

MAPPING THE STATUS OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES OF ASIAN COUNTRIES IN CONTEXT OF THE AIMS OF UNITED NATIONS' SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS: AN ANALYSIS OF IFLA'S LIBRARY MAP OF THE WORLD

Shreya Banerjee*

Abstract *Purpose: The purpose of this paper is to present the status of Public Libraries in Asian Countries as per the data available on IFLA's Library Map of the World. The study aims to identify the key features on which IFLA is focusing to collect data regarding the goals of Sustainable Development Goals. The study also aims to identify and highlight the level of participation of the Asian countries enumerating the performance of the countries according to the United Nation's Human Development Index (HDI) rankings.*

Methodology: The study is based on the data available on the portal of IFLA's Library Map of the World. The data is harvested from the 'comma separated values' file available on the portal. Asian countries are selected for the study in order to map the status of the public libraries. However, other type of library's data is available but they are excluded as per the scope of the study.

Findings: The study shows that the performance of public libraries of higher Human Development Index (HDI) rankings among Asian countries is much higher than the countries with least HDI. Countries of higher rank of HDI have huge number of users and services offered by them are much utilized compared to the lower ranked Asian nations. India, having the largest number of public libraries, somehow does not have good numbers in other categories.

Social Implication: The aim of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is to include every sector of the society; hence the theme of this paper is focused to highlight the importance of public libraries which work for the betterment of the society. As IFLA has adopted all the 17 goals of Sustainable Development Goals by UN, its implementation in public libraries is of utmost importance.

Originality: This is one-of-a-kind study to promote the adoption of Sustainable Development Goals by IFLA which are recommended by UN. The study will provide a new vision to all the Asian countries participating to achieve the goal of IFLA in order to make their libraries better.

Keywords: *Sustainable Development Goals, IFLA, United Nations, Public Libraries, Library Map of the World*

INTRODUCTION

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) form a global blueprint for a more equitable and sustainable future. Public libraries play a crucial role in disseminating information and empowering communities to achieve these goals. However, the integration and utilization of SDG data in libraries across Asia remains uncharted territory. This research paper delves into this critical gap by analyzing and comparing the

practices of SDG data acquisition, curation, and application in public libraries across diverse Asian countries.

There are two parts of this paper, one is to highlight the status of Public Libraries of Asian countries and also to promote the IFLA's Library Map of the World and secondly, to explore how IFLA has adopted the 17 goals of Sustainable Development by United Nations. On September 2015, United Nations with 193 member countries has decided to expand its earlier development goals i.e. Millennium Development

* Research Scholar, Department of Library & Information Science, BHU, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, India.
Email: shreyabanerjee88@gmail.com

Goals, which was a huge success and developed a new set of 17 Goals which is called Sustainable Development Goals Agenda 2030. These 17 Goals are designed to include one and all on this planet to work towards our future. These goals cover 3 broader areas of development, Social, Economical and Environmental goals.

THE DEVELOPMENT KIT OF THE MILLENNIUM: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Every sector's progress is now anticipated to be sustainable, from climate change conferences to go green movement, everything is now clubbed into the agenda of United Nation's umbrella which is the Sustainable Development Goals. The aim is to tackle worldwide challenges encompassing issues such as poverty, hunger, inequality, climate change, and sustainable development (United Nations [UN], 2015). Although there is a conceptual difference between "sustainability" and "sustainable development", according to library researchers Gaspar L. Pinto and Paula Ochoa, these concepts are often used interchangeably, since they "both entail the same parameters and implications in terms of policy and strategies" (Pinto & Ochoa, 2018).

The 17 goals are accompanied by several subgoals, each with specific targets to gauge progress. Subgoal 16.10, designed to protect and promote public access to information, was influenced by the Lyon Declaration (Garrido & Wyber, 2019). Lyon Declaration on Access to Information and Development states that "The United Nations is negotiating a new development agenda to succeed the Millennium Development Goals. The agenda will guide all countries on approaches to improving people's lives, and outline a new set of goals to be reached during the period 2016-2030. We, the undersigned, believe that increasing access to information and knowledge across society, assisted by the availability of information and communications technologies (ICTs), supports sustainable development and improves people's lives. We therefore call upon the Member States of the United Nations to make an international commitment to use the post-2015 development agenda to ensure that everyone has access to, and is able to understand, use and share the information that is necessary to promote sustainable development and democratic societies."

Nowadays, a growth in literature is acknowledged in context of UN 2030 agenda comprising of fields like social work, education, health, inclusive development, a less recognized sector of libraries and its network is also of a pivotal

capacity which will positively affect the implementation of SDG in every sector. "Worldwide, libraries and librarians have established task forces, networks and partnerships to work proactively for sustainable development and change" (Kraljevic & Lukacic, 2015). The 17 SDGs are listed below along with the sub-goals which are adopted and referred by IFLA to explain their applicability in libraries worldwide.

Goal 1 End Poverty in All Its Forms Everywhere

1.4 By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance.

Goal 2 End Hunger, Achieve Food Security and Improved Nutrition and Promote Sustainable Agriculture

2.c Adopt measures to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets and their derivatives and facilitate timely access to market information, including on food reserves, in order to help limit extreme food price volatility.

Goal 3 Ensure Healthy Lives and Promote Well-Being for All at All Age

3.7 By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programs.

Goal 4 Ensure Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education and Promote Lifelong Learning Opportunities for All

4.4 By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship.

4.6 By 2030, ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy.

Goal 5 Achieve Gender Equality and Empower All Women and Girls

5.b Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women.

Goal 6 Ensure Availability and Sustainable Management of Water and Sanitation for All

6.b Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management.

Goal 7 Ensure Access to Affordable, Reliable, Sustainable and Modern Energy for All

7.1 By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services.

Goal 8 Promote Sustained, Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth, Full and Productive Employment and Decent Work for All

8.5 By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.

8.6 By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training.

Goal 9 Build Resilient Infrastructure, Promote Sustainable Industrialization and Foster Innovation

9.c Significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020.

