collect library SDG stories, facts and data in anticipation to contributing towards VNRs and the Library Map of the World.

Two of the library associations are doing this. EBLIDA is collecting stories through the E-PANEMA portal on its website and has also conducted surveys of its member associations, producing reports on European libraries' contributions towards the SDGs. ALIA has also collated stories and data and is planning to report on Australian libraries progress towards their SDG stretch targets in 2025 and 2030. It is actively seeking case studies and data for this. There was no content found for CILIP, ALA, CFLA or LIANZA actively monitoring progress towards the SDGs in their countries.

Inputs / outputs

The content found for this research was all a type of output from the different library associations. These resources varied from webpages, reports and guides, to targets and promotional material. Although some are specifically produced for policy makers and most could be of interest to library stakeholders, the vast majority of content would be of most interest to the library profession. Some of the main purposes of the content was to inform about SDG related initiatives and contributions, encourage participation and report on progress. In one way or another these outputs all support library associations and libraries to engage with the SDGs and 'support' is an overarching theme for this section. IFLA supports library associations and they in turn support their members.

"As the peak body for libraries, ALIA is providing the awareness, encouragement and resources to enable Australian libraries to incorporate the SDG in their own strategic plans and policy statements." (ALIA, government submission).

The following are some of the main types of outputs and inputs supporting libraries that were found:

Webpages dedicated to SDGs

IFLA, EBLIDA, CILIP, ALA and ALIA all have webpages dedicated to the SDGs, although all are found in different parts of their website. On IFLA's main website, the section titled "Powering Sustainable Development" is located via the main heading "What we do" > "Advocating for Libraries". The Library Map of the World is a separate website maintained by IFLA. EBLIDA's website has two sections on the SDGs. Each of the 17 goals has a dedicated webpage providing an overview, funding opportunities and associated European Union (EU) indicators. The second is the E-PANEMA portal featuring EU funded and SDG oriented projects from around Europe. ALIA have a page dedicated to the SDGs under the heading "Advocacy and Partnerships" and the ALA on their page about the ALA Task Force on United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. The SDGs are harder to find on CILIP's website and are navigated to via "News and Insights" > "Knowledge Hub" > "Current issues" > "Sustainable Development Goals". Whereas the webpages from the other associations are current, CILIPs do not appear to have been updated since the end of 2016.

Resources and tools

Not that many resources were found produced specifically to help library associations and libraries in their SDG efforts. IFLA has produced a couple of main resources that provide practical guidance. One is their *Toolkit: Libraries, Development and the United Nations Agenda 2030*, which instructs library associations on beginning to engage with the SDGs to "support advocacy for the inclusion of libraries and access to information in formal national and regional development plans". The other is the *Libraries and the Sustainable Development Goals: A Storytelling Manual* that gives step-by-step guidance on how to create a story for the Library Map of the World. IFLA has also created short "Get into" guides on VNRs, SDG Action Week and education for sustainable development. Additionally, there are news stories, blog posts and briefings on sustainable development related topics, for instance, explaining UN SDG initiatives and what they mean for libraries.

Of the other associations, EBLIDA has produced *A Guide for Library Applicants: European Structural and Investment Funds 2021-2027* outlining how libraries can go about gaining funding. ALIA provides a template for libraries to use for reporting on their SDG contributions. Apart from some communication materials like posters and bookmarks, the ALA's resources are focused around sustainability, rather than the SDGs specifically.

Reporting

Reporting is a complex theme found throughout the content. There is a need identified by IFLA for evidence and stories showing library contributions towards the SDGs, especially for advocacy

purposes. Libraries telling their stories is a subtheme and is explored in the next section. As concrete approaches to reporting, ALIA has set stretch targets for Australian libraries and CFLA indicates that it is working on benchmarking Canadian libraries' efforts. Both IFLA and EBLIDA identify challenges with using the SDG indicators for reporting though, as they do not adequately reflect library work. IFLA suggests library associations work with their governments to create more appropriate indicators and is doing this itself at a global level. A subtheme around reporting is that IFLA is particularly concerned with libraries being mentioned in VNRs. The Library Map of the World is mentioned by IFLA frequently too, either for libraries to submit their stories to or as a platform that the LIS profession can draw data from for its advocacy. It was out of scope for this research to analyse stories on the Library Map of the World, however, as at May 2024 there were only 58 stories from 36 countries and there appear to be few recent stories.

Not only IFLA views reporting as important:

“We can harness the power of collective reporting as a sector and if we build regular reporting into our organisational and industry operations, we will see SDG related activity, be more aware of how our work contributes to the SDG and encourage greater team engagement.” (ALIA, report)

IFLA, EBLIDA and ALIA have all produced reports about the current state of progress towards the SDGs in the regions they are focused on. For IFLA, it is a global focus on progress towards meaningful access to information through its DA2I reports, while EBLIDA reports on European library associations with country profiles. ALIA is tracking progress towards its SDG stretch targets, with a baseline report produced in 2022 and a 2023 update.

Currently, reporting is quite focused on showing how libraries contribute towards the SDGs. Already in 2016, IFLA produced *Access and Opportunity for all: How Libraries Contribute to the United Nations 2030 Agenda*, collating examples of how libraries contribute towards all of the goals in something like a mapping exercise. ALIA has also produced a similar report with stories of how Australian libraries contribute towards 10 SDGs and has supported the production of a report for Victorian public libraries' contributions towards 4 targets and 1 goal.

LIANZA has provided SDG stories towards an alternative New Zealand VNR report and at various conferences. There is also an awareness of the Library Map of the World and the lack of New Zealand stories on it. The articles from Library Life which mention the SDGs often do so in a limited manner, with some exceptions, such as reporting back from conferences or reflecting on how they relate to aspects of librarianship. There are few examples of best practice.

Library SDG stories

“By telling stories, based on solid evidence, we can win over hearts and minds, and encourage people – and in particular politicians, funders and other decision-makers and influencers – to give us their support.” (IFLA, storytelling manual)

It was not the purpose of this research to analyse SDG stories in depth, however, any mentions of library examples in the content were collated to the relevant SDG(s) mentioned. In some reporting, examples are simply a one line description of how libraries contribute towards a certain goal, usually in a generic way applicable to all libraries. For example, under Goal 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth:

“Target 8.3 addresses the promotion of development-oriented policies that support productive activities, as well as, among others, creativity, and innovation. Libraries support these with, for example, computer classes for people of all ages.” (ALA, article)

In other cases, for instance in ALIA’s *Australian Libraries Support the Sustainable Development Goals* report, stories are more substantial, at least 2-3 paragraphs long. Most often though, stories are a few sentences with a specific library initiative being described. The majority of these stories are about public libraries. While access to information is one of the outcomes from initiatives mentioned, other common outcomes identified are information and digital literacy, empowerment, education and skills building. In many of the examples, the library can be seen as an enabler, for instance enabling someone to gain employment or to access a service:

“To foster Goal 3- Good Health and Well Being- LAPL partners with agencies and organizations that provide those in need with free dental and eye exams, eyeglasses, flu vaccines and access to health insurance.” (ALA, webpage)

Although many of the projects would have required libraries to partner with organisations, mostly these are not mentioned. Neither are the specific outcomes and impacts from the initiative. Most initiatives are mapped to a goal, not a target and it is unknown whether the initiative is one that the library proactively developed to engage with the SDGs or whether it was an activity that was fitted to a relevant goal for reporting.

Of the goals mapped to, the most initiatives are for those that align with goals more orientated towards traditional library services. There were few stories in comparison for those SDGs more aligned with environmental sustainability and these were mostly about green library buildings, whereas for other goals, initiatives were more about library activities, services and collections. Almost all examples were focused on external contributions, how libraries were contributing to their

communities, with a couple of exceptions, for instance a story about gaining pay equity for library staff from Australia.

