

EIFL Public Library Innovation Programme: an update for 2021

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Virtual EIFL General Assembly / [#EIFLGA](https://twitter.com/EIFLGA)

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Since 2017 EIFL-PLIP focus

to strengthen and support continuous transformation of public library services in Africa



What we do

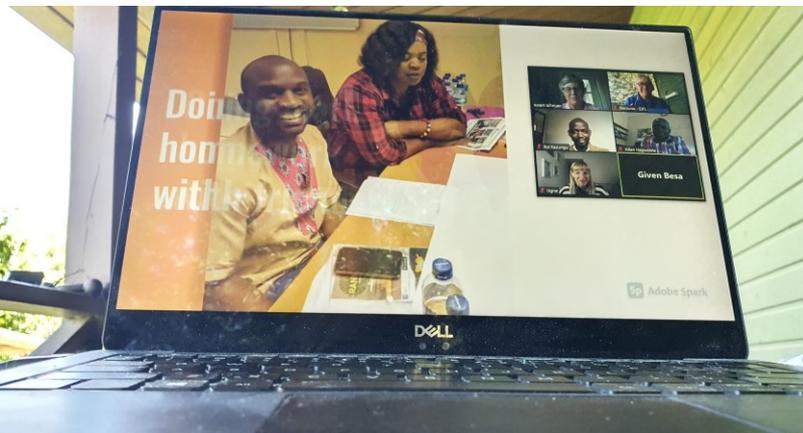
- Foster digital transformation of public library services to advance community development:
 - **Build capacity** of public library systems in Africa
 - **Advocate** with governments **for improved digital infrastructure** in public libraries
 - Empower public library innovators through **the Initiative for Young African Library Innovators (IYALI)**
 - Advance innovation through recognition by **EIFL Public Library Innovation Awards**

Build capacity of Public Library systems in Africa (I)



- A new project: **Digital skills and inclusion through libraries in Uganda**
- Working with 25 libraries across Uganda to enable youth and women to participate in digital society
- *Results, so far:* across Uganda, 22 community consultations; 25 librarians trained as trainers; close to 500 people engaged in digital skills training at libraries

Build capacity of Public Library systems in Africa (II)



- Building on results of CPD/ToT programmes in Kenya, Namibia, Uganda and Zambia (2018-2020), introduced **Virtual T-breaks** to keep the network of public librarians-trainers engaged and sharing good practice
 - from June to Dec. 2021, five Virtual T-breaks on different themes

Advocate for improved digital infrastructure in public libraries

- Supporting in national advocacy by library authorities/ partner organizations in Uganda and Zambia
- Internet Governance Forum's (IGF) **Dynamic Coalition for 'Public Access in Libraries' (DC-PAL)**
 - Worked on thematic papers: [The Role of Libraries in Broadband Policies](#) (2019-2020), [Assessment of Public Access in Libraries](#) (2021)
 - IGF 2021 (Dec. 9, 2021 TBC): Working on a session ['Public Access: Driving a Community-Based Development Model'](#)

Empower through the Initiative of Young African Library Innovators (IYALI)

Five young public librarians from Egypt, Kenya, Sierra Leone, and Zambia shared innovative service ideas at the virtual 4th AfLIA conference & the 6th African Library Summit (May 2021)



Advance innovation through recognition by Public Library Innovation Award (I)



In Jan. 2021, selected [four winners](#) of the 14th EIFL Public Library Innovation Award for new services in response to Covid-19:

- Kaunas Municipal ‘Vincas Kudirka’ Public Library in [Lithuania](#)
- The Main Public Library of Lima in [Peru](#)
- City of Johannesburg Libraries in [South Africa](#)
- ‘A. Gaidar’ Central City Children's Library in Melitopol, [Ukraine](#)

Advance innovation through recognition by Public Library Innovation Award (II)



- The 15th EIFL Public Library Innovation Award is [NOW OPEN](#):
 - For public library services supporting education recovery during the COVID-19 pandemic
 - Deadline: November 8, 2021

Link: <https://bit.ly/3yexEX2>

Future plans – 2021/2022

- Continue work on building capacity of library systems in Africa, supporting advocacy for better connectivity, and inspire public library service innovation through IYALI and innovation award
- Resume work with Ghana Library Authority on planning the CPD/ ToT programme
- Explore new opportunities

Big Thank You to our fantastic partners & EIFL-PLIP team



Susan, U.S.



Edvaldas, LT



Ugnė, Chile

Jean, UK



African Library & Information Associations & Institutions

