

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.

In 2024, we began implementing a new strategic plan, for the period 2024 - 2026. The plan has three main goals:

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

Major achievements in 2024 —

- By the end of the year, 15 agreements with publishers were in place enabling authors from EIFL partner countries to publish for free or at reduced prices in open access in 2,927 journals. 2,648 articles were published in open access in 2024. Savings in Article Processing Charges (APCs) amounted to US\$4,301,992.
- We contributed to strengthening no-fee (Diamond) open access journal publishing in Africa and Europe. Diamond open access is a scholarly communications model in which journals do not charge fees to either authors or readers—
 - **Africa:** We released the first-ever landscape study of no-fee open access publishing in Africa. After issuing a continent-wide open call for proposals, we awarded grants to 22 no-fee open access journal publishers in nine countries to strengthen their efficiency, quality and sustainability.
 - **Europe:** We contributed to a landscape study of Diamond open access publishing in Europe, and the drafting of standards and quality guidelines for Diamond open access publishing.

To support research, teaching and learning

Major achievements in 2024 —

- We continued to negotiate agreements with publishers for free or affordable pricing for paywalled e-resources. By the end of 2024, 78 commercial e-resources from 25 vendors were available through EIFL, including e-journals, e-books, reference works and aggregated databases covering a broad range of subject areas. EIFL-negotiated agreements saved libraries approximately US\$750 million in subscription fees.
- We advocated for national copyright law reform to encourage the adoption of modern copyright laws that maximize access to content:
 - We participated in copyright law reviews in eight countries: Armenia, Georgia, Malawi, Moldova, South Africa, Thailand, Uganda and Ukraine.
 - We contributed to ending the book famine for persons with print disabilities by supporting ratification and domestication of the Marrakesh Treaty in seven countries: Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Moldova and Uganda.
- We advocated for an enabling policy environment to support open and reproducible research. As a result of our policy work, seven national (Lithuania - 1, Serbia - 1, Slovenia - 2, Ukraine - 3) and two institutional (Serbia, Slovenia) open science policies were adopted.
- We supported the creation and maintenance of open public infrastructures that enable the publication and sharing of research in open access journals and repositories, and helped to improve the quality of services of over 400 open access journals in Africa and Ukraine and three repositories in Botswana, Georgia and Kenya.
- We strengthened open science training:
 - We built a community of over 60 open science trainers from 16 EIFL partner countries and organized monthly online meetings for exchanging knowledge and training experiences.
 - We supported open science training by co-facilitating two OpenAIRE open science train-the-trainer bootcamps.
- We developed useful new resources for open access and open science training:
 - 'EIFL guide and checklist for researchers and librarians: Choosing a journal for your research';
 - 'EIFL Open Science for Health Sciences Training Programme Outline for librarians and open science trainers';
 - 'EIFL Artificial Intelligence and Open Science Training Programme Outline for librarians and open science trainers';
 - Open science practices handbook and online course (in Ukrainian).

To foster digital transformation of public library services

- We advanced training, facilitation and digital skills of public librarians in Ghana as part of the 'Digital learning @ Ghana public libraries' project:
 - Thirty public librarians and ICT coordinators from 15 regional and branch libraries managed by the Ghana Library Authority
- We met with national library authorities and government and private sector stakeholders in Malawi and Zambia to advocate for improving ICT infrastructure in public libraries, and to build partnerships for enhancing digital skills of public librarians in those countries.
- Uganda Communications Commission (UCC) continued to equip public and community libraries with ICT as a result of our previous advocacy efforts with the government (dating back to 2018). In 2024 the UCC equipped 10 more libraries with computers, wireless internet, a printer, a scanner and a photocopier.
- We continued to produce online learning material based on the EIFL-PLIP training curriculum for public librarians, including five more short videos in the EIFL-PLIP 'Small Bites' series.
- To advance innovation in public libraries, we selected three libraries (in Brazil, Lithuania, and Philippines) for the 18th EIFL Public Library Innovation Award. The award was for integration of digital reading and writing to enhance public library services.

completed four training-of-trainers workshops, enabling them to provide essential digital literacy training to school students and to introduce students to open educational resources.

- By the end of 2024, the trained librarians had conducted 122 outreach visits to schools, engaging 6,966 students in short classes on MS Office applications, graphic design and coding. They had also organized 22 digital literacy workshops in libraries, attracting 804 school students.