EBLIDA sums up the difficulties with mapping library initiatives to SDGs:

“It is not easy to map information about SDG-oriented projects in libraries. Some of them clearly indicate which SDG they are trying to attain, although many library projects cover more than one SDG. Some other projects are compliant with the Agenda 2030 in a hidden form, since they are not clearly embedded in one or another SDG.” (EBLIDA, report)

Transformation achieved

This section is about the themes found relating to the transformation library associations and libraries should achieve for themselves and their communities from engaging with the SDGs.

Advocacy

“The SDGs offer a particularly powerful framework for libraries to demonstrate their value and so seek funding and support.” (IFLA, SDG toolkit)

Advocacy is a theme interlinked with most of the others identified in this research. It is a key driver for libraries engaging with the SDGs and widely recognised by the library associations. Advocacy stretches from the work IFLA does at an international level to get library work recognised in relation to the SDGs down to individual libraries telling their stories. The SDGs are seen by IFLA and ALIA as an opportunity for the LIS field to collaborate and share knowledge. Likewise, the ALA views the broader value of sustainability as a “rallying point” for libraries. For EBLIDA, the SDGs are an opportunity for libraries to break away from their traditional domains of work and seek new perspectives.

A new focus for IFLA, with increasing references to it, is having a culture goal recognised, potentially in a post-2030 Agenda. For libraries themselves, IFLA is very focused on their inclusion in VNRs, VLRs and national development plans or strategies. These are ways for libraries to broaden the range of stakeholders who understand their work. Getting involved in activities like SDG Action Week or education for sustainable development are encouraged as an opportunity for advocacy. Advocacy is seen as important for ensuring libraries and their communities are recognised by their stakeholders:

“We cannot take the inclusion of libraries for granted!

Importantly, inaction is not an option. For our own sakes, and those of the users who rely on our services, we cannot allow our institutions and profession to be forgotten, diminished, or dismissed ...

it is necessary to invest in building understanding of, and support for, the work of libraries of all types, especially faced with many competing priorities for government support.” (IFLA, SDG toolkit)

This is echoed in relation to New Zealand libraries:

“Having such a captive audience I took the opportunity to share the power and potential of libraries and librarians supporting the SDG’s as a whole. Our government colleagues were genuinely surprised, actually I’d go as far to say shocked, at the ways we connect and collaborate with our communities and the impact we make. We need to tell our stories more whānau!” (LIANZA president, Library Life)

Advocacy is an important issue for library associations, with most relating the SDGs to this area in their strategic plans. The linkages between advocacy and other themes, such as partnerships and reporting are seen in these examples from ALIA and ALA:

“ALIA has also signed an international advocacy agreement with IFLA, which commits the Association carry on advocacy work on how libraries are helping Australia, and the rest of the UN Member States, achieve the SDGs.” (ALIA, webpage)

“As a national association, we need to advocate these contributions loudly and consistently to the world’s development. We need to increase awareness and give clear statements of the critical contribution we can make and have clear examples of good practice and evidence to support our claims.” (ALA, SDG taskforce)

Enabling

The idea of the library as an enabler is one that IFLA is encouraging, along with libraries as educators and exemplars. For instance, they suggest libraries do not simply provide access to information, but that they support their users to get the best out of it. It is not just libraries who are enablers though, library associations do this too:

“Often, the work of IFLA committees may not have an obvious direct impact on achievement of one or more SDGs, but it can be an enabler, for example by allowing others to provide support more effectively.” (IFLA, report)

Many examples of libraries acting as enablers for their communities are evident in the stories of library SDG contributions. One way that libraries could be seen as enablers specifically for the SDGs is in promoting and raising awareness of them. Libraries are referred to as “shop windows” in exposing their community to new ideas. Awareness raising is a strong theme in the content and something that IFLA and the library associations are encouraging the LIS field to do:

“Libraries also are uniquely positioned to raise awareness of the SDGs with their broad reach into communities.” (ALA, SDG taskforce)

“We must continue to engage in activities to educate our members, to raise awareness of our members of the SDGs, to raise awareness of our users and awareness of our partners.” (LIANZA, webinar)

Educating

In stories of library SDG contributions, the role that they play in educating their communities is often around traditional library work such as information and digital literacies and lifelong learning. Areas also mentioned by IFLA in relation to the SDGs include combatting misinformation, sustainability literacy and education for sustainable development.

“Many [libraries] have long provided information about environmental issues as part of their collections. However, there is a sense in many countries that for libraries – and in particular public or school libraries – to realise their potential in promoting sustainability, they should take a proactive role.” (IFLA, guide)

Education is not just for library communities and covers librarians and future librarians too. It is recognised that this is an area that librarians need to engage and upskill in. EBLIDA mentions providing consultancy and training for its members, as does ALIA:

“The Board placed specific emphasis on SDG-related training and professional development for Members.” (ALIA, strategic plan)

“We will ask LIS educators to develop PD related to the SDGs, in the curriculum.” (ALIA, SDG workshop)

Although not related to the SDGs specifically, in New Zealand, the recently developed Te Tōtara Capabilities Framework recognises sustainability as a capability for working in the LIS sector:

“Ability to understand, protect and improve the environmental, economic and social sustainability within the organisation and community.” (New Zealand National Library, framework)

Modelling and leading

Like enabling and educating, this theme covers the whole LIS sector and its communities. After adopting sustainability as a core value, the ALA talks of leading from the front and embedding sustainability into what it does. This sentiment is also reflected in how library associations and libraries should be engaging with the SDGs.

“ALIA itself being an exemplar for SDG principles through the promotion of diversity, an increased focus on sustainability initiatives and on responsible procurement and partnerships.” (ALIA strategic plan)

Libraries acting as models for their communities is often mentioned in relation to environmental sustainability:

“What is clear is that libraries in all sectors can play a crucial role through education, awareness raising, and behaviour modelling as well as providing opportunities for communities to get involved in practical sustainability efforts.” (ALIA, report)

Partnering

“Meaningful access to information is a powerful development accelerator, and in providing this, libraries are essential partners for development.” (IFLA, DA21)

Libraries as partners for development is a phrase often used by IFLA and the partnerships theme is interlinked with other areas. Partnerships are seen as a way for libraries to expand their networks and work with others to drive progress towards the SDGs. IFLA is especially interested in partnerships for advocacy areas such as VNRs. Again, it is not just libraries who should be engaging in partnerships. Library associations play an important role in connecting and building networks within the LIS community and with external parties to coordinate efforts towards the SDGs.

“Associations have an essential role in bringing people together, both to support professional development and make it possible to advocate effectively.” (IFLA, webpage)

In a New Zealand context, LIANZA mentions partnering with Pacific librarians and library organisations to further SDG work. The benefits of libraries themselves partnering with other organisations when working towards the goals is featured heavily in the two SDG webinars from LIANZA.

New Zealand Government SDG situation

In New Zealand, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (n.d.) is currently responsible for the SDGs as part of its work with the UN. The New Zealand Government has completed one VNR in 2019, identifying areas of need and providing evidence of progress towards each of the 17 goals. It identifies challenges such as child poverty and inadequate housing, as well as groups facing inequalities including Māori and Pacific peoples, solo parent households and people with disabilities (New Zealand Government, 2019). Some policies and reporting mechanisms are mentioned, including the Living Standards Framework, which measures well-being, and the associated Indicators

Aotearoa New Zealand from Stats NZ. The VNR acknowledges the 8 New Zealand universities as showing leadership in the implementation of SDGs at a national level. Parallel to the government's VNR, *The People's Report on the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals* was prepared by non-government entities as an alternative report to provide a diverse perspective (Greer & Morris, 2019). LIANZA contributed towards this report, advocating for libraries under SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), with a number of other library stories featured for other goals.