9.5 Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors in all countries, in particular developing countries, including, by 2030, encouraging

innovation and substantially increasing the number of research and development workers per 1 million people and public and private research and development spending.

Goal 10 Reduce Inequality Within and Among Countries

10.7 Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.

Goal 11 Make Cities and Human Settlements Inclusive, Safe, Resilient and Sustainable

11.4 Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage.

11.7 By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities.

11.b By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels.

Goal 12 Ensure Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns

12.6 Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle.

12.8 By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature.

Goal 13 Ensure Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns

13.3 Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning.

Goal 14 Conserve and Sustainably Use the Oceans, Seas and Marine Resources for Sustainable Development

14.5 By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information.

Goal 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

15.5 Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species.

Goal 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” Goal 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.

Goal 17 Strengthen the Means of Implementation and Revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

17.8 Fully operationalize the technology bank and science, technology and innovation capacity-building mechanism for least developed countries by 2017 and enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology.

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS (IFLA)

IFLA’s adoption of the United Nations 2030 Agenda, known as “Transforming our world,” and commitment to

the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) reflects an increasing emphasis on the role of libraries and librarians in fostering sustainability and sustainable development. According to former IFLA president Gloria Perez-Salmeron, libraries are regarded as catalysts for change (Hauke, 2018). Through their “Global Vision” strategy, IFLA urges libraries and librarians to actively address and instigate essential changes in response to global challenges such as climate change, poverty, hunger, and gender equality (Hauke, 2018). This call to action is further emphasized in the theme for the 2021 IFLA World Library and Information Congress: “Let’s work together for the future” (International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions [IFLA], 2021).

The IFLA (2020b) asserts that access to information is crucial for the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In 2003, the IFLA called for ‘libraries for lifelong literacy’ (IFLA, 2016). Consistent with this perspective, libraries not only serve as crucial partners for governments but are actively contributing to the progress towards achieving all 17 SDGs. Their primary function revolves around providing free access to information, leveraging advancements in digital technology, and fostering digital inclusion through access to ICTs, Internet connectivity, and skills. Additionally, they champion innovation, creativity, and the dissemination of global knowledge for future generations (IFLA, 2019). The United Nations’ 2030 SDGs explicitly and implicitly acknowledge the role of information in social and economic development, aligning with the fundamental human need for information (Wand, 2016).

Additionally, the IFLA (2017) introduced a toolkit with the purpose of integrating libraries into formal national and regional development plans, thereby activating their role in contributing to the UN 2030 Agenda. This toolkit has enabled libraries in numerous countries to engage with their governments, establishing partnerships to advance development priorities. Moreover, the toolkit emphasizes that excluding access to information and libraries from national development plans results in governments missing out on cost-effective and readily available information platforms. These platforms are capable of offering public access to information and skills. Libraries play a valuable role in achieving health, education, economic, and cultural objectives, and they advocate to governments for the allocation of adequate resources to deliver high-quality library programs and services.

The IFLA (2020a) has elucidated the significance of libraries in advancing universal literacy, enhancing comprehension of information needs, and safeguarding culture and heritage, among other aspects. It is crucial not to overlook the role of the library and information science profession as a vital collaborator and proactive contributor (Pinto & Ochoa, 2017).

PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Public libraries go beyond being mere instruments for implementing the SDGs; they serve as dependable mechanisms that support the achievement of these goals. With 320,000 public libraries globally, alongside over one million academic, research, school, national, parliamentary, and special libraries, they constitute established and trusted networks that can be harnessed to fulfill the SDGs (Audunson et al., 2019). Public libraries are community spaces that provide free access to information and knowledge, making them valuable resources for promoting sustainable development. They serve as hubs for learning, innovation, and collaboration, and can play a significant role in promoting awareness and understanding of the SDGs (Panda & Das, 2022).

Public libraries have an extensive history of championing social responsibility. As indicated by Opara et al. (2021), public libraries stand as crucial institutions dedicated to social responsibility. They furnish an array of resources and services that aid individuals and organizations in accomplishing their social responsibility objectives. Public libraries are integral components of infrastructure, serving as key elements of the essential 'social infrastructure' (Klinenberg, 2018a). They contribute to the foundational aspects of physical spaces that facilitate social participation, creating environments where social ties are established through accessible and robust social infrastructures. For instance, these libraries offer information access on topics like environmental sustainability, social justice, and human rights, enabling individuals and organizations to make informed decisions about their actions. Additionally, they provide meeting spaces and resources for community groups and organizations actively working toward their social responsibility goals.

Devine and Appleton (2023) proposed that public libraries have the capability to arrange events centered around Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including activities such as book clubs, film screenings, and public lectures. These gatherings offer communities the chance to understand SDGs, exchange information, and engage in discussions about strategies for fostering sustainable development.

Public libraries can drive development for a sustainable, inclusive and healthy future for all people (Kosciejew, 2020). In connection with this, Uzuegbu (2019) highlights that rural residents who underwent information literacy programs demonstrated a greater contribution to achieving sustainable development targets compared to those who received information solely through existing information communication systems. The provision of information literacy appeared to influence their behavior positively. Library staff play a pivotal role in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). For example, Igbinovia and

Osuchukwu (2018) argue that the knowledge-sharing behavior of library staff regarding SDG-related information can effectively contribute to the realization of the SDGs. Additionally, Wand (2016) discovered a significant correlation in a sample of Middle Eastern and North African countries between access to information centers and socio-economic development.

Dadlani (2016) observes that public libraries play a part in advancing social justice through facilitating access to information and resources for marginalized populations. For instance, they organize community forums and discussions covering subjects like environmental sustainability, social justice, and community development. Public libraries have the potential to collaborate with community groups and organizations to create programs and initiatives aimed at addressing issues related to social responsibility.

