

# ACADEMIC LIBRARIES AND THE UNITED NATIONS

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

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### A NEW BOOK DOCUMENTING THE UNITED NATIONS' SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN ACTION IN ACADEMIC LIBRARIES GLOBALLY

There has been limited documented focus on sustainability efforts in academic libraries, but we are beginning to see emerging efforts by some contemporary scholars and researchers to understand what different academic libraries have been doing toward sustainability. Sustainability initiatives have typically focused on one or two areas of sustainability, and some of the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), but have not always been clearly described or articulated in this context. However, this work is being carried out in the typical tasks of librarians, and in some cases, is being mapped to the UN SDGs. Some libraries are (or have been) doing this work intentionally for some time, and have been articulating their efforts through reflective practice and collective action. This has resulted in librarians being more deliberate in their work, with a deeper intentional understanding of the UN SDGs and sustainability as related to their workplace settings and professional dynamics. Library and Information Science (LIS) scholars Sarah Tribelhorn and Dr. Bharat Mehra are editing a book to document how academic libraries are working towards the UN SDGs in their daily efforts, resulting in a resilient community, through their socially equitable, economically feasible, and environmentally sound practices.

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The 17 UN SDGs have been listed on the back of this flier with examples of work being carried out in academic libraries.

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### SUBMIT YOUR ABSTRACT TODAY!

We are seeking abstracts for book chapters for *Academic Libraries and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals*, edited by LIS scholars Sarah Tribelhorn (San Diego State University) and Bharat Mehra (University of Alabama). We look forward to reading abstracts conveying a vision to communicate research, reflection, or practice in response to the work your academic library is doing toward sustainability and the UN SDGs.



You are invited to submit a 500-word abstract as a Word document via email to: [stribelhorn@sdsu.edu](mailto:stribelhorn@sdsu.edu) and [bmehra@ua.edu](mailto:bmehra@ua.edu) by April 30, 2024.

We look forward to reading your great idea!

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### EXAMPLES OF HOW ACADEMIC LIBRARIES ARE WORKING TOWARD the 17 UN SDGs

1. No poverty: providing affordable learning solutions for students; providing community support to satellite campuses; supporting writing and tutor centers in the library to empower the community;
2. Zero hunger: providing support for community food banks; supporting campus-wide food drives;
3. Good health and well-being: collaborating with campus partners to promote health and wellness events; hosting inclusive topical pop-up displays to encourage student and community dialogue;
4. Quality education: providing inclusive study areas; having dedicated learner-based information literacy instruction; having in-depth one-on-one consultations to best support the community;
5. Gender equality: advocating for the library as a safe space regardless of gender orientation; research support by women in STEM; provision of a lactation room; providing gender-neutral restrooms;
6. Clean water and sanitation: providing hot and cold water stations throughout the library to reduce single-use plastic, and to ensure that water is available freely to the community if needed;
7. Affordable and clean energy: intentionally reducing energy consumption by replacing original fixtures with LED options; providing research support on clean energy;
8. Decent work and education: supporting the discovery and use of career information resources; providing student internships and employment opportunities; providing financial literacy and support;
9. Industry, innovation, and infrastructure: supporting learning and scholarship innovation through a dedicated Digital Humanities Center; supporting entrepreneurship through a mentoring program; supporting data management
10. Reduced inequalities: initiatives to promote equitable access to scholarship through an Open Access program; providing Open Educational Resources to promote equitable access to educational materials to students;
11. Sustainable cities and communities: building community through public programs; promoting engagement through partnerships with all local public and academic libraries;
12. Responsible consumption and production: conduct continual environmental monitoring of the library and its resources; host data management workshops encouraging best practices; procuring eco-friendly supplies;
13. Climate action: supporting campus-wide green initiatives; providing access to environmental resources; establishment of a library sustainability committee;
14. Life below water: supporting research of coastal marine ecology through collections, consultations, and subject librarian expertise;
15. Life on land: supporting research of ecosystem ecology and global change through collections, consultations, and subject librarian expertise;
16. Peace, justice and strong institutions: providing services and support to our cross-border US-Mexico community; supporting shared governance by library faculty to strengthen the community; storing valuable university collections in the library archives to ensure they are findable and accessible;
17. Partnerships for the goals: partnerships between all local public and academic libraries in health information or climate justice partnership; partnerships with community partners for library exhibits to highlight fundamental research and social justice.