

HOW WILL LIBRARIES DELIVER A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE?

**ACADEMIC LIBRARY ACTIONS:
TOP TEN (ACTUALLY THIRTEEN)**

Panel presentation by Gerald R. Beasley, Carl A. Kroch University Librarian,

Cornell University, Ithaca, USA

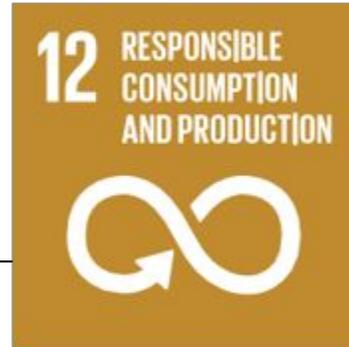
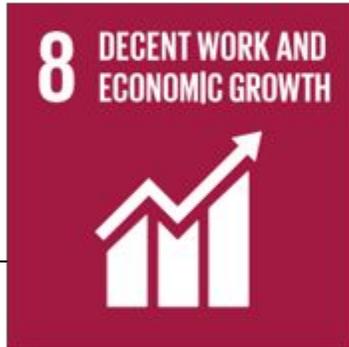
SDG Publishers Compact Fellow

Empire State Library Network Academic Libraries Conference, Thursday, April 14, 2022

Land Acknowledgement

Cornell University is located on the traditional homelands of the Gayogohó:nq' (the Cayuga Nation). The Gayogohó:nq' are members of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, an alliance of six sovereign Nations with a historic and contemporary presence on this land. The Confederacy precedes the establishment of Cornell University, New York state, and the United States of America. We acknowledge the painful history of Gayogohó:nq' dispossession, and honor the ongoing connection of Gayogohó:nq' people, past and present, to these lands and waters.

These draft recommended actions have been jointly prepared at Cornell University for the SDG Publishers Compact Fellows by Gerald Beasley, Carl A. Kroch University Librarian and Annalisa Raymer, Senior Lecturer, Department of Global Development.





Lviv Regional Library for Children, Ukraine (Zoom)

1. Strategize

Incorporate SDGs into an academic library's strategic thinking: <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

2. Advocate for SDGs

Identify, review, and re-use work of library associations addressing the SDGs, e.g. products and graphics produced by the American Library Association (ALA)'s SDG Task Force

<https://www.ala.org/aboutala/ala-task-force-united-nations-2030-sustainable-development-goals>; and the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA)'s comments on the UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science

<https://www.ifla.org/ar/news/unesco-agrees-open-science-recommendation-implications-for-libraries/>

3. Support SDG Research

Identify and support campus researchers who are helping make the world a better place—just, healthy, inclusive and sustainable.

4. Share SDG Strengths

Help institutions identify, celebrate and champion relevant research strengths. Share information about areas of SDG strengths with other libraries (local, national, regional, global).

5. Guide Users to SDG Content

LibGuides are already used as a content management system in thousands of academic libraries, bringing together resources on a particular topic. Many examples of up-to-date and excellent SDG LibGuides already exist e.g. University of Michigan Library <https://guides.lib.umich.edu/sdg>

6. Curate SDG Collections

Recruit and support campus and community members to create bespoke, curated collections related to SDGs. For example,

- Collaborate with a teacher of adult, immigrant English language students to invite and support the adult language learners in creating collections to offer the community introductions to different cultural knowledge and assets.
- Invite resource people knowledgeable in areas of interest to the campus & community to create collections based on their area of expertise.

7. Refine SDG Metadata

Promote Knowledge Democracy (see e.g. <https://unescochair-cbrsr.org/pdf/Knowledge-Democracy-v-3.0.pdf>), including elevating the voices of historically unrepresented communities in data processes. Facilitate/support diverse contributions toward producing more inclusive data, and informing policy making and programs for addressing pressing social issues in a more equitable manner.

8. Cultivate SDG literacy

Create educational programming to advance literacy in all key SDG areas including information, data, media, and sustainability.

9. Walk the SDG walk

Align with campus sustainability initiatives. These exist on pretty much every campus, often thanks to the great work of students and dedicated staff who help us all see the university as a kind of laboratory where sustainability-friendly practices exist.

10. Opt for Open

Set the default to open: support open access, open source, open data, etc. Consider science as a global public good, view open science services as essential research infrastructures, governed and owned by the community and funded collectively. Incentivize open science practices among researchers. Invest in capacity building and human capital. Review the UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science

<https://en.unesco.org/science-sustainable-future/open-science/recommendation>

11. Convene

Facilitate open discussion of library's SDG policies among stakeholders e.g. collection specialists, students, researchers and other library users regarding strengths and gaps in library holdings pertinent to individual and collective achievement in particular SDGs and sustainability progress broadly.

12. Assess

Conduct user (and potential user) research to learn how library patrons go about seeking information on the SDGs.

13. Communicate

Share with potential users on campus and in the community the resources available to them regarding the SDGs. Encourage their exploration and use.

THANK YOU!