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**WEBINAR
'LIBRARIES & THE GLOBAL DIGITAL
COMPACT'**

**on the power of public libraries to contribute
to digital cooperation to harness technology
benefits for the future of humanity**

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The panelists



James Beronda, Head of Technical Services, Uganda Communications Commission



Alex Ombongi, Head of IT at Kenya National Library Services



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Dr Stuart Hamilton, Head of Libraries Development for the Local Government Management Agency, Ireland



Dr Ugne Lipeikaite, Public Library Innovation Programme Impact Manager, EIFL

Questions to guide today's discussion

- What roles do libraries play in national broadband ecosystems?
- What are the key lessons and challenges in developing public access in libraries?
- How does public access change library services?
- Who are the users of public access in libraries?
- How has the use of public access in libraries changed over the years?
- How do people use public access in libraries?
- What are the outcomes of public access in libraries and how to measure them?

The Global Digital Compact — an Open, Free and Secure Digital Future for All – a policy brief (May 2023) by UN Secretary General

It is an emerging global framework for international cooperation to overcome digital, data and innovation divides for a sustainable digital future – to be approved at the Summit of the Future in 2024

Global Digital Compact objectives that mention public access

A. Digital Connectivity and Capacity-Building:

- o extending the connectivity for schools to medical facilities and relevant public institutions;
- o coordinating actions, subsidies and incentives for digital technical and vocational training and public access facilities, in particular for women and girls and people living in rural areas

B. Digital Cooperation To Accelerate Progress On The Sustainable Development Goals

- o Make targeted investments in digital public infrastructure and services, and advance global knowledge and the sharing of best practices on digital public goods

Two studies by DC-PAL:

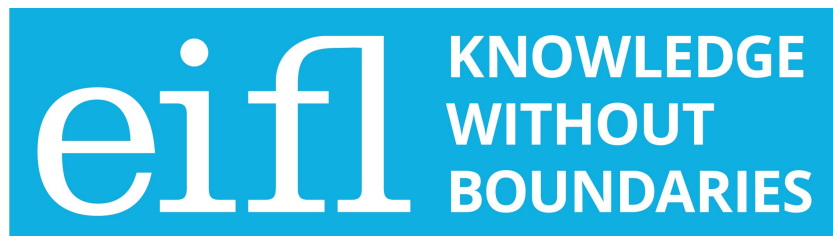
Libraries in National Broadband Plans & Policies (2019/2020)

<https://bit.ly/3Vp6klh>

Impacts of Public Access to Computers and Internet in Libraries (2022) <https://bit.ly/3iopYPE>



International
Federation of
Library
Associations and Institutions




Key findings on libraries in National Broadband Policies

- Many national broadband policies seek to engage libraries as providers of public access to the internet, ICT, digital skills learning opportunities and related services, especially for underserved users.
- To empower libraries for these roles, national policies outline such interventions as improvements to library connectivity infrastructure and ICT equipment, helping libraries bear internet connectivity and related costs, and staff training.
- Interventions to set up public access in libraries can be implemented through dedicated government-led projects, with the help of Universal access and Service Funds, through public-private partnerships, and other measures.

Key findings across five case studies of setting up public access infrastructure in libraries

- Policy measures to set up or expand public access in libraries do support meaningful access and digital inclusion, especially for user groups who are more likely to be offline.
- Public access in libraries makes facilitate introduction of more ICT-based services and initiatives that help meet local needs.
- Libraries' experiences across the five case studies offer insights into good practices in public access infrastructure development projects, such as start with mapping available infrastructure and connectivity needs, introduce systematic collection of impact data, build in training for librarians



Case study on Public Access in Libraries: Lithuania

For details check out the report:
**Libraries in National Broadband Plans &
Policies (2019/2020)**

<https://bit.ly/3Vp6klh>

**There are close to 1200
public libraries in Lithuania**

**5 county public libraries
and 60 municipal library
systems**

**All public libraries in
Lithuania provide public
access to ICT and internet**

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- Library Statistics, 2021-

**Over 250 thousands
citizens a year come to
public libraries for digital
skills training and
consultations**

- Digital Economy and Society Index (DESI) 2021:

Lithuania -



Photos from Kaunas district,
Pagėgiai and Utena municipal
public libraries



Public library network in Lithuania has been a key partner in all national initiatives, and campaigns aimed at digital inclusion and capacity building, such as Safer Internet Week, Seniors online week, All Digital Week, and other, helping to attract over 60 thousands people

Public library role to develop information literacy of communities, among other functions, is established by the Lithuanian Library Law .

Lithuanian broadband policy recognize public libraries as important public infrastructure for digital inclusion efforts.