The Office of the Auditor-General published an assessment of New Zealand's preparedness to implement the SDGs in 2021 and found the government's response lacking in some areas. They did not find any evidence of the government providing agencies with guidance or directives to implement SDGs into planning or reporting, stating that the government needs to provide leadership and describe its SDG commitments, including identifying priority targets. A dedicated government SDG plan was not found during the data collection phase of this research and neither was a date for its next VNR.

New Zealand universities

Seven of the eight New Zealand universities have a current sustainability plan and each affirms a commitment to, and alignment with the SDGs. All plans have measurable actions and targets to be achieved by a certain date, mostly 2030. However, apart from one plan which notes SDG target 4.7 and another that places emphasis on SDG 17, no specific SDG goals, targets or indicators are referenced.

While each plan has a different lens reflecting each institutions' values and mission, some common themes emerge. There is a strong focus on environmental sustainability, especially around campus operations and climate action / becoming carbon neutral, but also unsurprisingly, an emphasis on research and education / teaching. The commitments around these two themes are to do with increasing research output on sustainability / SDGs and embedding sustainability / SDGs in university courses and teaching. Another focus area is on partnerships, including partnering with Māori, Pacific and other external organisations to further sustainability and the SDGs. Other themes were supporting staff, being leaders and models in sustainability, embedding sustainability within university governance and monitoring progress towards sustainability targets. The Times Higher Education Impact Rankings were mentioned in several plans too. One university did note that "a shortcoming of the SDGs and THE Impact Ranking exercise is the lack of focus on Indigeneity. The Sustainability Plan must, therefore, go beyond UN global targets and prioritise the importance of tangata whenua and Pacific peoples within Aotearoa and across Moana nui a Kiwa" (University of Waikato, Sustainability plan).

Each university reports on their contributions towards the SDGs. Some produce reports, while others have webpages dedicated to the goals. The root 'libr' was used to search within this content to find any references to libraries or librarians. Out of 16 reports and 4 webpages, 7 did not reference libraries at all. 23 references were found in the remaining content, although 7 of these were either repetitions or not relevant. Libraries were mentioned for the following SDGs: 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 11 and 12. Around 40% of references were for specific library initiatives and the rest were more about the library as a facility and its collections. For SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), libraries are recognised for preserving cultural heritage or as a facility provided on campus. Services provided during the Covid-19 lockdowns in terms of providing access to information (both physical and online), providing access to study space and producing educational material featured under SDG 1 (No poverty), 4 (Quality Education) and 5 (Gender Equality). The other way libraries are mentioned is as role models, for instance the library and its staff showing leadership in the sustainability program Green Impact at two different universities.

Current strategic plans were found for six of the eight university libraries. One plan did not reference sustainability, but the other five did. Two libraries state that they used their institution's sustainability plan to inform their one. Three strategic plans make commitments to sustainability in specific areas. One states a commitment to fighting climate change, one to sustainable access to its content and collections and a third to working sustainably: "We will invest in our future as responsible global citizens by championing sustainability locally, through technology and fair, thoughtful work practices." For the last two, it is hard to tell whether holistic sustainability is meant, or environmental. Sustainability is a guiding principle for one library: "Ensure Sustainability for society, the environment, and the economy" with priorities around library advocacy and improving services, resource allocation and promoting research. One library strategy does have a specific SDG focus. For the broader goal of maximizing the library's effectiveness and impact in pursuit of its mission, it will prioritise "adopting sustainable practices, and committing to, and reporting on how the Library works to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals".

Discussion

International trends

When considering how the six international library associations analysed for this research have responded to the SDGs, the results of the content analysis suggest two directions taken. The first shown by IFLA, EBLIDA and ALIA is to commit to the SDGs in a dedicated manner. The second direction evidenced most strongly in the results by CILIP is to have been interested in the SDGs when

they were new, but to have moved away from them since. CILIP seems more focused on environmental sustainability now through its Green Libraries Campaign. The ALA and CFLA appear to be somewhere in between. There is some commitment shown towards the SDGs, with dedicated committees or strategic goals, however not as much evidence that these have yet resulted in outputs. The ALA is potentially more focused on sustainability in a broader sense and CFLA on climate action. From the content analysed, it would seem that there has been an ad hoc approach towards the SDGs so far and each association has engaged with them in different ways. However, as this research only takes into account what these library associations are presenting as outputs through their websites, the extent of coordination behind the scenes is unknown.

Commonalities were found between IFLA, EBLIDA and ALIA, who all show the most commitment. The SDGs are a more prominent part of their websites and they have all produced the most content pertaining to them. The SDGs are also prominent in their strategic planning, going beyond simply raising awareness that library work contributes towards the SDGs to working towards this in a concrete way by creating targets (ALIA), indicators (EBLIDA) and tools (IFLA). This sets expectations of how libraries should be engaging with the SDGs and allows the associations to monitor progress, resulting in reporting of this progress. For instance, through the Library Map of the World (IFLA) and E-PANEMA platform (EBLIDA). The three associations all document progress in reports as well. Connaway et al. (2023) found a link between libraries incorporating the SDGs into their planning and more SDG related activities being carried out by them. Because of the limitations of this research, no similar conclusion can be made, however, the content analysis points to the possibility of this being true for library associations too. The library associations that appear to be making a stronger commitment to the SDGs, also appear to be doing more towards their attainment.

Storytelling is another clear theme of both the literature review and the content analysis. Library associations are urging their members to tell their SDG stories, as a means of advocacy and sharing best practice, and they are providing support to do this. For instance, EBLIDA supports European libraries gain EU funding for SDG projects, which are then portrayed on the E-PANEMA portal. The SDG stories analysed in the content analysis had a strong leaning towards public libraries, which is interesting considering that academic libraries are well represented in the literature on SDGs. Corresponding with findings from the literature review, there were more SDG stories related to SDGs more aligned with traditional library work, SDG4 (Quality Education) or SDG16 (Strong Institutions) for instance. Considering that 'green libraries' and environmental sustainability has a longer history than the SDGs for libraries and that some library associations are focusing on this area, there are few library stories for SDGs aligned with environmental sustainability.

Most of the stories are still at the mapping stage in terms of progress towards the SDGs. They are stories that fit to a goal, but the majority are not aligned with a specific target or indicator. It is hard to tell if the initiatives arose through a dedicated commitment to the SDGs or whether they were something that the library was already doing. The outcomes and impacts are often not stated, nor partners worked with, even though showing value and partnering are ways that libraries are recommended to respond to the SDGs, both in the literature and by library associations. Dabengwa (2024) has warned that using an approach where library stories are fitted to an SDG without any real commitment, could be seen as 'SDG washing'. Yet, Thorpe and Gunton (2022) found that they needed to map what they were already doing to the SDGs in order to identify opportunities and gaps. So far, the reporting on library contributions appears to correlate with this sort of approach, with not much identified about where libraries need to improve in their engagement with the SDGs, although this would need to be investigated further. With library associations like EBLIDA and ALIA setting targets and developing indicators, library stories should begin to show real contributions as advocated for by Oomes (2020) and Missingham (2021) among others. It was outside the scope of this research to analyse stories on the Library Map of the World or E-PANEMA, however the stories on these platforms are beginning to provide a richer picture of library contributions.

International priorities

As every association approaches SDGs differently, their priorities vary. Common themes found in the content analysis were that libraries should be responding to the SDGs through advocacy and partnerships and by enabling and educating their communities, while being role models and leaders in their commitment. While library stories of SDG contributions may not yet be showing the impact that their initiatives have on their community, they do show ways that libraries are reflecting these themes. The themes do not relate just to libraries though, but also to library associations, who should be responding to the SDGs in a similar manner, by acting as role models and enabling and educating their members.