Libraries worldwide cater to their communities by granting access to information through diverse resources that address their informational requirements. Ojiambo and Kasalu (2015) posit that academic libraries, as part of the educational environment, deliver a spectrum of information services. They further assert that special libraries play a crucial role in providing information aligned with their organization's vision and mission to assist decision-makers in making informed choices. According to IFLA (2019), libraries contribute to the realization of all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by offering a broad array of information services. For instance, they foster literacy, innovation, and creativity, provide free access to information, and cater to the specific needs of local communities.

Furthermore, (Onah et al., 2015) assert that access to information within information agencies, particularly libraries, is indispensable for achieving all the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In accordance with this perspective, (Abdullahi & Abdullahi, 2017) emphasize the crucial role that libraries play in national development, underscoring their national responsibilities in delivering information services to contribute to the realization of the SDGs.

THE ROLE OF LIBRARIES IN PROMOTING THE SDGS

Public libraries in Asian countries can play a pivotal role in the implementation of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as endorsed by the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA). Here are several key roles that these libraries can undertake:

- *Information Dissemination and Awareness:* Public libraries can serve as information hubs, disseminating knowledge about the SDGs to the local communities.

They can organize workshops, seminars, and awareness campaigns to educate the public about the goals and their significance.

- *Access to Resources:* Public libraries are well-positioned to provide access to a wide range of resources related to sustainable development. This includes books, articles, documentaries, and online resources that can help individuals and community groups understand and contribute to the SDGs.
- *Community Engagement:* Libraries can act as community centers, fostering engagement and collaboration among community members. They can organize events, discussion forums, and collaborative projects that align with specific SDGs, encouraging active participation and involvement.
- *Local Adaptation of Global Goals:* Public libraries can contextualize the global SDGs to address local challenges and priorities. By tailoring programs and initiatives to the specific needs of their communities, libraries can ensure a more effective and relevant contribution to sustainable development.
- *Partnerships with Stakeholders:* Collaboration with local governments, NGOs, educational institutions, and other stakeholders is crucial. Public libraries can forge partnerships to jointly work towards achieving SDGs, leveraging combined resources and expertise.
- *Digital Literacy and Technology Access:* Ensuring access to information and communication technologies is essential. Public libraries can promote digital literacy and provide access to technology, enabling communities to leverage digital resources for sustainable development.
- *Monitoring and Reporting:* Libraries can actively contribute to the monitoring and reporting of progress related to SDGs. They can collect and disseminate data, share success stories, and collaborate with relevant agencies to contribute to the overall assessment of sustainable development efforts.
- *Advocacy and Policy Influence:* Public libraries can advocate for the incorporation of sustainable development principles in local policies and initiatives. By engaging with policymakers, they can influence decisions that align with SDGs and contribute to the overall development agenda.

By embracing these roles, public libraries in Asian countries can become dynamic agents of change, actively supporting the implementation of the SDGs and fostering sustainable development within their communities.

IFLA'S TAKE ON WHY AND HOW TO INCLUDE LIBRARIES IN SDGS

Objectives of IFLA ALP (Action for Development through Libraries Program):

- To strengthen the ability of the library and information sector to advocate for equitable access to information and resilient, sustainable library communities.
- To Find out if your country has already started working on national development plans.
- To Find out which government departments or ministries are responsible.
- To Organize meetings and take part in open consultations.

Libraries possess the potential to collaborate with governments and other entities in executing nationwide strategies and initiatives, ensuring inclusivity for all. Their provision of information forms the foundation of the entire UN 2030 Agenda, supporting not just poverty alleviation but also sustainable agriculture, quality education, healthcare, and all other Goals. Governments find in libraries an established, cost-efficient, and influential ally in combating poverty, fostering economic growth, and facilitating universal education.

Moreover, libraries can disseminate information about the SDGs and national development priorities within their communities and globally, linking individuals to additional online resources related to these Goals. Those designated as UN Depository Libraries and UN Information Centers worldwide play a pivotal role in disseminating UN-related information and research, while also gathering feedback crucial for local and national policymakers in their pursuit of achieving these Goals.

DATA OF LIBRARY MAP OF THE WORLD BY IFLA

The IFLA Library Map of the World is a robust resource offering essential data on libraries worldwide, allowing comparisons across regions. It covers various library types and initial performance measures like library count, internet access, staff, users, and loans.

It serves both as an informative platform and advocacy tool, spotlighting libraries' role in providing free information access and showcasing their contributions to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. The project is a collaborative endeavor involving contributions from global library associations, national libraries, and support

organizations, aiming to establish dependable global library statistics. The study is focused on the public libraries so the data related to public library is harvested and analyzed further.

The Library Map of the World aims to collect the most recent data from existing sources, if and where available, and from as many countries as possible, and covering all types of libraries:

- National libraries
- Academic libraries
- Public libraries
- Community libraries
- School libraries
- Other libraries

The initial set of performance metrics is the same for all types of libraries:

- Number of libraries (library service points)
- Number of libraries (library service points) providing internet access
- Number of full-time equivalent (FTE) staff
- Number of volunteers (headcount)
- Number of registered users
- Number of visitors
- Number of loans and downloads

IFLA is collaborating with a designated data partner (which could be a national library association, national library, or other institution) in each country globally to connect and collect compiled national-level data. The objective of Country Profiles is to offer the library community, stakeholders, and users a convenient means of accessing information regarding the library setup in a chosen country. The structure of the Library Map of the World is as follows:

Libraries: This section mentions number of libraries in the library category, like public, academic, etc.

Internet Access: How many libraries have internet access for daily work or for services to the members.

Staff: Full-time equivalent (FTE) staff encompass all paid library employees, comprising professionals, qualified personnel, project members, and assistants. This category excludes other staff involved in security or domestic tasks (such as cleaners, porters, caretakers, and catering staff), as well as volunteers.

Volunteers: Those who want to work voluntarily without any monetary gain for data collection for the promotion of SDGs.

Users: A registered user refers to an individual or organization enlisted with a library to access its collection

and services, whether within the library premises or remotely. Registration can occur either by personal request or automatically upon enrollment in the respective institutions.

