

INFORMATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY IN LIBRARIES: ENHANCING MORE INCLUSIVE, EGALITARIAN AND SUSTAINABLE SERVICES

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Abstract: For many people, libraries are known as institutions that only promote the safekeeping, conservation and organization of knowledge. However, it is known that libraries have a wide range of services, with the potential for transformation, social change and socialization of knowledge for the community in which it operates. In this context, the question is: how to reverberate the potential of library services to society? How to make the library more inclusive, egalitarian and sustainable? And how can the community be made aware of the importance of the library for the growth, strengthening and transformation of society? In this perspective, this summary aims to defend the proposal to discuss actions and services that can be implemented and performed by libraries in line with the concept of Information Sustainability (IS). According to Nolin (2010), SI is scored in two distinct missions for the area of informational activity: the first is called 'information for sustainable development', aiming to support the communicative aspects of integration, in line with the ambitions of Global Objectives, seeking to increase the viability of the sustainable development project; and the second called 'sustainable information development', as part of a larger project to connect and provide access to sustainable technology. Reinforcing, Geraldo and Pinto (2021), explain that the IS refers to information resources that facilitate integration, awareness and participation in global objectives and in strengthening the process of transforming society according to the dimensions of sustainable development. Thus, it is worth noting that the 'Lyon Declaration on access to information and development', created by IFLA (2014), highlights the relevance of providing secure access to information so that society can exercise its civil, political rights, economic, social and cultural rights. The Declaration states and highlights that access to information supports development, empowering people to: exercise their civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. The Declaration defends free access to information and that libraries have the potential to achieve this objective and, consequently, to Global Sustainable Development Goals. In conclusion, it reinforces the importance of Librarianship to align its services and actions with Global Sustainable Development Goals, given the potential of libraries to offer informational and practical services, actions and projects in the quest to build an informed, sensitized and mobilized society about the need to rethink the relationship with the environment, in a perspective of management and conscious use of natural and human resources. Seeking to offer a sustainable, equitable and inclusive development for the current context and for future generations, based on the concept of Information Sustainability.

Keywords: Informational Sustainability; Sustainable development; Sustainable services; Librarianship; Libraries.

Informational Sustainability in libraries: enhancing more inclusive, egalitarian and sustainable services

In the contemporary context, librarianship has its activities focused on the development of critical and reflective people who assert their right to education, health, quality of life and citizenship. Being part of Information Science, it has an interdisciplinary characteristic, responsible for training librarians, seen as information professionals who work in the process of selecting, searching, analyzing and disseminating information.

It was with this purpose that the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), understanding that libraries have responsibility for sustainable development not only environmental, but also social, political and cultural that was inserted in the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and its 169 targets, in the construction and achievement of the objectives of the 2030 Agenda of the United Nations (UN). (IFLA, 2017).

In this sense, since 2016, the world's libraries are being called upon to ensure that, through access to information and knowledge, they can assist in the construction and achievement of the 17 SDGs. It is in this scenario and in line with the UN 2030 Agenda that IFLA has aligned goals within the SDG proposal, for libraries.

With this, this chapter has its focal point, specifically when IFLA delegates to libraries around the world, that within their competencies, participate seeking to meet the commitment of Sustainable Development in the implementation of 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

Among these 17 goals, it is worth highlighting 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," and, more specifically, goal 16.10 - "Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements.

In the aforementioned goal, the importance of secure access and efficient usability of information is highlighted. However, we emphasize that the importance of this inclusion is due to the work previously developed by IFLA, when promoting and creating in Lyon (France), in 2014, the Lyon Declaration of Principles of Access to Information and Development.

This Declaration of Principles highlighted the relevance of providing secure access to information, so that the information society can exercise its civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, resulting in the endorsement of these principles by several UN member states and the approval of the inclusion of the importance of information use and access, in the UN 2030 Agenda Sustainable Development Goals.

IFLA's main goal was to explicitly include the value and signaling of libraries as key entities in achieving this goal, however, only the inclusion of the importance of access to information was achieved, which inexorably, highlighted the performance of informational institutions, professionals and scientists, who have as their main instrument the study, organization, retrieval and provision of access and usability of Information, such as the areas of Information Science and Librarianship.