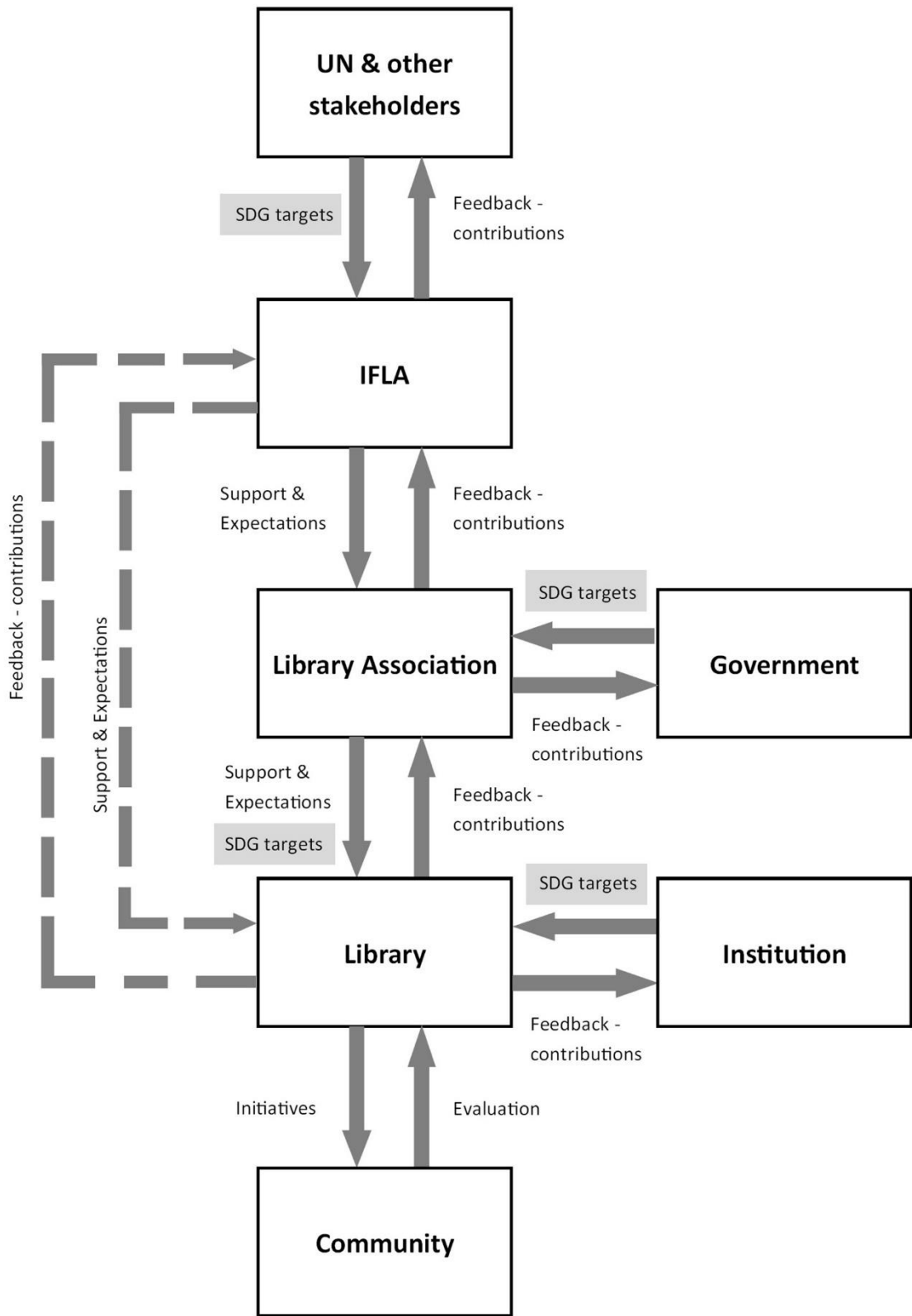
These themes are not unique to how libraries should be addressing the SDGs, they are ways of responding to many other issues and what libraries have done long before the SDGs. In their literature review of libraries, sustainability and sustainable development, Mathiasson and Jochumsen (2022) found a similar pattern of how libraries are responding to these areas. Their conclusion was that the direction libraries should be taking towards sustainable development is a more proactive approach. For the SDGs this would mean that it is not enough that libraries already intrinsically work towards the goals, but that they should be actively doing something about them. This is where

looking at the library associations that are being proactive may provide an approach to the SDGs for libraries.

IFLA, EBLID and ALIA are setting targets and expectations for their members, supporting them to attain these, monitoring their efforts and reporting on them. Considering this from a systems theory perspective, all of these aspects are interlinked and could work together. There is an expectation from IFLA that library associations understand the SDG landscape in their countries and IFLA provides support to do this. Library associations themselves are producing outputs in the form of SDG targets and support for their members. These then become inputs for libraries. In return, library associations have expectations of libraries, for instance that they partner with others to work towards the targets and provide feedback on their contributions through stories, which can then be used for advocacy. In an attempt to explain what was found in the content analysis and informed by the literature around SDGs and libraries, a model has been developed of how a concerted library approach towards the SDGs might look like in an ideal world, where all players are committed to the SDGs (see Figure 1). This model considers the SDGs as a reporting mechanism and does not include sustainable development in a broader sense. It is a simplified way of looking at this phenomenon because in reality there are many other factors influencing the library and the environment it works in. The model is also focused solely on libraries and does not include the interaction between the UN and governments or governments and institutions.

Figure 1

Model of a concerted library approach towards the SDGs.



National trends and priorities

National trends and priorities are considered in light of the model developed from this research. Ideally, a government would be identifying priority areas and setting national targets, which a library association might influence to include library work, but also can use to identify priority areas for libraries within that country, setting its own library related SDG targets. The library's parent institution would also be setting its own targets. The library could then use these in its own strategic planning to develop SDG initiatives, which it would report back to its institution and library association. Libraries and library associations could in turn be reporting back to their governments through VNRs and to IFLA via the Library Map of the World.

Again, while it is hard to draw any conclusions because there may be a lot of work happening internally that is not publicised, from the data that was found for this research, it would appear that the aforementioned process is not yet well developed in New Zealand. It is not clear what SDG targets and indicators the New Zealand government prioritises. The VNR it produced has broad themes, many of which are or could be prioritised by libraries. Without a plan and targets from the government, though, it is difficult to know where libraries could be best focusing their efforts and measuring progress towards the SDGs, unless they develop their own targets.

In its approach to the SDGs, LIANZA appears to be responding more like the ALA or CFLA where there is some commitment shown, but not as much in the way of outputs. A more current priority seems to be climate action, reflected in a recently created committee and its current strategic plan, which no longer references the SDGs. LIANZA has been advocating for libraries in the SDG sphere, although much of this would fall in the beginning stages of engaging with the SDGs, mapping library stories to relevant goals. From the content analysed, there does not seem to be a visible coordinated effort towards the SDGs for libraries in New Zealand.

The case study of universities and their libraries indicates that there may be a more concerted approach from them. The universities are setting sustainability targets informed by the SDGs, although these are not the same as the targets set by Agenda 2030. The priorities evidenced in the plans were very similar to those of the LIS sector – environmental sustainability, a focus on enabling research and education, being leaders and partnering, especially with Māori. They are also thinking about how to relate sustainability and the SDGs to the New Zealand context. The universities are reporting on contributions towards the SDGs, however, like most other library stories, those about library initiatives are at a mapping stage. The initiatives have potentially been fitted to the most relevant goal, rather than stemming from a proactive commitment to a target, especially as only one library has a specific SDG priority in its strategic plan. There are not many library contributions

reported as yet, although of what is, libraries are shown as contributing towards several of the SDGs. This does of course not mean that libraries are not contributing, just that contributions are not that visible in publicly accessible content.