Visits: Daily footfall of visitors in the library, Physical visit is a person (individual) entering the library premises.

Loans Books: A physical loan denotes the direct borrowing or transfer of an item in its tangible form. Physical loans, such as books, involve borrowing items that are non-electronic in nature.

Loans Documents: A physical loan refers to the direct lending or transfer of an item in its physical state. In the case of physical loans (documents on a physical carrier), it involves borrowing electronic documents stored on a physical medium.

Loans e-Books: An electronic loan involves sending an electronic document to a user for a specific duration or downloading a content unit from a library-provided online service or another internet platform. An eBook refers to a non-serial digital document, whether licensed or not, where searchable text predominates, resembling a print book (monograph). eBooks can be borrowed by users either on portable devices (eBook readers) or by transferring the content to the user's PC or another device for a limited duration.

Loans Audio Books: An electronic loan involves sending an electronic document to a user for a specific duration or downloading a content unit from a library-provided online service or another internet platform. An audiobook (or talking book) refers to a sound recording of readings from a book, magazine, or newspaper, primarily tailored for visually impaired individuals. Audiobooks can be borrowed by users either through a physical medium or another device, or by transmitting the content to the user's PC or another device for a limited duration.

Loans Downloads: An electronic loan involves sending an electronic document to a user for a specific duration or downloading a content unit from a library-provided online service or another internet platform. A download refers to a content unit that is successfully obtained from a library-provided online service or another internet service (for instance, a database, electronic serial, or digital document).

There are 34 countries included in this study which are part of the IFLA Library Map of the World. These countries are listed as per their ranking according to the Human Development Index (HDI) report of the United Nations for the year 2021. The Human Development Index (HDI) is a comprehensive measure that assesses a country's progress in key dimensions of human well-being. Introduced by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the HDI considers factors such as life expectancy, education, and

income to provide a nuanced understanding of a nation's development status. As the global community strives to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the HDI plays a crucial role in monitoring and implementing these ambitious objectives.

The HDI goes beyond economic indicators, recognizing that true development encompasses more than just financial prosperity. Despite the importance of financial development, increased trade and investment, and technological progress, development initiatives tend to prioritize a broader impact on the population rather than merely the economic growth of a nation or state as a whole (Atkinson et al., 2016). This holistic approach aligns with the broader vision of the SDGs, which aim to address not only economic disparities but also social and environmental challenges.

In the context of the SDGs, the HDI serves as an invaluable tool for policymakers and international organizations. The idea of human development has wide acknowledgment among academicians, analysts, organizers, decision makers

and is similarly acknowledged among developing and developed nations (Madan, 2012). It provides a baseline for understanding a country's development trajectory and helps identify areas that require targeted interventions. Countries with low HDI scores are often those facing challenges related to health, education, and income inequality – all of which are central themes in the SDGs.

Furthermore, the HDI enables a nuanced assessment of progress over time. As nations work towards achieving the SDGs by 2030, the HDI allows for the monitoring of advancements in human well-being. This tracking function is crucial for holding governments accountable and fostering a global commitment to sustainable development.

Moreover, the HDI facilitates international comparisons, offering insights into best practices and areas for improvement. By identifying successful strategies employed by high-HDI countries, nations with lower scores can adapt and implement policies that have proven effective in enhancing human development.

Table 1: Ranking of Countries Participating in IFLA Library Map of the World according to Human Development Index

Ranking	Country	Human Development Index	Category of Country
1	China, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region	0.952	High Income
2	Singapore	0.939	High Income
3	Republic of Korea	0.925	High Income
4	Japan	0.925	High Income
5	Israel	0.919	High Income
6	Cyprus	0.896	High Income
7	Bahrain	0.875	High Income
8	Qatar	0.855	High Income
9	Turkey	0.838	Upper Middle Income
10	Brunei Darussalam	0.829	High Income
11	Oman	0.816	High Income
12	Malaysia	0.811	Upper Middle Income
13	Kazakhstan	0.811	Upper Middle Income
14	Georgia	0.802	Lower Middle Income
15	Thailand	0.8	Upper Middle Income
16	Sri Lanka	0.782	Lower Middle Income
17	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	0.774	Upper Middle Income
18	China, Macao Special Administrative Region	0.768	Lower Middle Income
19	China	0.768	Upper Middle Income
20	Armenia	0.759	Lower Middle Income
21	Maldives	0.747	Upper Middle Income
22	Mongolia	0.739	Lower Middle Income
23	State of Palestine	0.715	Lower Middle Income
24	Indonesia	0.705	Lower Middle Income
25	Viet Nam	0.703	Lower Middle Income

Ranking	Country	Human Development Index	Category of Country
26	Philippines	0.699	Lower Middle Income
27	Kyrgyzstan	0.692	Lower Income
28	Iraq	0.686	Upper Middle Income
29	Bhutan	0.666	Lower Middle Income
30	India	0.633	Lower Middle Income
31	Nepal	0.602	Lower Income
32	Cambodia	0.593	Lower Middle Income
33	Pakistan	0.544	Lower Middle Income
34	Yemen	0.455	Lower Middle Income