Thus, access to information about the scope of the 2030 Agenda evidences possibilities of achieving the five pillars of the Sustainable Development Goals: People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnerships, when the information is relevant on the issue and, that enables to promote changes in society by raising awareness and mobilization not only with access to information, but with the promotion of services and products that promote more egalitarian, safe, inclusive, plural and sustainable institutions.

In this perspective, it is visualized the proposal of the insertion of Informational Sustainability in Libraries, promoting informational resources that facilitate the integration, awareness and participation in global objectives and in strengthening the process of transformation of society according to the dimensions of sustainable development (GERALDO; PINTO, 2021).

Informational Sustainability can be used as a practical socio-economic environmental and informational tool for the area of Librarianship, which has two main missions, according to Nolin (2010). The first mission is called "sustainable information development", with the purpose of connecting technology to sustainable development, with the main objective of making the production and use of information technology in line with sustainable development goals. The second mission is called "information for sustainable development", and aims to support the communicative aspects of integration, awareness and participation of society, in line with the ambitions of global, regional and local agendas, such as supporting the current 2030 Agenda and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, or supporting projects, campaigns around regional or local sustainability and sustainable development in the social, economic and environmental dimensions of Sustainable Development.

The social dimension seeks the well-being of people and equal rights and opportunities; the economic dimension focuses not only on profit and development, but also on the prosperity of all citizens; and the environmental dimension is aimed at protecting biodiversity.

Information Sustainability is nothing more than using information for sustainable development in the current context and in the preservation of natural resources, human life, and the reduction of social inequalities, seeking to guarantee quality for future generations.

In this context, the question is: how to reverberate the potential of library services for society? How to make the library more inclusive, egalitarian and sustainable? And how to make the community aware of the importance of the library for the growth, strengthening and transformation of society?

In this perspective, the chapter now presented, aims to: Propose egalitarian, inclusive and sustainable information actions, services and products in libraries, in line with the missions of Information Sustainability (IS) in line with the IFLA perspective.

2 LIBRARIES, INFORMATION SUSTAINABILITY AND THE GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

In recent years, the idea that natural resources were unlimited has been modified and restructured. We are currently experiencing the consequences of the degradation and misuse of our natural resources in the past, such as: climate change, uncritical industrialization, rampant deforestation, rapid population growth and social inequalities, among other socio-economic environmental issues.

This scenario urgently needs to be discussed and changed, making it a priority to achieve the desired "Sustainable Development". How can we proceed so that actions taken in the past are not repeated? How can we ensure that future generations can have a prosperous and sustainable life? How can access to information benefit the socioeconomic and environmental sustainability of the planet?

Since the emergence of the term "Sustainable Development" the use of and access to information has always been intrinsic to its objectives.

Even before the emergence of this term, when the United Nations established the First Development Decade for the period 1960 to 1970, in the creation of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD), the use of information

and data were the means used to broaden the knowledge about the development processes in underdeveloped countries (called at the time).

In 1972, when the historic United Nations Conference was held in the Swedish capital - "Stockholm 72", which dealt with the relationship between man and the environment, the representatives of the UN member countries stated that it was necessary to plan the development of the underdeveloped countries of the time, but that this development should be sustainable.

And during Stockholm 72, several official documents were approved, from which were presented an action plan and a declaration of principles. Within the action plan, it was evident that the exchange of information to disseminate knowledge in the scientific and technological communities, and to support decision makers at all levels, was paramount for the benefit of access to knowledge and for action planning.

The main intention was to provide support measures for training and public information, to provide experts, multidisciplinary professionals, technical personnel, and to facilitate the use of and access to information for decision making. At this time, the discussion and objectives were aimed at issues concerning development and environment on a global level, viewing the educational, informational, social, and cultural aspects of environmental issues.

In the debates about the relationship between development and environment at Stockholm 72, several organizations played an important role. We highlight the United Nations Organization (UNO) and its agencies, and especially the Organization for Education, Science and Culture (UNESCO), promoting environmental education as a fundamental instrument for the formation of a well-informed public opinion, through personal and collective conduct with the protection and improvement of the environment in all its dimensions.

However, despite the informational advances in the fulfillment of the actions established in Stockholm 72, the global awareness of the need for environmental protection, were not sufficient, according to information set out in the Declaration of Nairobi in 1982. The Declaration states that the results of Stockholm 72, cannot be considered satisfactory, due mainly to inadequate prevention and understanding of the long-term benefits of environmental protection.