Further Research

Much further research could be conducted around libraries and the SDGs. For the New Zealand context, investigating librarians' perspectives could be a next step. Apart from a few commentators, it is currently unknown what the LIS fields' collective thoughts are on this topic, their awareness of the SDGs and willingness to work towards them. The focus of a lot of research so far has been on monitoring awareness, engagement and contributions towards the SDGs. Challenges have also been identified, however, not much research has looked at what kind of support librarians require to address the SDGs and whether they have the means to do so. This could be investigated from an international perspective too. More in depth research could be conducted into the approaches taken by library associations towards the SDGs to determine best practice and roadblocks as a means to prepare for working more collaboratively towards a post-2030 Agenda.

Conclusion

How libraries should approach the SDGs is a complex issue. While the SDGs present many opportunities for libraries in advocacy and showing their value, in partnering with others to work towards global goals and to support community resilience, there are also many challenges. Libraries and library associations are grappling with how to measure contributions and show library impact in a meaningful way. The SDG targets themselves are seen as hard for libraries to work with and the SDGs are only one part of a broader area of sustainability and sustainable development that is of interest to libraries. There also seems to be an ad hoc approach towards the SDGs, both in terms of library responses and in the literature on this topic. Libraries are still potentially in the early stages of addressing the goals, mapping initiatives to relevant SDGs, but not yet being consistently pro active towards them.

A model was developed to attempt to explain how an ideal approach to the SDGs might look like. The model suggests that IFLA, library associations, governments, libraries and their institutions could be working together to set priorities, targets and expectations. Support would be provided to help library associations and libraries engage with the SDGs and in return libraries would proactively develop initiatives, partnering with others to deliver them and enabling and educating their

communities for a better future. They would monitor their progress and report back to their associations, institutions and IFLA. These stories could be used in further advocacy efforts.

A situation like this is not yet evident in New Zealand. University libraries have the potential to be role models and leaders in the SDG space, as their institutions all show a commitment to the SDGs in their strategic planning. Currently, library contributions could be more visible in SDG reporting and this may be seen in the future as university libraries are also beginning to show their commitment to sustainability in their strategic plans.

The nature of this research as a content analysis using documents found on library association websites means that the results found do not provide a full picture. For instance, there could be other outputs and support provided by library associations, like training programmes, that have not been included. With the case study of university libraries, there would be internal processes that are not openly accessible and a staff perspective that is missing. There is a need for more research in New Zealand to investigate what librarians think about the SDGs, how they might consider addressing them and whether they have the capacity and support required to do this.

To conclude this research, the following recommendations are made for a New Zealand libraries approach to the SDGs:

- Further research on librarians' views of the SDGs and libraries capacity and willingness to contribute towards them
- If the library profession wants to pursue the SDGs in a serious way, then leadership in some form is required for a coordinated approach
- The library sector would need to set targets to work towards, monitor progress and report on impact
- One possibility that could be explored is the link between climate action and the SDGs as there is now a LIANZA committee dedicated to this area. This may be one way that engagement with the SDGs could be furthered in New Zealand libraries.

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Appendix 1: The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (with example of a target and indicators for SDG 16)

SDG 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere

SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

SDG 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

SDG 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

SDG 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

SDG 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

SDG 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries

SDG 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

SDG 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

SDG 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

SDG 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

SDG 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

Target

16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements

Indicators

16.10.1 Number of verified cases of killing, kidnapping, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention and torture of journalists, associated media personnel, trade unionists and human rights advocates in the previous 12 months

16.10.2 Number of countries that adopt and implement constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information

SDG 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

Appendix 2: Library associations

| Association | Region | Members | Purpose |
|--------------------|--------------------------|--|---|
| IFLA | Global | LIS associations and institutions from all world regions | Advocate for and inspire, engage, enable and connect the global library field. |
| EBLIDA | Europe | LIS associations and institutions | Community and networking hub for all library organisations in Europe. Advocate for and engage with libraries. |
| CILIP | United Kingdom | Libraries and librarians | Advocate for information and library skills and professional values in the UK. |
| ALA | United States of America | Libraries and librarians | Provide leadership for the development, promotion and improvement of LIS field in America. |
| CFLA | Canada | Libraries and librarians | To influence public policy, advance library excellence, and raise the visibility of libraries in Canada. |
| ALIA | Australia | Libraries and librarians | Promote a strong library and information services sector in Australia. |
| LIANZA | New Zealand | Libraries and librarians | Strengthening the LIS sector in New Zealand to be innovative and responsive to future needs. |

Appendix 3: Content analysed

IFLA

| Year | Title and link | Type |
|------|---|----------------|
| 2015 | IFLA welcomes the UN 2030 Agenda https://www.ifla.org/news/ifla-welcomes-the-un-2030-agenda/ | Webpage |
| 2016 | Access and opportunity for all: How libraries contribute to the United Nations 2030 Agenda https://repository.ifla.org/handle/123456789/243 | Document |
| 2016 | Libraries can drive progress across the entire UN 2030 Agenda https://repository.ifla.org/handle/123456789/246 | Poster |
| 2018 | Exemplars, educators, enablers - Libraries and sustainability https://repository.ifla.org/handle/123456789/2517 | Document |
| 2018 | Libraries and the Sustainable Development Goals: A storytelling manual https://repository.ifla.org/handle/123456789/19 | Document |
| 2019 | Development and access to information 2019 https://www.ifla.org/da2i/ | Document |
| 2019 | IFLA strategy 2019-2024 https://repository.ifla.org/handle/123456789/25 | Strategic plan |
| 2019 | SDG storytelling flowchart https://repository.ifla.org/handle/123456789/297 | Poster |
| 2020 | Five ways to show how libraries support the SDGs https://www.ifla.org/news/five-ways-to-show-how-libraries-support-the-sdgs/ | Webpage |
| 2020 | Get into SDG action week https://repository.ifla.org/handle/123456789/265 | Document |
| 2020 | Libraries in voluntary national reviews – The first five years https://repository.ifla.org/handle/123456789/1422 | Document |
| 2020 | SDG voluntary national reviews: A guide for library participation https://www.ifla.org/wp-content/uploads/files/assets/hq/topics/libraries-development/documents/vnr-guide-2020.pdf | Document |
| 2021 | IFLA AO section + IFLA strategy: Libraries and the UN SDGs in the Asia and Oceania region https://www.ifla.org/news/ifla-ao-section-ifla-strategy-libraries-and-the-un-sdgs-in-the-asia-and-oceania-region/ | Webpage |
| 2021 | Libraries in voluntary local reviews https://www.ifla.org/wp-content/uploads/files/assets/hq/topics/libraries-development/documents/libraries_in_voluntary_local_reviews_2016-20.pdf | Document |
| 2021 | SDG stories from Asia and Oceania https://repository.ifla.org/handle/123456789/1761 | Presentation |
| 2021 | Toolkit: Libraries, development and the United Nations 2030 Agenda https://www.ifla.org/publications/ifla-toolkit-libraries-development-and-the-united-nations-2030-agenda-revised-version-august-2017/ | Document |
| 2021 | Using library map of the world data as SDG indicators | Webpage |