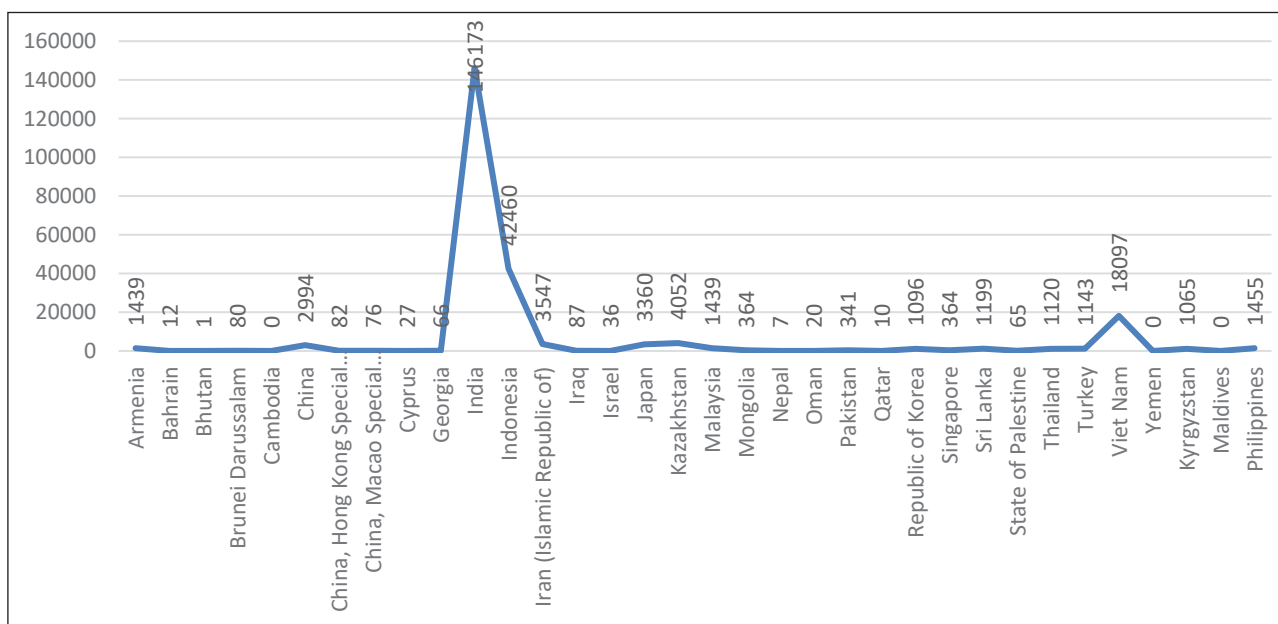


Chart 1: Number of Public Libraries

- India despite being on rank 30 and having a lower middle-income category has the most number of public libraries, second is Indonesia, third Vietnam.
- Cambodia, Yemen and Maldives didn't give any data.
- Bhutan, Nepal, and Qatar have least number of libraries.

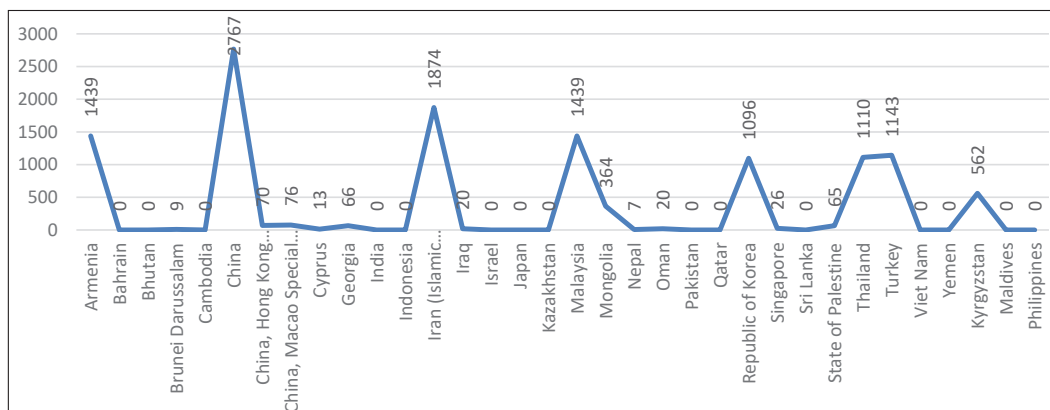


Chart 2: Number of Public Libraries with Internet Access

- China, Iran and Malaysia from upper middle income category are top contributors having most number of libraries with Internet Connection along with Armenia from Lower Middle Income.
- 44% countries didn't fill in the information, including India, Japan and Qatar.

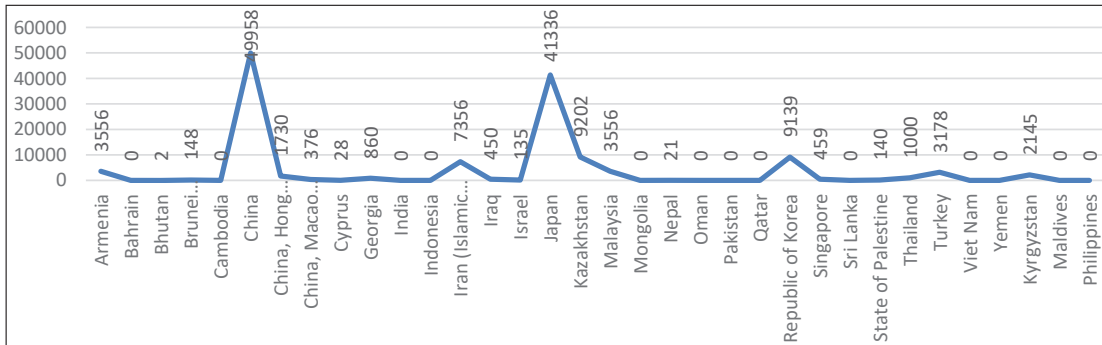


Chart 3: Number of Staff in Public Libraries

- China ranking 19 is having most number of staff working in public libraries along with 4th ranked Japan.
- Total 38% of libraries did not enter the data including India, Qatar, and Maldives.

