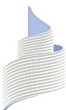




Towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Agenda in Library Environments

Editors

Professor Ts. Dr. Sohaimi Zakaria
Professor Datin Dr. Roslina Othman



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Preface

The publication of the book "Towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Agenda in Library Environment" is a plan to inculcate and create awareness among academics and practitioners towards the SDG. This book is the result of the initiative done by the Library Management Program (IM244), Faculty of Information Management, which is currently known as the School of Information Science, College of Computing, Informatics and Media, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), Puncak Perdana Campus, Shah Alam, Malaysia. This initiative materialized in the organization of The Second International Library Management e-Colloquium Program on July 14, 2021, which also supports the Persatuan Pustakawan Malaysia (PPM) involvement in the UN Summit in September 2015. This book includes the global content of the library's initiatives essays, projects, and practices in achieving SDG in line with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). This book consists of ten (10) chapters that illustrate the global initiatives based on academic and public library settings which cover the seventeenth (17) SDG goals.

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INTRODUCTION

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The (United Nations) UN 2030 Agenda is a worldwide call to act to end poverty, safeguard the planet and guarantee that everyone, everywhere, enjoys peace and prosperity. The SDGs are interrelated – often, the key to success for one will implicate attempting issues more frequently connected with another. The UN's 193 States Members were implemented in September 2015 and came into force on 1 January 2016. While the SDGs are not legitimately binding, governments were estimated to take ownership and establish national frameworks for the achievement of all the Goals. An ongoing monitoring process constructed on quantitative data collection and national reporting will sustain the momentum. Not all politicians or decision-makers will talk about the SDGs. However, they should consider the issues they cover, from fighting poverty and cultivating health to stimulating justice and decreasing corruption (IFLA, 2019).

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also called Global Goals, are inspired by the United Nations (UN). It was first introduced in 2015 and is a universal initiative to eradicate poverty and protect the earth, and as one of the ways to ensure that by 2030 everyone enjoys universal peace and prosperity. Revealing the history of SDG implementation in this country, Malaysia, along with 192 other world leaders, adopted the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda (2030 Agenda) at the UN General Assembly in New York on 25 September 2015. This is a global commitment toward more sustainable development, resilient and inclusive, with 17 initiatives (SDGs) and 169 targets. The SDGs are a set of goals, targets, and new indicators that are 'universal' and are expected to be used by UN state members to organize their political agendas and policies for 15 years (2016 - 2030). With 17 Goals, 169 Targets, and more than 200 Indicators covering five dimensions, namely People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, and Partnership, the SDGs will drive action in the next nine years through a significant field for the people of the community and the whole world.

The SDGs consist of 17 main initiatives that can be divided into specific categories such as quality education, reduced inequalities, sustainable cities and communities, and various other initiatives which can be related as well. Creativity, knowledge, technology, and financial resources from the whole society are among the essential elements to achieving the SDGs in every context. Malaysia is also not lagging in ensuring that these SDGs are followed and implemented in various sectors and relevant agencies. This includes libraries and information centers in Malaysia that also implement, organize, and no less plan multiple activities related to existing SDG initiatives. It is believed that the partnership that will take place today will provide a lot of enlightenment, benefit, and understanding to all of us about the importance of implementing activities that can lead to creating a sustainable society in Malaysia, Indonesia, or anywhere in the world.

International Federations of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), which is an international body in the field of Library and Information Science, also emphasizes and supports SDG efforts. The IFLA Library Map of the World (LMW) provides a unique digital space to share stories that demonstrate libraries' contribution and relevance to the SDGs' achievement. Among the initiatives implemented by the library is to allow decision-makers to evaluate the potential of all libraries and information centers around the world in aspects related to the promotion of information literacy, offering free access to information other than the library as a safe and calming place to visit by the entire community of people in the world. In addition, LMW also took initiatives for empowerment on skills and access to Information and Communication Technology (ICT) apart from a more stable and comprehensive internet connection. Among other things, the implementation by IFLA is also related to promoting innovation, creativity, and access to the world's knowledge for future generations.

How do libraries support the SDGs?

Libraries around the world propose a wide range of products and services that encourage the accomplishment of every one of the SDGs. From stimulating literacy to offering free access to information, libraries are safe, welcoming spaces at the heart of communities. They come with the necessary support of committed staff with a deep understanding of local needs. They spread digital insertion through access to ICT, internet connection, and skills. They encourage innovation, creativity, and access to the world's knowledge for current and future generations.