| | | |
|------|---|--------------|
| | https://blogs.ifla.org/lpa/2021/01/28/using-library-map-of-the-world-data-as-sdg-indicators/ | |
| 2022 | A culture goal is essential for our common future: Global cultural networks propose culture goal for future development framework https://repository.ifla.org/handle/123456789/2154 | Document |
| 2022 | Get into ... Education for sustainable development https://repository.ifla.org/handle/123456789/2054 | Document |
| 2022 | IFLA and the SDGs: January 2022 update https://www.ifla.org/news/ifla-sdg-update-january-2022/ | Webpage |
| 2022 | IFLA statement on evidence for sustainable development https://repository.ifla.org/handle/123456789/2191 | Document |
| 2022 | IFLA trend report 2022 update: A call for radical hope across our field https://repository.ifla.org/handle/123456789/2456 | Document |
| 2022 | Libraries engaged in VNRs. Part 1: Find out who's in charge https://repository.ifla.org/handle/123456789/1632 | Document |
| 2022 | Libraries engaged in VNRs. Part 2: Prepare your stories https://repository.ifla.org/handle/123456789/1633 | Document |
| 2022 | Libraries engaged in VNRs. Part 3: Prepare your data https://repository.ifla.org/handle/123456789/1634 | Document |
| 2022 | Libraries, information and the Sustainable Development Goals - Base presentation https://repository.ifla.org/handle/123456789/2118 | Presentation |
| 2022 | Libraries in voluntary national reviews 2022 https://repository.ifla.org/handle/123456789/1988 | Document |
| 2022 | Our common agenda: What the UN Secretary-General's plan for the future means for libraries https://repository.ifla.org/handle/123456789/1848 | Document |
| 2023 | A sustainable development snapshot: Latest IFLA work https://www.ifla.org/news/a-sustainable-development-snapshot-latest-ifla-work/ | Webpage |
| 2023 | Get into ... voluntary national reviews https://repository.ifla.org/handle/123456789/3032 | Document |
| 2023 | High-Impact Initiatives for the Sustainable Development Goals: Opportunities for Libraries https://www.ifla.org/news/high-impact-initiatives-for-the-sustainable-development-goals-opportunities-for-libraries/ | Webpage |
| 2023 | IFLA committees and the Sustainable Development Goals https://repository.ifla.org/handle/123456789/2719 | Document |
| 2023 | Libraries and Sustainable Development in 2023: Trends and issues https://www.ifla.org/news/libraries-and-sustainable-development-in-2023-trends-and-issues/ | Webpage |
| 2023 | Libraries in voluntary national reviews 2023 https://repository.ifla.org/handle/123456789/2666 | Document |
| 2023 | Library SDG Pledge – Sign up now! https://www.ifla.org/news/sdg-library-pledge-sign-up-now/ | Webpage |
| 2023 | Supporting, integrating and delivering: Library associations and the SDGs https://repository.ifla.org/handle/123456789/2658 | Document |
| 2023 | The summit of the future: A briefing https://repository.ifla.org/handle/123456789/3140 | Document |

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|------|--|----------------|
| 2023 | Time to realise libraries' potential to support development: IFLA and the UN SDG Summit https://www.ifla.org/news/time-to-realise-libraries-potential-to-support-development-ifla-and-the-un-sdg-summit/ | Webpage |
| 2024 | IFLA strategy 2024-2029 zero draft https://repository.ifla.org/handle/123456789/3285 | Strategic plan |
| n.d. | Data and the Sustainable Development Goals: An IFLA briefing https://www.ifla.org/publications/data-and-the-sustainable-development-goals-ifla-briefing/ | Document |
| n.d. | Libraries in voluntary national reviews https://www.ifla.org/libraries-in-voluntary-national-reviews/ | Webpage |
| n.d. | Library map of the world: SDG stories https://librarymap.ifla.org/stories | Website |
| n.d. | Powering sustainable development https://www.ifla.org/units/sustainable-development/ | Webpage |
| n.d. | Take action! https://www.ifla.org/take-action/ | Webpage |

EBLIDA

| Year | Title and link | Type |
|------|---|----------------|
| 2019 | A library manifesto for Europe https://eblida.org/publication/position-papers/ | Document |
| 2019 | Implementing Sustainable Development Goals in European libraries https://eblida.org/activity/libraries-un-sdgs-matrix/ | Webpage |
| 2019 | Strategic plan 2019-2022 https://www.eblida.org/Documents/EBLIDA-Strategic-Plan-2019-2022.pdf | Strategic plan |
| 2020 | Press release: Creation of the ELSIA Expert Group https://eblida.org/press-release-creation-of-the-elsia-expert-group/ | Webpage |
| 2020 | Sustainable Development Goals and libraries: First European report https://eblida.org/publications/?_sft_strand=agenda-2030 | Document |
| 2020 | Think the unthinkable: A post Covid-19 European Library Agenda meeting Sustainable Development Goals and funded through the European Structural and Investment Funds (2021-2027) https://eblida.org/wp-content/uploads/attachments/Think_the_unthinkable_a_post_Covid-19_European_Library_Agenda.pdf | Document |
| 2020 | Towards the implementation of SDG indicators in European libraries https://eblida.org/publications/?_sft_strand=agenda-2030 | Document |
| 2021 | EBLIDA activities on Sustainable Development Goals in Europe https://eblida.org/activity/eblida-activities-on-sustainable-development-goals-in-europe/ | Webpage |
| 2022 | Second European report on Sustainable Development Goals and libraries https://eblida.org/publications/?_sft_strand=agenda-2030 | Document |
| 2022 | Strategic plan: 2022-2025 https://eblida.org/publication/eblida-strategic-plan-2022-2025/ | Strategic plan |
| 2023 | Second European report on Sustainable Development Goals and libraries: 2023 update https://eblida.org/publications/?_sft_strand=agenda-2030 | Document |

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| n.d. | ELSIA: Expert group European libraries and Sustainable Development implementation and assessment - SDGs https://eblida.org/expert-group/elsia/ | Webpage |
| n.d. | The EBLIDA SDG European House https://eblida.org/the-eblida-sdg-european-house/ | Webpage |

CILIP

| Year | Title and link | Type |
|------|--|----------------|
| 2015 | International Development Committee: Inquiry on Sustainable Development Goals written evidence submitted by CILIP https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.cilip.org.uk/resource/resmgr/cilip_new_website/research/new_inquiry_sdg_cilip_versi.pdf | Document |
| 2016 | Environmental Audit Committee Sustainable Development Goals in the UK: Submission from the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP) https://www.cilip.org.uk/page/SustainableDevelopmentGoalsConsultation | Document |
| 2016 | Securing the future action plan 2016-2020 https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.cilip.org.uk/resource/resmgr/cilip/research/Equalities/cilip_action_plan_2016_2020.pdf | Strategic plan |
| 2018 | Help put libraries on the map https://www.cilip.org.uk/page/putlibrariesonthemap?&hhsearchterms=%22sustainable+and+development+and+goals%22 | Webpage |
| 2022 | We are CILIP: Information, knowledge, libraries changing lives together https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.cilip.org.uk/resource/resmgr/cilip/campaigns/we_are_cilip/we_are_cilip_strategy_report.pdf | Strategic plan |
| n.d. | Sustainable Development Goals resources https://www.cilip.org.uk/page/SustainableDevelopmentGoalsResources?&hhsearchterms=%22sustainable+and+development+and+goals%22 | Webpage |
| n.d. | Sustainable development goals consultation responses https://www.cilip.org.uk/page/SustainableDevelopmentGoalsConsultation | Webpage |

ALA

| Year | Title and link | Type |
|------|--|----------------|
| 2015 | Resolution on the importance of sustainable libraries https://www.ala.org/aboutala/sites/ala.org.aboutala/files/content/governance/council/council_documents/2015_annual_council_documents/cd_36_sustainable_libraries_resol_final.pdf | Document |
| 2017 | American Library Association strategic directions https://www.ala.org/sites/default/files/aboutala/content/governance/StrategicPlan/Strategic%20Directions%202017_Update.pdf | Strategic plan |
| 2018 | Final report of the ALA special task force on sustainability https://www.ala.org/aboutala/sites/ala.org.aboutala/files/content/governance/ExecutiveBoard/ebd5_4_Task%20Force%20on%20Sustainability_Final%20Report_6.2018.pdf | Document |
| 2019 | Resolution for the adoption of sustainability as a core value of librarianship | Document |