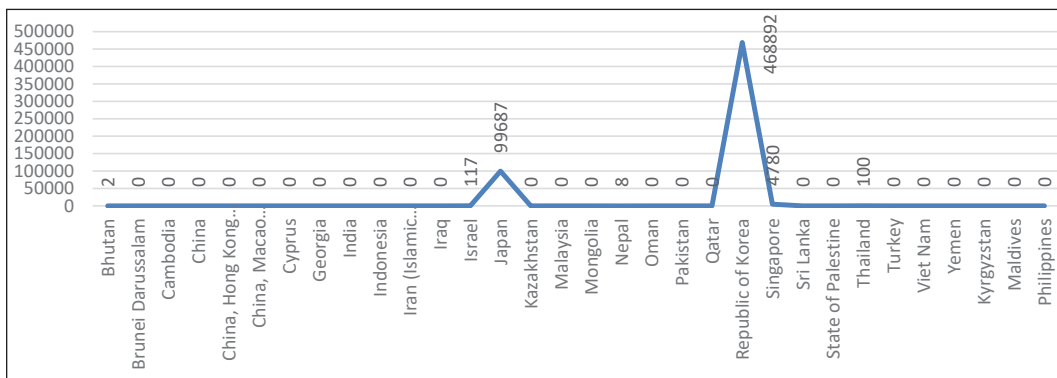


Chart 4: Number of Volunteers in Public Libraries

- Republic of Korea ranking 4 have the most number of volunteers who helps in public libraries.
- Only 28% countries have entered volunteer information.
- India has no entry in this criterion also.

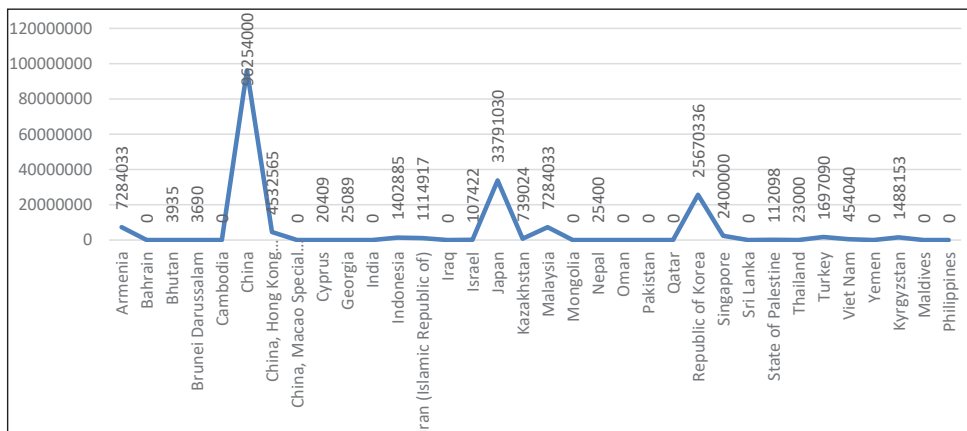


Chart 5: Number of Users in Public Libraries

- China is in top in terms of users in Public Libraries.
- India, Pakistan and Philippines have no entry of data.
- 62% countries have entered information about this category.

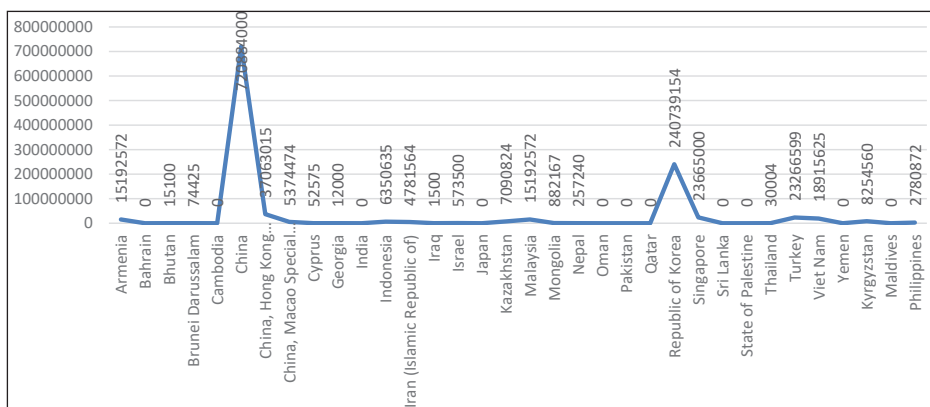


Chart 6: Number of Visitors in Public Libraries

- Again, China being ranked 19 is the topmost country for regular visitors of public libraries.
- Second is Republic of Korea, India has no data to offer.
- 32% countries have not filled the data entry.

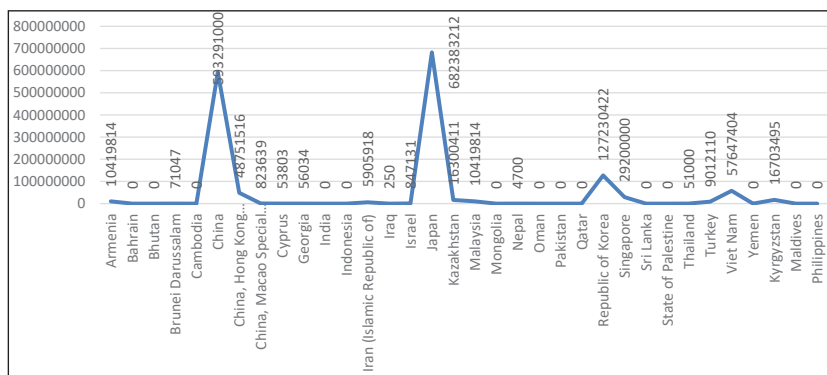


Chart 7: Number of Books for Loan

- Japan is first in this category along with China in terms of giving books on loan.
- 41% countries not entered any information including India, Qatar, Maldives.

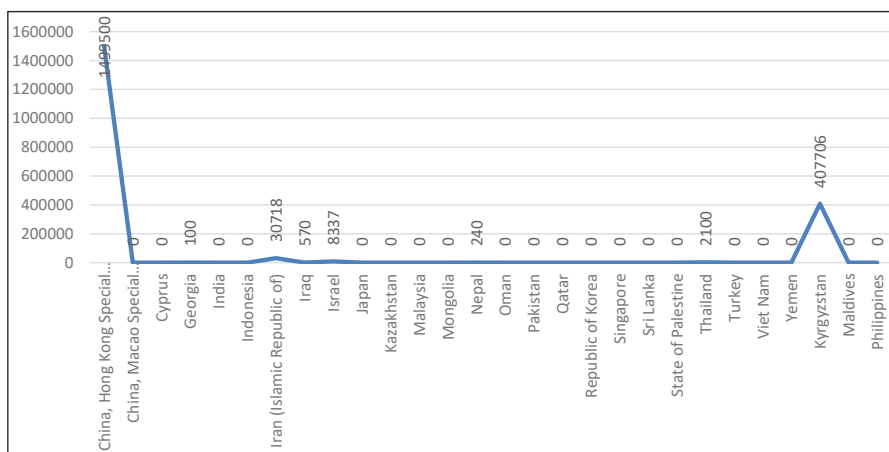


Chart 8: Number of Documents for Loan

- Here China is on top spot. Kyrgyzstan is on second.
- 59% countries choose not to data entry, including India, Japan, Turkey.