Thus, in 1987, the World Commission on Environment and Development, known as the Brundtland Commission, created in 1983, through studies on the relationship between man and the environment, presented a definition of Sustainable Development in

the publication of the Report "Our Common Future", stating that Sustainable Development is the development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. This commission had as one of its main objectives to provide informational means by which international communication could deal more effectively with environmental concerns and help define common notions and efforts needed to successfully address problems of environmental protection and improvement.

However, it is worth noting that the trajectory of informational actions that the United Nations has taken in its history towards Sustainable Development, and the importance of access to and use of information, were initially highlighted in the creation of "21 Agenda".

21 Agenda, also called "21 Program ", one of the main results of Rio-92, was a guide for mankind towards global economic development, aiming, at the same time, at socially and environmentally sustainable development. Approved in the last decade of the 20th century, it aimed to prepare the world for the challenges of the 21st century.

The Agenda had 40 chapters, divided into four sections, on the social, environmental and economic dimensions. Specifically, in section IV, chapters 35 and 40, it dealt with the importance of science for sustainable development and the use of information for decision-making, respectively. It signaled a difference from other documents previously developed by the United Nations, since it highlighted Science and Information as key positions for the path to Sustainable Development.

Later, Agenda 21 and, anticipating the arrival of the new millennium, the UN General Assembly pointed out that the year 2000 would be a special moment to be analyzed, formulating a common project of global objectives. With this, in the 55th UN General Assembly in 2000, called the "Millennium Summit", the "Millennium Declaration" was approved.

The Millennium Declaration stated that the fundamental task at the beginning of the millennium was to make globalization positive for all of humanity, following the values of freedom, equality, solidarity, tolerance, respect for nature, and common responsibility.

With the declaration, they presented eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), to be achieved by the year 2015. MDG number 8, specifically its goal 8-E, aimed at making new technologies available, in particular information and communication technologies.

In this context, at the beginning of the 21st century, the development of information technologies aimed at sustainability entered the discussion agenda in Information Science, enhancing the proposal of professor and researcher Dr. Jan Nolin, from the Swedish School of Library and Information Science in Borås (Sweden), who, in 2010, suggested the use of information technologies for Sustainable Development and, concomitantly, to support global goals. In other words, in this scenario, scientific discussions that visualized the use of and access to information as a mechanism for humanity to understand the importance, participation, collaboration and collective awareness aimed at the social, economic and environmental development of the planet in the current context and for future generations began.

But, how to develop sustainable information technologies? What would be the best strategic actions for an efficient informational outreach? How could the areas of knowledge that dealt with, organized and made available the access to information contribute to Sustainable Development? And what Information Science and Librarianship already developed and/or could develop to help mankind in this context?

These were questions that challenged researchers such as Spink (1999) and Nolin (2010). By developing research to solve some crucial problems of the democratic informational system, which a modern and advanced society was facing, information scientists could consider discussing a future alternative, characterized by deindustrialization and scaling down of industrial economies to various forms of a sustainable society, within an approach of basic needs for sustainable development.

In the Brazilian scientific scenario, the pioneer researcher Sarita Albagli (1995) stands out, who in her studies had been discussing how the role of information and particularly "environmental information", in the context of the sustainable development model, presented itself as an alternative to the socio-economic-environmental crisis on a global level.

After successive UN actions over the past 50 years (First United Nations Development Decade/1960-1970; Stockholm 72; Brundtland Commission; Rio-92, Agenda 21, Millennium Development Goals, Rio+20, among others), in September 2015, at the United Nations headquarters in New York (United States), a new global agenda was presented, consisting of 17 Sustainable Development Goals, whose progress is monitored by 231 global indicators.

Thus, in the area of Librarianship and Information Science, studies and sustainable information practices were intensified, through the actions of associative movements, supporting the launch and promotion of this new proposal of global goals.

Among these 17 goals, it is worth highlighting goal number 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", and, more specifically, goal 16.10 - "Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements".

In the aforementioned goal, the importance of secure access and efficient usability of information is highlighted. However, we emphasize that the importance of this inclusion is due to the work previously developed by the International Federation of Libraries Association and Institutions (IFLA), by promoting and creating in Lyon (France), in 2014, the Lyon Declaration of Principles of Access to Information and Development.