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| | https://www.ala.org/aboutala/sites/ala.org.aboutala/files/content/Resolution%20for%20the%20Adoption%20of%20Sustainability%20as%20a%20Core%20Value%20of%20Librarianship-FINAL.pdf | |
| 2020 | ALA UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals task force https://doi.org/10.23974/ijol.2020.vol5.2.173 | Article |
| 2021 | The role of libraries in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals https://www.ala.org/aboutala/sites/ala.org.aboutala/files/content/iro/iroactivities/LGF_ALALiveConnect_FEB2021%20%283%29.pdf | Document |
| 2021 | The path to transformation: Pivot strategy 2021-2025 https://www.ala.org/aboutala/sites/ala.org.aboutala/files/content/ALA-CD-36-ALA%205-Year-Pivot-Strategy-Update-acc.pdf | Strategic plan |
| 2022 | Leaving no one behind: Marketing sustainable libraries https://repository.ifla.org/handle/123456789/2083 | Document |
| 2022 | Sustainability in libraries: A call to action https://www.ala.org/aboutala/sustainability-committee | Document |
| 2024 | ALA Task Force on United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals https://www.ala.org/aboutala/ala-task-force-united-nations-2030-sustainable-development-goals | Webpage |
| 2024 | Sustainability and libraries: ALA and sustainability https://libguides.ala.org/SustainableLibraries | LibGuide |
| n.d. | What are the SDGs? https://www.ala.org/aboutala/sites/ala.org.aboutala/files/content/iro/iroactivities/SDGs-Fact_Sheet.pdf | Document |
| n.d. | IRC UN Sustainable Development Goals subcommittee https://www.ala.org/aboutala/irc-un-sustainable-development-goals-subcommittee | Webpage |

CFLA

| Year | Title and link | Type |
|------|---|----------------|
| 2019 | Libraries and sustainability – The building of a Canadian Federation https://library.ifla.org/id/eprint/2473/1/264-McColgan-en.pdf | Article |
| 2019 | 2019-2022 Strategic plan https://cfla-fcab.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Strategic-Plan-Website.pdf | Strategic plan |
| 2023 | 2023-2027 Strategic plan https://cfla-fcab.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/CFLA-2023-2027-Strategic-Plan-EN-2.pdf | Strategic plan |

ALIA

| Year | Title and link | Type |
|------|--|----------|
| 2017 | Share your stories with the world: Victorian public libraries and the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/1f8737_95c73fd560074e7b825fe3e0ffa0e38.pdf | Document |
| 2018 | Australian libraries support the Sustainable Development Goals https://read.alia.org.au/australian-libraries-support-sustainable-development-goals | Document |

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|------|---|----------------|
| 2018 | Sustainable Development Goals: Template https://read.alia.org.au/sustainable-development-goals-template-public-libraries | Document |
| 2018 | Workshop: Sustainable Development Goals https://read.alia.org.au/sustainable-development-goals-advocacy-workshops | Presentation |
| 2019 | Strategic plan 2019-2023 https://library.alia.org.au/sites/default/files/documents/alia_strategic_plan_2019-2023.pdf | Strategic plan |
| 2020 | GLAM Peak and the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals https://read.alia.org.au/glam-peak-and-united-nations-sustainable-development-goals-july-2020 | Document |
| 2021 | ALIA Strategic plan 2021-2024 https://read.alia.org.au/alia-strategic-plan-2021-2024 | Strategic plan |
| 2021 | ALIA submission in response to the Australian Government inquiry into the UN Sustainable Development Goals https://read.alia.org.au/alia-submission-response-australian-government-inquiry-un-sustainable-development-goals | Document |
| 2021 | ALIA Sustainable Development Goals roundtable 2021: Report and outcomes https://www.alia.org.au/common/Uploaded%20files/ALIA-Docs/2021/Sustainable%20Development%20Goals%20Roundtable%202021%20report.pdf | Document |
| 2021 | Sustainable Development Goals https://www.alia.org.au/Web/Web/Advocacy/Sustainable%20Development%20Goals.aspx?hkey=4a65cac5-04c1-4be8-b509-d342763f8e2b | Webpage |
| 2021 | Sustainable Development Goals: Stretch targets for Australian libraries 2020-2030 https://read.alia.org.au/sustainable-development-goals-stretch-targets-australian-libraries-2020-2030 | Document |
| 2022 | Greening Libraries report https://read.alia.org.au/greening-libraries-report | Document |
| 2022 | Sustainable Development Goals stretch targets baseline report https://read.alia.org.au/sustainable-development-goals-stretch-targets-baseline-report | Document |
| 2023 | Sustainable Development Goals stretch targets baseline report March 2023 update https://read.alia.org.au/sustainable-development-goals-stretch-targets-baseline-report-march-2023-update | Document |
| 2024 | Strategic plan 2024-2026 https://www.alia.org.au/Web/Web/About-Us/Strategic-Plan.aspx | Strategic plan |
| n.d. | Greening Libraries https://www.alia.org.au/Web/Advocacy/Greening-Libraries.aspx | Webpage |
| n.d. | Think global, act local https://read.alia.org.au/think-global-act-local | Document |

LIANZA

| Year | Title and link | Type |
|-----------|--|----------------|
| 2018 | Strategic plan 2018-2022 https://www.lianza.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/LIANZA-Strategic-Plan-2018-22-web-1.pdf | Strategic plan |
| 2021 | Annual Report 2020-2021 https://www.lianza.org.nz/about/what-we-do/reports/ | Document |
| 2022 | Annual Report 2021-2022 https://www.lianza.org.nz/about/what-we-do/reports/ | Document |
| 2023 | Annual Report 2022-2023 https://www.lianza.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Te-Rau-Herenga-O-Aotearoa-LIANZA-Annual-Report-2022-2023.pdf | Document |
| 2023 | DevNet 2022: The role of libraries and their organisations in achievement of the SDGs https://youtu.be/b_jLYsoobM?si=jeCz6uaj4FFLuX5M | Webinar |
| 2023 | IFLA Asia Pacific SDG webinar https://youtu.be/Op-tgwDJgkl | Webinar |
| 2023 | LIANZA statement on climate action https://www.lianza.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/LIANZA-Statement-on-Climate-Action.pdf | Document |
| 2023 | Strategic plan 2023-2026 https://www.lianza.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/LIANZA-Draft-Strategic-Plan-2023-26.pdf | Strategic plan |
| 2023 | Sustainable Development Goals and Library Associations: Asia/Oceania https://youtu.be/SZb6I7Cn3EE?si=l79Jeqe1fqR5JZmy | Webinar |
| 2017-2023 | Library life – various issues and articles https://www.librariesaotearoa.org.nz/library-life.html | Magazine |

New Zealand - other

| Year | Title, organisation and link | Type |
|------|---|----------|
| 2019 | He waka eke noa towards a better future, together: New Zealand's progress towards the SDGs – 2019 (New Zealand Government) https://www.mfat.govt.nz/assets/Peace-Rights-and-Security/Our-work-with-the-UN/Sustainable-Development-Goals/New-Zealand-Voluntary-National-Review-2019-Final.pdf | Document |
| 2019 | The people's report on the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals: An alternative report for Aotearoa New Zealand (Hui E! Community Aotearoa) https://www.sdg.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Final_PeopleReport-2019-Dec-2019_for-web.pdf | Document |
| 2021 | The Government's preparedness to implement the sustainable development goals (Office of the Auditor-General) https://oag.parliament.nz/2021/sdgs/docs/sustainable-dev-goals.pdf | Document |
| 2022 | Te Tōtara: Capability framework for strengthening a diverse library and information sector workforce (National Library of New Zealand) https://natlib.govt.nz/files/nzlpp/nzlpp-workplace-capability-framework-te-totara.pdf | Document |