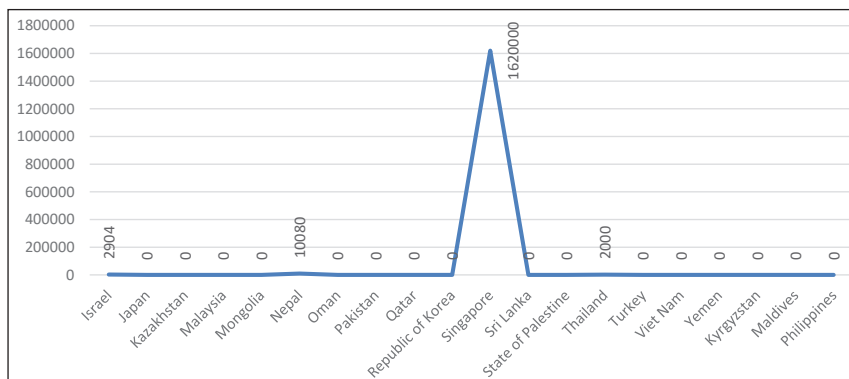


Chart 9: Number of E-Books in Public Libraries

- Second ranked Singapore is the top country in terms of e-book collection.
- Very few libraries have e-book collection like Israel, Nepal, Thailand and Singapore.
- Rest of the countries has not entered any data.

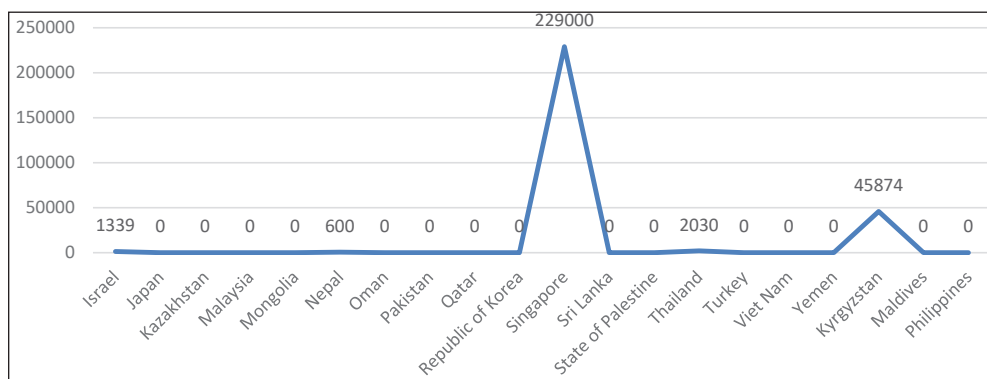


Chart 10: Number of Audio Books for Loan

- Here also Singapore is top contributor country.
- Other than Singapore only Israel, Nepal, Thailand, and Kyrgyzstan have data entered.

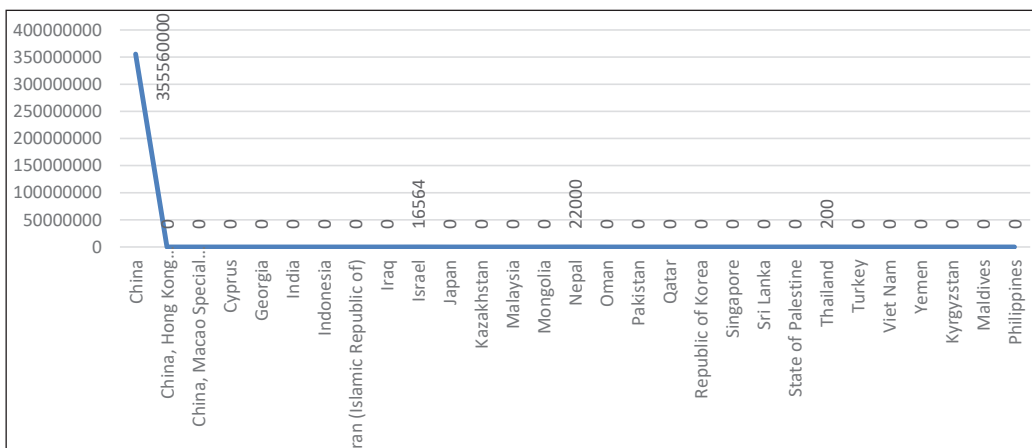


Chart 11: Number of Downloads

- China tops in number of downloaded documents.
- Out of 34 only 4 countries have entered data.

IFLA Library Map of the World is an initiative which may enhance the implementation of SDG, but for this, the role of all the countries is crucial. The initiative is designed to take steps in decision making to adopt SDG in libraries all over the world. Analyzing the above data, it is visible that many countries are participating in this initiative, but also there are underdog countries which are performing well.

CONCLUSION

The study shows that how IFLA has adopted SDGs and also helping libraries of member countries to work on themselves by including them in SDG journey. In order to do so, Library Map of the World is the platform which may guide and encourage other countries to participate more to fulfill the SDG.

Current study is only focusing on Public Libraries of Asian countries. Many countries having enough infrastructure to engage users in several services are lacking to utilize their resources. Country like India having the greatest number of public libraries, have not provided data in other categories. These categories may further be extended to collect more specific data by participating countries. Many highly ranked countries are lacking to provide data regarding several services. China despite being ranked 19th among the 34 countries as per Human Development Index is the top contributor in many categories. But from the data it is clear that most developing countries are trying hard to be included in SDGs and India is lagging behind.

