

WHO WE ARE

EIFL (Electronic Information for Libraries) is an international not-for-profit organization that works with libraries in developing and transition countries to enable access to knowledge for education, learning, research and sustainable community development.

Our strategy has three main goals:

To advance a fair and sustainable transition from paywalled to open access content

Major achievements in 2021 -

- By the end of 2021, 12 agreements with publishers were in place enabling authors from our partner countries to publish for free or at reduced prices in open access in 2,500 journals. 938 authors benefited from these agreements in 2021 and published 1055 articles in open access.
- In 2021, Estonia, Fiji, Ghana, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova and Palestine signed up for the EIFL-negotiated Read & Publish agreement with Cambridge University Press. Researchers can access journals and also publish articles in open access without paying Article Processing Charges.
- We provided advice to institutions that were developing open access policies. Eight institutions (in Armenia, Moldova, Poland and Serbia) adopted policies mandating deposit of research output in open access repositories, and eight more open access policies (in Armenia, Ghana, Kenya and Lesotho) are under discussion by university administrations.

To support research, teaching and learning

Major achievements in 2021 -

- We helped libraries to provide remote access to licensed e-resources by negotiating with technology service providers. In 2021, 169 libraries subscribed to EIFL-negotiated remote access services.
- We advocated for copyright reform to ensure the adoption of modern copyright laws that maximize access to content:
 - Participated in national copyright law review processes in Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, Ukraine and Zimbabwe.
 - Contributed to ending the book famine for persons with print disabilities by supporting national implementation of the Marrakesh Treaty for persons with print disabilities in Belarus, Kenya, Namibia and Zimbabwe.
- Our advocacy work at the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), where we advocate for exceptions and limitations for libraries in support of access to knowledge and the right to research, was strengthened by a grant from the Arcadia Fund.
- We advocated for creation and maintenance of open public infrastructures that enable the publication and sharing of research in open access journals and open repositories:
 - Contributed to adoption of national open science policies, mandating open science practices, in Bulgaria, Slovenia and Slovakia, and draft policies that are now being discussed in six countries (Armenia, India, Latvia, Romania, Uganda and Ukraine).
- EIFL support led to the launch of four new open access repositories in Kenya, and Chuka University set up Open Journal Systems for publishing their journals in open access.
- EIFL support led to improvements in the quality of over 30 open access journals and repositories.
- Updated two guides: 'The EIFL Checklist: How to make your DSpace open repository work really well' and 'The EIFL Checklist: Good Practices in Using Open Journal Systems Software (OJS) for Journal Editing and Publishing'.
- We provided expertise and strategic advice to the consultative process that led to the development and adoption of the UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science.
- To enhance open science and open research skills of librarians and researchers, we:
 - Created reusable online open science training materials for The World Academy of Sciences.
 - Contributed to the Roadmap for Open Science Course Development for Ukrainian Higher Education Institutions.
 - Supported open access, research data management and open science training for researchers and PhD students in Ethiopia.
 - The 'EIFL Digital Research Literacy Training Programme Outline for Librarians' was downloaded 1,355 times.

To foster digital transformation of public library services

Major achievements in 2021 -

- We built digital literacy skills and advocated for improvements of ICT infrastructure in Uganda:
 - With partners, launched a training-of-trainers programme for 25 public and community libraries. By the end of 2021, over 1,100 women and youth had completed digital skills training, delivered by our trained librarians. This training programme attracted donations of 50 computers for 10 libraries from ABSA Bank.
 - Continued our relationship with the Uganda Communications Commission (UCC). In 2021, UCC provided 10 computers, multipurpose printers and accessories to five public and two community libraries.
- We advocated at the Internet Governance Forum for inclusion of public libraries in national ICT rollout plans.
- We selected three libraries (in Bangladesh, Kenya and Uganda) for the EIFL Public Library Innovation Award for supporting education recovery during the COVID-19 pandemic.