

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 2023 —

- 14 agreements with publishers were in place enabling authors from EIFL partner countries to publish for free, or at reduced prices, in open access in 2,545 journals. 1,446 authors benefited from these agreements and they published 1,746 articles in open access. Savings in Article Processing Charges (APCs) for authors and their institutions amounted to US\$2,574,893.
- Read & Publish agreements, in which researchers can access journals and also publish articles in open access without paying APCs: In 2023, Estonia, Fiji, Ghana, Latvia, Lithuania and Palestine signed up for the EIFL-negotiated agreement with Cambridge University Press, and Latvia and Slovenia joined the agreement with SAGE Publications.
- We provided advice to governments and institutions that were developing open access policies.
 - Three national policies (in Botswana, 1; Slovenia, 2) and five institutional policies (in Kenya and Serbia) were adopted mandating deposit of research output in open access repositories.

To support research, teaching and learning

Major achievements in 2023 —

- We released a 3rd edition of the 'EIFL Digital Research Literacy Training Programme Outline for Librarians'.

- Organized two five-day online EIFL Open Science Train-the-Trainer Bootcamps attended by 136 trainers from 29 EIFL partner countries, and released bootcamp material as an open resource.
- Supported the strengthening of open science trainers in Europe, by hosting two OpenAIRE train-the-trainer bootcamps.
- We advocated for national copyright law reform to encourage the adoption of modern copyright laws that maximize access to content:
 - Participated in copyright law reviews in nine countries — Kenya, Moldova, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Uganda, Ukraine and Zimbabwe.
 - Contributed to ending the book famine for persons with print disabilities by supporting ratification and domestication of the Marrakesh Treaty in five countries — Armenia, Kenya, Kosovo, Moldova, Uganda and Ukraine.
- We supported advancement of consensus at WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organization) towards an international legal instrument for copyright limitations and exceptions (L&Es):
 - Co-organized a major regional conference in Africa — 'A Right to Research in Africa? A Week of Debates on Copyright and Access to Knowledge', attended by legal academics, researchers, librarians, senior policy-makers and Geneva-based diplomats, to debate the copyright framework needed for modern research in Africa.
 - Supported adoption of a WIPO work programme on copyright L&Es, proposed by the African Group. The work programme provides structure and direction to future work on L&Es.

- 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:
 - Launched a three-year 'Collaboration for sustainable OA publishing in Africa' project with funding from Wellcome to strengthen the quality and sustainability of diamond open access publishing in Africa.
 - Our support led to improvements in the quality of 15 open access journals and repositories.
 - Coordinated the writing of COAR (Confederation of Open Access Repositories) 'Recommendations on managing multilingual and non-English content in repositories' and the writing of open source repository software DSpace 7 user documentation; updated and released a third version of the 'EIFL Checklist: Good practices in using Open Journal Systems software (OJS) for journal editing and publishing'.

To foster digital transformation of public library services

Major achievements in 2023 —

- We built digital literacy skills and advocated for improvements of ICT infrastructure in Uganda:
 - We completed the 'Digital skills and inclusion through libraries in Uganda' project, funded by Enabel via the Wehubit Programme (Dec 2020–June 2023), which equipped 50 librarians and library volunteers from 27 public and community libraries with new digital skills, and trained them to provide ICT training in their communities and to facilitate learning circles.

- The librarians trained over 22,000 people, mainly youth and women.
- Nearly 1,500 individuals participated in learning circles in libraries, completing online courses in a variety of topics and skills (ICT, small business management, and crafts including soap making, hairdressing, baking and sewing).
- The training programme attracted private investments in public libraries. In 2023, Airtel Uganda and the American Tower Corporation, significantly upgraded ICT infrastructure in eight public libraries.
- Continued our relationship with the Uganda Communications Commission (UCC). In 2023, UCC provided new computers, wireless internet, a printer, a scanner and a photocopier to 10 more public and community libraries.
- With partners, launched a two-year project, 'Digital Learning @ Ghana Public Libraries', with funding from the Internet Society Foundation, to open up educational and learning opportunities for school children through public libraries in Ghana.
- Organized a one-week international learning and knowledge exchange programme in Germany for four young African public library innovators from Ghana, Kenya, Namibia and Uganda to inspire them with new ideas for digital public library services.
- Announced the 17th EIFL Public Library Innovation Award call for Public Libraries addressing one of three pressing global issues: Online safety, Climate change action, and Digital rights and inclusion of forcibly displaced populations. We selected four winners, in Croatia, Kazakhstan, Kenya and Ukraine.