REFERENCES

- Atkinson, K., Lowe, S., & Moore, S. (2015). Human development, occupational structure and physical inactivity among 47 low and middle income countries. *Preventive Medicine Reports*, 3, 40-45. doi:<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pmedr.2015.11.009>
- Audunson, R. A., Aabø, S., Blomgren, R., Evjen, S., Jochumsen, H., Larsen, H., Rasmussen, C. H., Vårheim, A. V., Johnston, J., & Koizumi, M. (2019). Public libraries as an infrastructure for a sustainable public sphere. *Journal of Documentation*, 75(4), 773-790. Retrieved from <https://oda.oslomet.no/oda-xmlui/handle/10642/8585>
- Dadlani, P. (2016). Social justice concepts and public libraries: A case study. *Advances in Librarianship*, 41, 15-48. doi:<https://doi.org/10.1108/s0065-283020160000041002>
- Devine, J., & L. Appleton. (2023). Environmental education in public libraries. *Library Management*, 44(1/2), 152-65. doi:<https://doi.org/10.1108/LM-10-2022-0091>
- Hauke, P. (2018). *From information literacy to green literacy: Training librarians as trainers for sustainability literacy*. Paper Presented at the IFLA World Library and Information Conference (WLIC), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 24-30 August. Retrieved November 12, 2021, from <http://library.ifla.org/id/eprint/2147/1/116-hauke-en.pdf>
- Igbinovia, O. O. M. O. (2019). *The role of academic libraries towards the attainment of sustainable development goals: The Nigerian perspective*. Retrieved from <https://journals.covenantuniversity.edu.ng/index.php/cjlis/article/view/1861>
- IFLA. (2016). IFLA The role of Public Libraries in lifelong learning - A project under the section of Public Libraries, IFLA: Final report of the IFLA project under the Section for Public Libraries. Retrieved July 28, 2023, from <https://www.ifla.org/node/1025>
- IFLA. (2017). *IFLA toolkit: Libraries, development and the United Nations 2030 Agenda*. Retrieved January 18, 2021, from <https://www.ifla.org/publications/node/10156>
- IFLA. (2019). *Libraries and the sustainable development goals: A storytelling manual*. Retrieved January 16, 2021, from <https://www.ifla.org/publications/libraries-and-the-sustainable-development-goals-a-storytelling-manual>
- IFLA. (2020a). *Access and opportunity for all: How libraries contribute to the United Nations 2030 Agenda*. Retrieved January 18, 2021, from <https://www.ifla.org/publications/node/10546>
- IFLA. (2020b). *Libraries, development and the United Nations 2030 Agenda: How do libraries further development?* Retrieved from <https://www.ifla.org/libraries-development>
- IFLA. (2021). *Let's Work Together for the Future, IFLA WLIC 2021*. Retrieved November 8, 2021, from <https://www.iflawlic2021.com/>
- Igbinovia, M. O., & Osuchukwu, N. P. (2018). Predictors of knowledge sharing behaviour on sustainable development goals among library personnel in Nigeria. *IFLA Journal*, 44(2), 119-131.
- Klinenberg, E. (2018a). *Palaces for the people: How to build a more equal and united society*. New York: Random House.
- Kosciejew, M. (2020). Public libraries and the UN 2030 agenda for sustainable development. *IFLA Journal*, 46(4), 328-346.
- Kraljevic, I., & Lukacic, P. (2015). *Project green library in Croatia*. Paper Presented at the IFLA World Library and Information Conference (WLIC), Cape Town, South Africa, 15-21 August, Retrieved November 12, 2021, from <http://library.ifla.org/id/eprint/1208/1/095-kraljevic-en.doc.pdf>

- Madan, S. (2012). *Human development and poverty - A perspective across Indian States*.
- Ojiambo, J. B., & Kasalu, J. S. (2015). *Development of libraries in Kenya and their role in economic development*. In World Library and Information Congress: 81st IFLA general conference and assembly, Cape Town, South Africa, 15-21 August 2015.
- Onah, E. A., Urom, O. C., & Amanze-Unagha, B. (2015). Emergence of sustainable development goals and the case for rebranding information agencies for action in Nigeria. *Ebonyi Journal of Library and Information Science*, 2(1), 217-225.
- Opara, G. C., Benson, O. V., & Nnadieto, G. C. (2021). Corporate social responsibility activities for public libraries engagement towards the actualization of sustainable development goals (SDGs): A survey of public libraries in South-East and South-South Nigeria. *Library Philosophy and Practice, Electronic Journal*, 6576.
- Panda, S., & Das, S. K. (2022). Role of public libraries in promoting social sustainability for the united nations sustainable development goals (SDG): An exploratory study. *Library Waves*, 8(2), 129-138.
- Pinto, L. G., & Ochoa, P. (2018). Public libraries' contribution to sustainable development goals: Gathering evidence and evaluating practices in Portugal. In P. Hauke, H. Sahavirta & M. K. Charney (Eds), *Going Green: Implementing Sustainable Strategies in Libraries Around the World: Buildings, Management, Programmes and Services* (pp. 46-59). De Gruyter Saur, Berlin.
- United Nations. (2015). *Transforming our world: The 2030 agenda for sustainable development*. Retrieved from <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>
- United Nations Development Programme. (2021). Retrieved November 15, 2023, from https://hdr.undp.org/system/files/documents/global-report-document/hdr2021-22pdf_1.pdf
- Uzuegbu, C. P. (2019). Impact of tailor-made information literacy provision on rural dwellers' participation in sustainable development targets in Nigeria: Implications for public library services to oral societies. *IFLA Journal*, 45(2), 81-103.
- Wand, P. A. (2016). Information centers and socioeconomic development in MENA: Finding a quantitative relationship. *IFLA Journal*, 42(2), 109-117.