Listed below are the 17 initiatives introduced by the United Nations, and the International Federations of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) has related the initiatives with the various types of libraries' activities as stated on the IFLA website (IFLA, 2019):

SDG 1 - End poverty in all its forms everywhere:

Libraries provide opportunities for people to improve their own lives and support informed decision-making. Mobile libraries make books, services, and internet access available in rural and remote communities, providing opportunities to people that would otherwise be isolated.

SDG 2 - End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture:

Agricultural libraries provide access to research and data on crops, market information, and farming methods that help develop resilient sustainable produce. Public and community libraries also promote literacy, provide ICT training, access to information in local languages, and a gateway to government services and funding for rural communities, as well as fostering partnerships to support local development.

SDG 3 - Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages:

Medical libraries and hospital libraries provide access to medical research that supports improved clinical and public health outcomes. Public access to health information in all libraries helps people to make better lifestyle choices and to stay healthy. Public libraries have

a crucial role in providing health information to vulnerable groups such as new immigrants and people experiencing homelessness. Services include: accessing reliable health information, developing health literacy skills, providing help in researching and acquiring appropriate health insurance, and organizing and participating in first aid training.

SDG 4 - Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all:

Libraries are at the heart of schools, universities, and colleges in every country around the world. All libraries support literacy programs, provide a safe space for learning, and support researchers to access, apply and reuse research and data to create new knowledge. Hands-on computer classes, after-school support, and programs addressing subject areas with high failure rates are just a few examples of how libraries respond to local needs and take action to improve education. Libraries also act as facilitators in their communities, setting up local learning centers to support learning.

SDG 5 - Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls:

Libraries offer programs for women and girls to access information about their rights and health. They also provide ICT and literacy programs, as well as coding clubs and entrepreneurship training. Libraries provide a safe environment for women to read or pursue learning, access computers, and the Internet, undertake technology training, or communication among them at the libraries.

SDG 6 - Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all:

Libraries provide public access to information on water, energy usage, and sanitation. They offer access to research and evidence for policymakers and development organizations to support the effective allocation of resources to sustainable water infrastructure and sanitation projects.

SDG 7 - Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all:

Many public and community libraries around the world represent the only place where people can get reliable access to light and electricity to read, study and apply for a job. Libraries and libraries like rural information centers can provide public-access computers, sometimes powered by solar panels or generators, allowing people to hold meetings, charge devices, and access the Internet at night.

SDG 8 - Promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all:

Public access to ICTs and training at libraries enable people to apply for jobs. People lacking access to a computer or the Internet at home come to the library to find these, as well as skilled library staff who can help them write their CVs, send online applications, scan certificates, and

diplomas, and find the right job. Some libraries offer employment clubs to share tips and resources with other job-seekers in the same area.

SDG 9 - Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation:

Libraries are at the heart of research, technology, innovation, and academic life. They provide access to research infrastructure, data, and quality information to foster innovation and competitiveness. Some libraries operate business centers that offer entrepreneurship training as well as legal and financial advice to help entrepreneurs start up their businesses.

SDG 10 - Reduce inequality within and among countries:

Equitable access to information, freedom of expression, freedom of association and assembly, and privacy are central to individuals' independence. Libraries help to reduce inequality by providing safe, civic spaces open to all in both urban and rural areas across the world. They foster community engagement and citizen participation through local programs and partnerships with other civil society organizations and local governments. They are a lifeline to marginalized groups who may struggle to access information, skills, or support elsewhere.

SDG 11 - Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable:

Libraries have an essential role in safeguarding and preserving invaluable documentary heritage, in all forms, for future generations. Culture strengthens local communities and supports the inclusive and sustainable development of cities – libraries are at the heart of initiatives to promote this. With targeted services to reach the most vulnerable groups, libraries provide a safe space for older people, offering opportunities to socialize and take part in cultural activities. They are also a welcoming space for immigrants, people experiencing homelessness, and refugees, who sometimes face many of the same challenges.

SDG 12 - Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns:

Libraries are sustainable institutions; they share resources within communities and across borders to ensure that everyone has access to information. Libraries are the precursors of the new sharing economy, offering all kinds of materials for the loan (not only books, music, movies, and all kinds of information resources, but also tools, musical instruments, appliances, and more), thus reducing the carbon footprint and the impact on the environment. Libraries offering access to 3D printers and digital manufacturing skills allow people to develop their creativity using recycled materials. This helps to raise awareness of sustainable consumption and production.

SDG 13 - Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts:

Libraries play a crucial role in providing access to reliable data, research, and knowledge that supports informed research and public access to information about climate change. They ensure long-term access to environmental data and information for future generations through

thorough preservation strategies that outlast the policies of individual governments. School and public libraries help raise awareness among younger generations about the critical and urgent need to protect our environment and to work together to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change.

