
Dynamic Coalition on Public Access in Libraries (DC-PAL)

1. SDG to which your DC work is most strongly related to

- GOAL 17: Partnerships to achieve the Goal

2. Outline achievements of your DC in regard to that SDG

The work of DC-PAL relates to three aspects of SDG17: helping more people access the internet, capacity building to help them make meaningful use of it, and encouraging the free flow of information in order to support the achievement of all of the SDGs. This falls into several target groups of SDG17: capacity-building, technology, and multi-stakeholder partnerships supporting the achievement of sustainable development goals.

Of course, helping more people access the internet also closely relates to SDG 9.c.

The outcomes of DC-PAL's work towards these three targets so far include:

- Developing the "Principles on Public Access" framework to catalyse a discussion among stakeholders from civil society, governments, businesses, and international organisations on public access as a step towards universal internet access.
- Contributing to the intersessional IGF work on the Policy Options for Connecting and Enabling the Next Billion(s). The most recent contribution presented case studies of libraries providing internet connectivity and helping achieve several SDGs through public access.
- Engaging with governments and other organisations to promote public access in libraries as a tool to achieve wider internet access and meaningful use.
- Facilitating an exchange of good practices within the library field on providing public internet access in libraries. This includes good practices on an individual library level, as well as national or subnational policy levels.
- Developing the "Public Access Policy Toolkit", which outlines the key policy elements and steps to creating an enabling policy environment for broadening public internet access, designed to help libraries and library associations engage in advocacy.
- Several active members of the DC have been engaged in the Partnership for Public Access, forming partnerships with organisations and institutions from different sectors to pursue various goals related to Public Access. Some of the P4PA activities include a project in Tunisia focused on digital literacy and coding, and P4PA's contribution to the

2018 consultation launched by UN Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation.

- Finally, several members of the DC members have been involved in various capacity-building initiatives to support libraries in offering public access, such as those within EIFL's Public Library Innovation Programme or IFLA's International Advocacy Programme.

3. Outline plans towards 2025 and that specific SDG

Continue supporting the work of libraries and other anchor institutions in offering public internet access through preparing advocacy materials, influencing policies, carrying out research and evidence-gathering, and capacity-building initiatives.

Encourage the participation of libraries in policy processes and their involvement in (public-private) partnerships aiming to broaden internet access.

Encourage the participation of libraries in internet governance initiatives to promote public access as a tool to achieve all of the SDGs.

Explore new means of providing public internet access through libraries – digital hotspot lending programmes, participation in community network projects, Offline Internet, connection sharing, TV White space and other emerging technologies. Facilitate an exchange of good practices between libraries. Advocate for the policy mixes best suited to support these solutions.

Explore new forms of digital literacy training (e.g. algorithmic literacy, media literacy) which libraries could offer to their users, and the ways such literacy initiatives could be rolled out. Adapting digital literacy initiatives to include new types of relevant skills is crucial to ensure continued meaningful use of internet and access to information.

4. List Policy Question related to the work of your DC and in regard to the specific SDG

1. What are/should be the rights and responsibilities for individuals in determining the - What policy environments support and enable non-commercial and universal systems of internet access provision and use – including spectrum regulation reforms, licensing, and USAF policies?

- What regulatory and legal frameworks help libraries serve as public internet access points – including funding regulations, USAF, national broadband policies?

- How can policies promoting internet connectivity and use be designed in a more participatory, bottom-up manner, and be more responsive to local needs and input?

- How can we better collect evidence of the impact of public access in libraries at the macro level?

- How can we articulate more effectively what a comprehensive internet access offer looks like (i.e. that meets all of the needs of all members of society)?

- What more can be done to ensure the progress of open access, and so the building of knowledge partnerships across borders in favour of development?