

Summary



The U.N. Agenda 2030 – a Call to Action! / International Initiatives and Model Projects in the Library Sector (Petra Hauke)

(pp. 682 – 685)

The United Nation's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was signed in September 2015 by all member states at a U.N. summit meeting. At its core are 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs), which encompass three dimensions of sustainability: society, economy and environment. The agenda aims to achieve no less than a transformation of the world into one in which each individual will act in an ecologically compatible, socially just and economically productive manner.

In 2016 the international library association IFLA incorporated the 2030 Agenda into its International Advocacy Programme (IAP) to thereby demonstrate the important role that libraries play in reaching these goals. Libraries have long recognized their responsibility in matters of environmental protection, as can be seen in the concept of the »green library«, which dates back to the 1970s. This effort now goes well beyond ecological buildings by taking an active role in meeting the challenges facing societies today -- particularly in terms of sustainability.

»The wide impact libraries have as cultural and educational institutions makes them important agents for achieving the sustainability goals of the federal government as well as the U.N.'s Agenda 2030 for sustainable development«, according to the German Association of Libraries (dbv) in its »Report on the State of Libraries 2018/2019«, while also urging that »the capability of libraries be used to help achieve the goals of sustainability.« Moreover the report calls on the national, state and municipal authorities to integrate libraries into its strategies. But libraries can and must not wait any longer. Pro-active initiatives at all levels are urgently called for.

Knowledge on Wheels / Duisburg City Library's New Bookmobile (André Behrendt)

(pp. 704 – 707)

The City Library of Duisburg (North Rhine-Westphalia) has a new bookmobile. Built by the Finnish company Kiitokori to the exact specifications of the library, it has been well-received by visitors, both young and old.

For six decades the city library has maintained a system of mobile library services. Today the mobile library serves around 500,000 people within an area of over 232 square kilometers (90 square miles). In 1958 the first bookmobile, with a total stock of 6,900 items – including 3000 shelved on the bus – took up its rounds and made 12 scheduled stops on a weekly basis within the city limits of Duisburg.

Even in the age of the internet and digital media – when some would question whether a bookmobile is appropriate and relevant – we can unequivocally maintain that the new bookmobile is very much appreciated. From a technical point of view it is in no way inferior to a stationary library and offers many citizens a valuable and much-used service in a location near to their residences. In particular, class visits from kindergartens and schools in socially depressed neighbourhoods have demonstrated that many children first become acquainted with a library through the bookmobile. Still today these visits serve to facilitate the promotion of language and reading. The new bookmobile is, moreover, an excellent means for promoting the whole library system, not only within the city, but also at education fairs and other public events, such as on International Children's Day or during outdoor block parties in different quarters of the city.

»Salto Wortale« – The Children's Literature Festival in Hanover / Daily Life as Adventure: How reading stories can have an impact on the everyday life of children (Laura Kobsch)

(pp. 708 – 713)

Reading promotion is an on-going concern within the infrastructure of Germany's educational landscape. One finds a wide array of school-based and extracurricular programmes designed to make reading attractive to children and young adults, and to help develop reading skills. The children's literature festival in Hanover (Lower Saxony) with the name Salto Wortale, has found yet another method to engage in reading promotion.

In a project unique to this day in Germany, Salto Wortale endeavors to connect words being read and the real world of children and young adults by building a bridge between these components. Its primary aim is for children who take part in the festival to have the experience of understanding what they are reading. Through seemingly unusual workshops – as compared with classical reading promotion activities – children's interest in the stories they are reading or listening to is awakened and strengthened. Within the fantasy-inspiring setting of a circus tent 900 children between the ages of eight and eleven from all types of schools in Hanover have been not only supported in reading skills and reading motivation, but also encouraged to associate reading with fun. By combining the content of the readings with child-oriented workshops of many different types, students discover a fully new gateway to reading. For each day of the three-day festival in May 2018 there was a new motto for the readings and workshops. Family ties, fear and bravery, and the topic of time were the three main aspects they explored.

Salto Wortale can be seen as a successful field experiment. The majority of participants had lots of fun on each day of the festival – and feedback has been quite positive.

Translated by Martha Baker