SDG 14 - Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development:

Libraries support decision-making by preserving and giving access to data and information related to the sustainable use of oceans, seas, and other water bodies, appropriate fishing practices, and adequate water management.

SDG 15 - Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss:

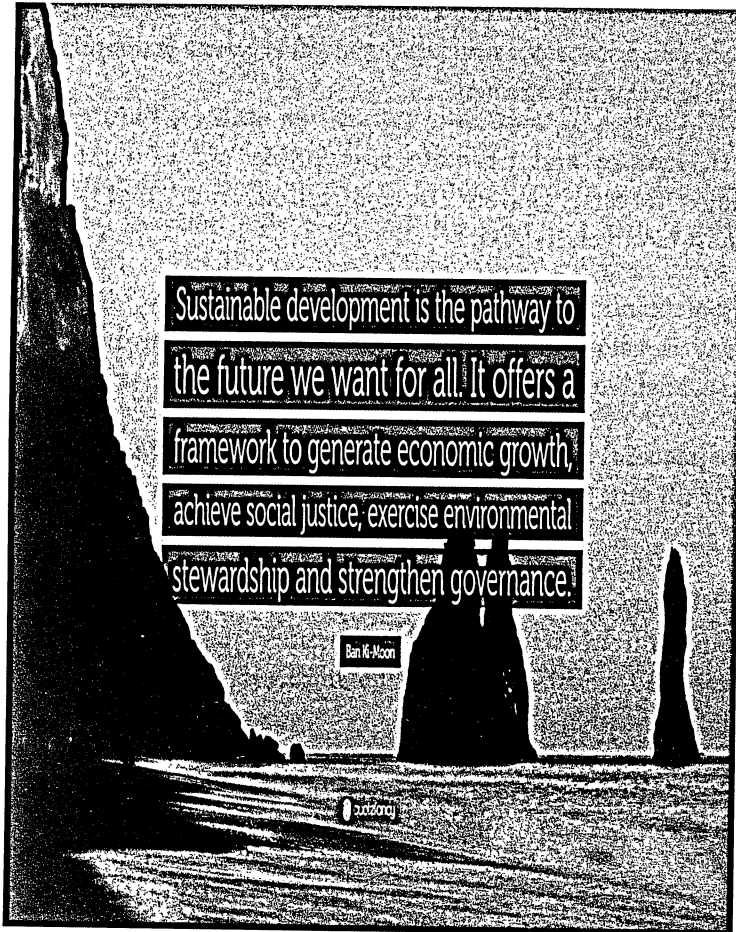
Libraries foster research and help protect the earth's ecosystems by offering open access to biodiversity data and literature. Botanical and forest libraries help raise awareness among younger generations about the need to respect and protect nature.

SDG 16 - Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels:

Libraries are a crucial source of information for the public. They are also equipped to teach and enable citizens to benefit from this open access. Libraries are trusted information source with skilled staff that helps individuals, institutions, and governments to communicate, organize, structure, and use information in a meaningful way to promote development.

SDG 17 - Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development:

Libraries partner at all levels with local, regional, and national civil society institutions, governments, and organizations from the private sectors to offer community-based programs and services that engage and empower citizens, in turn strengthening societies.



Source: Quote Fancy

Roles and Contributions of Libraries to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

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ABSTRACT

All United Nations Member States adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. There are 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which also got the attention from library organizations. The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) actively supports the roles libraries can play in planning and implementing the United Nations 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. This paper highlighted the roles and contributions of libraries in supporting the Sustainable Development Goals.

Key Words: Sustainable Development Goals, Libraries, Roles, Contribution, Library Management

1. INTRODUCTION

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, were received by the United Nations in 2015 as a widespread call to activity to conclude destitution, secure the planet and guarantee that by 2030 all individuals live in peace and affluence. Within the straightforward meaning, the SDGs characterize the world we need. They apply to all countries and signify, very basically, to guarantee that nobody is forgotten. The 17 SDGs are the 2030 Plan, the outline of the world we look for. Sustainable development has been defined as progress that works to meet the needs of the present without compromising the capacity of future generations to meet their own needs (United Nations, 2021).

The United Nations (2021) listed these 17 goals: Goal 1: No Poverty; Goal 2: Zero Hunger; Goal 3: Good Health and Well-being; Goal 4: Quality Education; Goal 5: Gender Equality; Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation; Goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy; Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth; Goal 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure; Goal 10: Reduced Inequalities; Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities; Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production; Goal 13: Climate Action; Goal 14: Life Below Water; Goal 15: Life on Land; Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions and Goal 17: Partnership for the Goals. Figure 1 illustrates the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.