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| n.d. | Sustainable Development Goals (New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade) https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/peace-rights-and-security/our-work-with-the-un/sustainable-development-goals | Webpage |
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New Zealand - Universities

| Year | Title and link | Type |
|------|--|------------------------|
| | Auckland University of Technology | |
| 2017 | AUT library roadmap to 2025 https://library.aut.ac.nz/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/169261/AUT-Library-Roadmap-2017-2025-UPDATED-05_05_18.pdf | Library strategic plan |
| 2020 | AUT sustainability roadmap to 2025 https://www.aut.ac.nz/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/218164/Sustainability-Roadmap-to-2025-August-2020-Update-v1-for-client.pdf | Sustainability plan |
| 2020 | Our sustainability plan: A companion document to the AUT sustainability roadmap to 2025 https://www.aut.ac.nz/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/218163/Sustainability-Roadmap-to-2025-Companion-200812.pdf | Sustainability plan |
| 2020 | AUT sustainability report 2020 https://www.aut.ac.nz/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/572449/AUT-Sustainability-Report-2020-v9.pdf | Document |
| 2021 | AUT sustainability report 2021 https://www.aut.ac.nz/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/677643/Final-AUT-Sustainability-Report-2021-v7.pdf | Document |
| 2022 | AUT sustainability report 2022 https://www.aut.ac.nz/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/809188/AUT-Sustainability-Report-2022-Web.pdf | Document |
| | Lincoln University | |
| n.d. | Sustainability plan https://www.lincoln.ac.nz/assets/Publications/LIN3556-Sustainability-Plan.pdf | Sustainability plan |
| 2022 | Sustainability policy https://www.lincoln.ac.nz/assets/PoliciesAndProcedures/Sustainability-Policy-v2.pdf | Sustainability plan |
| 2021 | SDG report 2021 https://www.lincoln.ac.nz/assets/Sustainability/Lincoln-University-SDG-Report-FINAL-09112022docx-2.pdf | Document |
| 2022 | Sustainable Development Goals report 2022 https://www.lincoln.ac.nz/assets/Sustainability/SDG-Report-2022-FINAL.pdf | Document |
| | Massey University | |
| 2023 | Our strategic directions for 2023-2027 https://www.massey.ac.nz/study/library/about-masseys-library/values-strategic-direction-and-publications/ | Library strategic plan |
| 2018 | Sustainability framework 2018-2020 https://www.massey.ac.nz/about/sustainability-at-massey/sustainability-strategies-and-plans/#SustainabilityFramework | Sustainability plan |
| n.d. | Sustainable Development Goals: Massey's SDG contribution | Webpage |

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| | https://www.massey.ac.nz/about/sustainability-at-massey/sustainable-development-goals/ | |
| | University of Auckland | |
| 2017 | Libraries and Learning Services Te Tumu Herenga: Vision and strategy 2017-2021 https://www.library.auckland.ac.nz/sites/public/files/documents/lls-vision-strategy-2017-2021.pdf | Library strategic plan |
| n.d. | Te rautaki aronga toitū: Sustainability strategy https://www.auckland.ac.nz/assets/about-us/the-university/official-publications/strategies/sustainability-strategy-20221116.pdf | Sustainability plan |
| 2021 | Sustainability policy https://www.auckland.ac.nz/en/about-us/about-the-university/policy-hub/strategic-engagement/sustainability-policy.html | Sustainability plan |
| 2019 | The University of Auckland: Sustainability report 2019 https://www.auckland.ac.nz/assets/about-us/the-university/sustainability-and-environment/sustainability-development-goals/SDG%20Booklet%20Web.pdf | Document |
| 2020 | Answering the world's call: The University of Auckland SDG report 2020 https://www.auckland.ac.nz/assets/about-us/the-university/sustainability-and-environment/sustainability-development-goals/SDG%20Report%202020.pdf | Document |
| 2021 | A heart in the Pacific with a global outlook: The University of Auckland SDG report 2021 https://www.auckland.ac.nz/assets/about-us/the-university/sustainability-and-environment/sustainability-development-goals/SDG%20Report%202021.pdf | Document |
| 2022 | Sustainable Development Goals report 2022 https://www.auckland.ac.nz/assets/about-us/the-university/sustainability-and-environment/sustainability-development-goals/SDGReport_2022.pdf | Document |
| 2023 | Sustainable Development Goals report 2023 https://www.auckland.ac.nz/assets/about-us/the-university/sustainability-and-environment/sustainability-development-goals/SDG%20Report%202023_V3.pdf | Document |
| | University of Canterbury | |
| 2022 | Sustainability plan 2022-2023 https://www.canterbury.ac.nz/content/dam/uoc-main-site/documents/pdfs/plans/Sustainability-Plan-2022-2030-uc.pdf.coredownload.pdf | Sustainability plan |
| 2022 | Sustainability policy https://www.canterbury.ac.nz/content/dam/uoc-main-site/documents/pdfs/b-policies/Sustainability-Policy-v3.01-uc.pdf.coredownload.pdf | Sustainability plan |
| 2020 | Sustainable Development Goals 2020 update https://www.canterbury.ac.nz/content/dam/uoc-main-site/documents/pdfs/reports/Sustainable-Development-Goals-2020.pdf.coredownload.pdf | Document |
| 2021 | Sustainable Development Goals 2021 update https://www.canterbury.ac.nz/content/dam/uoc-main-site/documents/pdfs/reports/Sustainability-Development-Goals-2021.pdf.coredownload.pdf | Document |

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| 2022 | Sustainable Development Goals 2022 update https://www.canterbury.ac.nz/content/dam/uoc-main-site/documents/pdfs/reports/2022-SDG-Update.pdf.coredownload.pdf | Document |
| n.d. | UC's commitment to the SDGs https://www.canterbury.ac.nz/life/sustainability/sustainability-office/ucs-commitment-to-sdgs | Webpage |
| | University of Otago | |
| 2023 | University of Otago Library strategy 2023-2028 https://www.otago.ac.nz/_data/assets/pdf_file/0031/508459/University-of-Otago-Library-Strategy-2023-2028.pdf | Library strategic plan |
| 2022 | Ti kōuka: The sustainability strategic framework 2022-2030 https://www.otago.ac.nz/_data/assets/pdf_file/0022/307462/download-ti-kouka-the-sustainability-strategic-framework-2022-2030-0245882.pdf | Sustainability plan |
| n.d. | Supporting the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) https://www.otago.ac.nz/sustainability/doing/sdg | Webpage |
| | University of Waikato | |
| 2022 | Library plan 2022-2025 https://www.waikato.ac.nz/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/873615/Library-Plan-one-page-2022-2025.pdf | Library strategic plan |
| 2022 | Sustainability plan 2022-2026 https://www.waikato.ac.nz/about/governance/strategic-planning/sustainability-plan/Sustainability-Plan-2022-2026.pdf | Sustainability plan |
| 2021 | Whaioranga taiao whaioranga tangata: Our work towards the Sustainable Development Goals in 2021 https://www.waikato.ac.nz/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/856130/Sustainability-Report-2021.pdf | Document |
| 2022 | Whaioranga taiao whaioranga tangata: Our steps towards a fairer, kinder, more sustainable world in 2022 https://www.waikato.ac.nz/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/983458/Whaioranga-Taiao-Whaioranga-Tangata_Screen-R.pdf | Document |
| n.d. | Sustainability: Our progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals https://www.waikato.ac.nz/about/sustainability/#sdg-progress | Webpage |
| | Victoria University of Wellington | |
| 2024 | Te mahere whai tikanga a te pātaka kōrero: Library strategy map priorities 2024 https://www.wgtn.ac.nz/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/2189453/Library-Strategy-2024.pdf | Library strategic plan |
| 2023 | Te parahia: Sustainability outcomes framework 2023-2030 https://www.wgtn.ac.nz/sustainability/about-us/sustainability-outcomes-framework/Te-Parahia-sustainability-outcomes-framework.pdf | Sustainability plan |
| 2022 | 2022 Sustainability report https://www.wgtn.ac.nz/sustainability/about-us/Sustainability-annual-report-2022.pdf | Document |
| n.d. | UN Sustainable Development Goals https://www.wgtn.ac.nz/sustainability/un-sustainable-development-goals | Webpage |