The Lyon Declaration is a document advocating for access to information and development that will be used to influence the United Nations post-2015 agenda. It was drafted by IFLA between January and May 2014, in conjunction with a range of strategic partners, the library and development communities.

The Declaration clearly states that access to information supports development by enabling people to: exercise their civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights; learn and apply new skills; make decisions and participate in an active and engaged way in civil society; create community-based solutions to development challenges; and measure progress on public and private commitments to sustainable development.

As such, the Declaration was a call to UN member states to make an international commitment to the post-2015 development agenda to ensure that everyone has access to, and can understand, use, and share the information that is needed to promote sustainable development and democratic societies. And this initiative worked so well that IFLA, being a signatory of the UN, was able to influence that access to information as a means to achieve sustainable development was included in the goals of the 2030 Agenda.

However, it is important to highlight the Universalization feature of the 2030 Agenda in its Applicability, visualizing and understanding that the application of the agenda is universal, whether in the global, national, regional or local context, in different segments of society. That is, possibly applicable in the context of libraries.

With this, IFLA - presented soon after the launch of 2030 Agenda, its International Advocacy Program (the IAP), in 2016 - which seeks to raise awareness and mobilize the entire library category of the planet to embrace this cause, presenting suggestions aimed at libraries and their services, based on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

Since IFLA is not only a signatory of the UN, but also had the influence to explicitly expose the importance of access to information to achieve sustainable development, specifically in SDG 16, which aims for Peace, Justice and Effective Institutions, promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development. Highlighting in target 16.10 - on ensuring public access to information and protecting fundamental freedoms.

Given these perspectives of action in libraries, how can we make the library a supporter of the Sustainable Development Goals? What is the role of the library?

IFLA has shown the importance of the role of libraries around the world in contributing to the achievement of these goals of 2030 Agenda, stressing that libraries have a natural role in accessing information and networked services that support sustainable development. As well as promoting the Lyon Declaration on access to information and development, and promoting the International Advocacy Program, IFLA is currently making available a Library Map of the World, a map of actions towards the 2030 Agenda in every library on the planet.

The Library Map of the world is a representative source of basic library statistics and a tool that provides country-level data and a worldwide comparison of different library performance metrics by region. In which IFLA states that libraries are the main promoters and providers of free access to all kinds of information for all citizens. To show the potential of the global library field, the Library Map of the World features all types of libraries, including national, academic, public, community, school, and special libraries. The initial set of performance metrics includes number of libraries, number of libraries that provide Internet access, number of staff and volunteers, number of registered users and visitors, and number of loans. All this to demonstrate to the world how important libraries are to humanity and, consequently, to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

3. HOW TO MAKE LIBRARIES EQUITABLE, INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE?

First, it becomes viable to learn about all the material offered by the UN and IFLA, and to know the 2030 Agenda, its objectives, purposes, principles, goals and indicators, and consequently, support the International Agenda 2030 Advocacy Program offered by IFLA. Next, seek to sensitize, raise awareness and mobilize the entire Library team to implement and support the 2030 Agenda, implementing actions, projects, objectives related to the Sustainable Development Goals in the Library's strategic planning. And so, seek partners, whether from civil society, public and private entities to carry out projects and action plans together with the library, promoting the library's visibility and importance for the community in which it operates, in addition to contributing to the commitments made throughout librarian category of the planet with the UN.

And last but not least, we seek to report and share these experiences with these developed actions, making them models for other libraries both nationally and internationally. From this perspective, review and evaluate all library infrastructures, services and actions - seeking to contemplate all dimensions of sustainable development: social, environmental and economic, as well as cultural and informational. Furthermore, it becomes valid to know the principles of the 2030 Agenda, which must and can be selected, directed and interpreted for each reality to be applied, remembering the universalization feature of the agenda.

However, focusing on the performance and services that cover our area, we highlight some principles of applicability that may be guiding for libraries: establish priorities related to the 17 SDGs based on local contexts, needs and resources that the library has; identify needs by analyzing existing plans and programs; identify synergies and linkages within local or regional administrations and adapt existing initiatives and strategies to the SDGs and their existing targets; identify the actions and resources needed to implement the SDG priority areas; create local institutional mechanisms and governance structures to support the implementation of the SDGs; involve all local stakeholders and/or impacted in the implementation to promote a sense of ownership to the SDGs - bringing the importance of including the internal and external library community in these goals and; promote the exchange of best practices among its members, sharing the experiences with other libraries.

