

Electronic Information for Libraries



Strategic Plan: 2021-2023

Introduction

Access to knowledge is fundamental to education, research and sustainable development. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the critical need for knowledge and information, the benefits of open science, and deepened global inequalities and the digital divide.

Billions of people in developing and transition economy countries still cannot obtain the content they need due to factors such as the high cost of e-resources, legal barriers to accessing and using information, or because they do not have access to computers and the internet or the skills to use digital resources and services.

Well-resourced libraries can provide quality information services to people in every field, including healthcare, science and innovation, agriculture and education. They can provide free or affordable access to computers and the internet. To properly provide these services, libraries need modern technology, up-to-date content and a supportive legal and policy framework. They also need staff who are trained to support rapid changes in the scholarly communications landscape, and to lead the equitable transition to digital information and services.

EIFL (Electronic Information for Libraries) partners with national library consortia and public library networks in Africa, Asia and Europe to ensure an enabling environment for the creation of knowledge and fair and sustainable access.

This Strategic Plan sets out EIFL's direction and goals for 2021-2023. To implement the Strategic Plan, EIFL's programme managers will generate annual operating plans with specific activities and success metrics for each objective.

Vision

A world in which all people have the knowledge they need to achieve their full potential.

Mission

EIFL enables access to knowledge through libraries in developing and transition economy countries to support their sustainable development.

Values

In pursuing its strategic directions, EIFL embraces the following core values:

- Collaboration

- Innovation

- Practicality

- Sustainability

Goals 2021-2023

Advance a fair and sustainable transition from paywalled to open access content

- Negotiate agreements directly with publishers to provide free or discounted access to paywalled journals and open access publishing terms.
- Support partner library consortia in their negotiations with publishers for acceptable terms.
- Advocate with publishers, institutions and funders to provide open access to journal articles through repositories.

Support research, teaching and learning

- Help libraries to provide remote access to licensed e-resources by negotiating with service providers that offer technical solutions for remote access.
- Negotiate discounted access to relevant research support services and tools.

- Enhance open science and open research skills by organizing ‘train the trainer’ activities, creating training materials, and advocating for research incentives and structures that support and promote the acquisition of open science and open research skills.
- Advocate for the creation and maintenance of open public infrastructures that enable the publication and sharing of research in open access journals and open repositories.
- Advocate for copyright reform, nationally and internationally, to ensure the adoption of modern copyright laws that maximize access to content.

Foster digital transformation of public library services

- Build capacity of national public library systems in Africa to train public librarians to integrate technology in library services that advance development.
- Advocate with governments and other potential funders for improved digital technology infrastructures in public libraries.
- Empower public library innovators through the Initiative for Young African Library Innovators, which provides international learning experiences for young African librarians.
- Advance innovation in public library services through recognition by the EIFL Public Library Innovation Awards.

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