

Digital Library News

World Digital Libraries 10(2): 151–153 (2017)

IFLA Statement on Digital Literacy (18 August 2017)

Recommendations

To ensure that the potential of digital technologies is realised for all, and make a full contribution to equality and development, digital literacy needs to receive the necessary recognition and investment. As highlighted, while many citizens will find ways to develop digital literacy on their own, many others require the support of institutions such as libraries.

Libraries of course will have to take steps. They should position digital literacy as a core service of libraries, with adequate planning, budget and staff [16]. For librarians to be able to teach digital literacy, they may need training themselves [17]. It may be necessary to form partnerships with external actors in order to provide best service to users.

IFLA therefore makes the following recommendations.

National and local governments should:

- Promote digital literacy as a right, and as an enabler of personal, social and economic development, and for civic participation.
- Ensure that libraries are able—legally, practically (including in terms of their own skills)—to train users in digital literacy, and are at the heart of government strategies in the field [18].

- Support libraries in the implementation of spaces for digital literacy and innovation to help citizens being producers/creators as well as consumers.
- Refrain from censorship or discriminatory, unnecessary or disproportionate blocking of content online [19].
- Strive to achieve objectives for basic literacy included in the UN's 2030 agenda.

Schools should

- Draw on the unique expertise of school libraries and librarians, as well form partnerships with other libraries, to develop key digital literacy skills among students and to assist educators in integrating digital literacy skills in curricula.

Higher education institutions should

- Apply the skills and knowledge of librarians, in academic libraries and embedded in learning management systems, to improve digital literacy among students and researchers

Economic sectors should

- Promote digital literacy in their workplaces and communities, in partnership with libraries and business librarians, when possible.

References

- [16] Demers, J. (2016). Make New Friends, But Keep the Old: Introducing Digital Innovation Services at the Toronto Public Library. IFLA WLIC 2016, Columbus, OH, and Fortier, A. and Burkell, J. (2015) Hidden Online Surveillance: What Librarians Should know to protect Their Own Privacy and that of their Patrons, *Information Technology & Libraries*, 34(3), 59–72, <https://ejournals.bc.edu/ojs/index.php/ital/article/view/5495>, argue that this is a real possibility for libraries
- [17] Martzoukou, Konstantina & Elliott, Joanneke (2016). The development of digital literacy and inclusion skills of public librarians. *Communications in Information Literacy* 10(1).
- Talavera-Ibarra, A M, De la Vega, A. (2015). Opportunity for all. Three social inclusion experiences in Peru's public libraries. IFLA WLIC Cape Town.
- [18] See for example the UN Digital Strategy (2017), which commits to 'develop the role of libraries in improving digital inclusion to make them the 'go-to' provider of digital access, training and support for local communities' <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-digital-strategy/2-digital-skills-and-inclusion-giving-everyone-access-to-the-digital-skills-they-need>
- [19] See also the IFLA Statement, No Development Without Access to Information: We Need Alternatives to Internet Shutdowns, forthcoming.
- Statements, FAIFE (Committee on Freedom of Access to Information and Freedom of Expression), Access to knowledge, Digital divide, Information literacy, Literacy, digital literacy. *Last update: 22 August 2017*

EPL sees Explosion of Digital Content and e-Usage

The Edmonton Public Library is an area that has seen a huge amount of growth in recent years is EPL's digital collection, because every three seconds, someone is borrowing something. In 2014, the library's digital catalogues grew by 69 per cent, to a total of 9.3 million items.

Some of the leading contributions of Edmonton Public Library are:

- The launch of Makerspace
- Edmonton Public Library expands program helping homeless

"The growth of e-Resources has taken off very specifically in the last number of years," said Sharon Karr, with EPL's Collections Management and Access, "both based on the demand from our customers and also because we've increased our collections so enormously."

Digital resources available to members include e-Books, e-Magazines, e-Newspapers, e-Music, e-Movies and TV, and e-Learning courses. According to them there was a 30 per cent increase in e-Books ... 50 per cent in e-Audiobooks, 30 per cent in e-Magazines, and e-Newspapers. Last year, a whopping 10.4 million items—digital and traditional—were borrowed. Of those, e-Usage accounted for 1.6 million. Karr expects the digital collections. And, while there's been a surge in the popularity and acquisition of digital content, traditional use is still strong. In fact, there were more in-person library visits in 2014 (5.3 million) than there were in 2013 (5.2 million). E-Usage also went up by about 61 per cent over the same time period.

With the launch of makerspace Edmonton Public Library, there were 8.8 million virtual visits to the library in 2014.

Source: <https://globalnews.ca/news/2010868/epl-sees-explosion-of-digital-content-and-e-usage/>

Digital Readers on the Shelves at North Van Library

North Shore bookworms can now try out the new digital readers available at the North Vancouver City Library. Lenders can take out one of 10 Kobo eReaders, loaded with The Globe and Mail's current fiction and non-fiction bestselling books, Canadian award winners, and a number of classics. The library is the first in Canada to stock the Kobos, sold by Chapters/Indigo, said Christopher Koth, electronic services librarian.

The West Vancouver Library started lending five Kindles, Amazon's version of the digital reader. More than 40 titles are loaded on to each device, including authors, such as Linden MacIntyre, Elizabeth Gilbert, Stieg Larsson, Anthony Bourdain, and Malcolm Gladwell.

Source: <https://globalnews.ca/news/96677/digital-readers-on-the-shelves-at-north-van-library/>

Saskatoon Public Library adding digital tools to shelves

Saskatoon Public Library (SPL) may be old but it announced that it's still relevant in an increasingly digital world. The mobile apps, hoopla digital and 3M Cloud Library have

been added to its website's shelves and are now available for free to SPL cardholders. "With the growing popularity of digital content and mobile apps, we're focused on making the library accessible when and where people want it," says Ann-Marie Mathieu, deputy director of SPL. Some of the major achievements are:

- One library card making its way to all Saskatoon libraries
- 3D-printing technology coming to Toronto Public Library

Infact, hoopla digital provides online access to thousands of movies, television shows, videos, and audiobooks from major Hollywood studios and recording companies. These titles are available for instant streaming or temporary download to smartphones, tablets, computers, and Apple TV. 3M Cloud Library is an eLibrary service that offers access to a growing collection of more than 600 eBooks anytime, anywhere with an internet connection. The best part, digital items automatically return themselves so there are no late fees.

Source: <https://globalnews.ca/news/1243841/saskatoon-public-library-adding-digital-tools-to-shelves/>