With this, we can reflect: why is it important for the library to support the SDGs of 2030 Agenda? We can highlight that it provides a shared vision of sustainable

development and helps guide the public's understanding of its challenges and its importance to humanity; it allows the community to get involved in the Library's actions and vice-versa; it allows mobilizing the whole local community in favor of sustainable development; it provides the Library with visibility; it strengthens the Library's importance to the community in which it is inserted; and it demonstrates that the Library is concerned about the community's well-being, offering a safe, inclusive, plural, and egalitarian space.

However, in order to put into practice actions that support the 2030 Agenda, we can follow 6 important steps (Illustration 1), as per the Global Compact SDG Guide: (1) understand the SDGs; (2) set priorities; (3) set goals; (4) establish indicators; (5) report and share; and (6) integrate.



Illustration 1: six steps to implement ODS in Libraries:

Regarding the first step, understanding the SDGs, we must focus on understanding how they are formed, their universalization feature, that they are interconnected and that they contemplate the dimensions of Sustainable Development.

After understanding the SDGs, one must define priorities, and discover, align what are the needs and opportunities that the library has in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals. Thus, seeking to align projects, services, actions that are a priority for a library and possible actions that can be implemented. Therefore, it is important to highlight a feature of universalization of the agenda, which does not need all the SDGs to be contemplated, but to select and define as priorities of the reality of libraries.

After knowing and defining the SDGs that can be aligned with the library's actions, we must establish the targets of these objectives. Remember that the agenda has 169 universal targets, and that we can either direct some of these goals to the reality and opportunities of the library, or establish others, if necessary. However, it is recommended that the choice of SDG targets for the library be guided by the strategic priorities identified in the priority setting step. This will ensure that your Library's goals include opportunities to make positive contributions to the SDGs. Likewise, this will ensure that the goals not only cover your Library's own operations and/or parent body, but also create opportunities to make improvements in all services provided.

And next, after establishing and aligning the targets, it is important to establish the indicators to measure the achievement of the results obtained with the established goals. Since through sustainability indicators, we will be able to monitor, evaluate, re-establish, or improve new goals, and also make it possible to share data and information of these results with our peers, employees, and the community.

And before the penultimate step, which is to report and communicate the actions and achievements, it is a very important step, where we can share with our peers, collaborators, and society our contributions, experiences, and challenges in implementing the SDGs in the Library. But how? It can be done both through internal communication of the library (website, social networks, newsletters, physical panels etc.) and through initiatives of associative movements, such as IFLA, through the "Library Map of the World".

And the last step, and no less important, is to seek integration. The integration of sustainability has the potential to transform all aspects of the services provided by the Library, including new projects and actions. In this step, we identified how we can integrate the SDGs through the following measures: including sustainability goals in the

services; incorporating sustainability in all functions; and engaging in partnerships with the community, civil society, and public and private initiatives. Always seeking to have as priorities and vision of the principles that can be directed to the library services, as presented above.

Finally, we reinforce the importance of libraries integrating their scientific and practical actions to global objectives, which are associative movements that represent the interests of the profession and commit themselves globally. These professionals can use their institutions, knowledge and research to promote, make available and disseminate information in favor of Sustainability and Sustainable Development, aiming at the environmental socioeconomic well-being today, ensuring that future generations can enjoy the natural, economic and social resources in a conscious and equal way.

Paraphrasing the American socio-environmental economist, Jeffrey Sachs (2017), "[...] we have entered a new era, global society is interconnected as never seen before", currently "we share the euphoria of the new information age and the fears of an environmental catastrophe on a global scale", in the face of this, "we are faced with new opportunities and new risks" social, environmental, economic and informational.

For this reason, we can affirm that we have arrived at the "Age of Sustainable Development" and, the safe, reliable access and the efficient usability of information can be the strategic path for the transformation of an egalitarian and sustainable society. In which, the proposal and missions of Information Sustainability can help in this real and concrete path of Sustainable Development.

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