

Summit for the Future 2024

Views of the German Library Association (dbv)

Contact information

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Chapeau

In tune with the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) and other European library associations, the dbv is advocating for libraries to be recognised as essential partners for inclusive, sustainable development, through their work to provide meaningful access to information for all.

Libraries are essential for meaningful and equitable access to information, focused on giving everyone the possibility and skills to make the most of information. Present in almost every city and town around the world, our institutions, therefore, offer a unique reach and potential to achieve policy goals across the board, in particular those set out in the United Nations 2030 Agenda.

More information on the [website of IFLA](#) and on the [website of the dbv](#) (in German).

In the context of the Summit of the Future, the dbv would like to reaffirm the importance of integrated approaches to policy-making, ensuring strong upstream planning and coordination between policy initiatives, as well as support for general purpose development infrastructures which deliver benefits across different policy areas, such as libraries.

Chapter I. Sustainable development and financing for development

The dbv would like to pledge in favour of recognising culture as a fourth dimension of sustainable development, acting both as a key determinant of success across development agendas, and as a goal in its own right, noting in particular the need to guarantee the enjoyment of cultural rights, mobilise and support cultural actors and institutions, safeguard indigenous cultures, and integrate culture into policy-making across development agendas. Following the clear calls in different international settings for culture to be seen as a goal (for example in the 2023 G20 Declaration), we believe that it is time to recognise the same in the Pact for the Future, ensuring that culture is given a practical, concrete role in development and other processes today, as well as setting out intentions for post-2030.

The dbv would also like to underline the importance of an informed society for the achievement of the wider sustainable development agenda, based on rights to free access to information and

expression, a rich, evolving, and equitable knowledge commons, meaningful investment in upholding information integrity, and ensuring that everyone has the skills and confidence to use the internet and other information resources safely, effectively and confidently. For more information on the role of libraries in enhancing digital skills, please visit:

<https://www.bibliotheksverband.de/digitaltag>

Chapter II. International peace and security

The dbv welcomes the reference to a culture of peace in the co-facilitators' draft, and believes strongly that this should feature the future chapter on this topic. The dbv would like to underline the need to build proactively a culture of peace through upholding and celebrating cultural diversity, promoting cultural exchange and education, addressing harmful cultural practices, and integrating cultural concerns and knowledge into wider strategies for peace.

Chapter III. Science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation

The dbv welcomes the UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science as providing a basis for ensuring more equitable participation in global research and scientific progress, and underline that advancing Open Science in line with the Recommendation is an essential means of delivering on wider development agendas.

The dbv underlines the need for effective and appropriate science-policy interfaces, and in particular the need to ensure that there is a culture of using evidence in policymaking, as well as the structures necessary to achieve this both inside and outside of government.

The dbv welcomes the emphasis on making connectivity meaningful, and stresses the need for community-level infrastructures and tools in order to achieve this, notably as concerns building skills and confidence.

Finally, the dbv would like to stress the value of a multistakeholder approach to internet governance, and the need to include fully stakeholders from a wide range of sectors in decision-making.

Chapter IV. Youth and future generations

The dbv underlines the need to guarantee strong literacy and school-readiness programmes for all children, as well as community spaces allowing people of all ages to realise their potential and their rights, such as libraries. The dbv approves the meaningful and equitable inclusion of young creative and cultural actors in work to strengthen the voice of youth and ensure the recognition of the interests of future generations.

Chapter V. Transforming global governance

The dbv stresses the importance of effective and efficient knowledge management and sharing practices across the UN system, including well-supported and accessible libraries in all parts of the system, and strong links to external research centres.

The dbv underlines the importance of cultural sustainability in global governance priorities, and of strengthening mechanisms to incorporate cultural concerns and expertise into recommendations and decisions across the UN System.