The concept of a sustainable library derived from the effort to promote literacy, offering free access to information, libraries are a safe and welcoming place for communities. Library provides an indispensable support of a dedicated staff with a deep understanding of user needs by providing access to Information and Communication Technology (ICT), internet coverage and digital literacy. Library also promotes innovation and creativity to nurture the world's knowledge for the present and future generations. According to Scherer (2014), a sustainable library is designed to maximise the positive impact on the social, cultural, economic and environmental aspects of society.

2. ROLES AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF LIBRARIES IN SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

An important factor that cannot be left out for the sustainable development of a country is information. Looking forward at our society nowadays, information centers and the library plays a vital role that serves as an intermediary between the users and the information required. Library also support long-life learning, serve data education abilities, facilitate exploration of knowledge which provide a conducive environment for individual learning development. Okoro, Akidi and Arua (2014) stated libraries act as tools for the development of society. These roles are undeniable due to the empowerment given to society to decide on their life-enhancing. In a global view, the provision of SDGs by a country is necessary to meet the demands of its citizens in line with the rapid economic and technological growth. For this purpose, libraries act the main role in generating, arranging, operating, keeping, disseminating, and giving access to information for the public. Through the roles which provide opportunities for people to improve their own lives and support informed decision-making. Furthermore, libraries support decision-making by preserving and giving access to data and information related to the social and cultural activities.

The 17 SDGs plans can be seen to be closely linked to the role of the library as the custodian of knowledge and the most trusted for information. In these terms libraries play the following roles in regard to the following:

Goal 1: No Poverty

It can be said that information poverty restrains sustainable development. According to Vargas and Lee (2018), information poverty is one of the forms of scarcity associated with economic and social destitution. Hence, they emphasize tackling information poverty as a prerequisite for any kind of development and affects all dimensions of life. Information poverty is closely related to communication deficiency as information is the most important component of communication. Whilst in a rural community area, libraries were set up to deliver the advice-centre functions and community information centres for society rather than simply offering a number of books and also study materials to students. Without an information approach, individuals' minds cannot expand and thus cannot fulfill their needs. In a general perspective of poverty, library contributes in providing access to research and data on crops, market information, and farming methods that help develop resilient and sustainable produce.

Goal 2: Zero Hunger

A well-planned and sustainable effort may help to overcome issues on the second goal. Through their resources to eradicate hunger and to assure the proper functioning of food commodities; libraries create awareness and spread information on sustainable agricultural practices in the community. Libraries encourage their visitors to support and participate in a variety of programmes organized by governments and other charities for these purposes. Among the practices that have been implemented include the Zero Hunger Challenge 2030. This practice aims to eliminate all forms of malnutrition and to build inclusive and sustainable food systems. In addition, the World Food Programme (WFP) reported up to over 800 million people do not have enough food and almost 50 million people are facing emergency levels of hunger. WFP initiated a life-saving food and nutrition programme to assist people trapped wherever they are. With the help of local partners, the initiative reaches those in need in remote areas.

Goal 3: Good Health and Well-being

Libraries and information centres provided information materials both in electronic and printed forms in order to spread awareness to the community for ensuring their healthy lives and promote well-being for the society of all ages. Kamau and Owano (2018) stated information can play a key role in both preventive and curative interventions. The provision of knowledge provided by many libraries for various types of clientele in the community will empower them with the knowledge and skills to deal with the various ailments. Such provisions include information on immunizations, prevention of HIV/AIDS, mental health, maternal health and major diseases. Meanwhile, Mansour (2020) revealed that libraries have high demand from the local citizens, particularly for libraries that have several health-related information resources on family affairs' health matters in dealing with rural diseases.

Goal 4: Quality Education

Libraries are seemed to encourage literacy skills for the society in order to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and assist in lifelong learning chances for every person as well as support the meant by SDGs no one is left behind.

Goal 5: Gender Equality

This is where the libraries support gender equality by providing safe meeting spaces, programmes for women and girls on rights and health, and information and communications technology (ICT). Besides, the literacy programme also seems to support women in building their entrepreneurial skills. Libraries enable to adopt technologies while select information materials to encourage gender equality and empower women and girls.

Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

With regard to this goal, libraries are encouraging and educating society members about the significance of clean water and protecting its sources (IFLA, 2017). The library and information centres facilitate access to hygiene-related knowledge through raising awareness, campaigns and symposiums in terms to support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management (Abata-Ebire, Adebowale and Ojokuku, 2018).

Goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy

Libraries have a leading role in promoting sustainable ways of making the world more prosperous by building a good collection of energy sources promoting the adoption of solar energy in line with to ensure access for affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.

Goal 8: The Decent Work and Economic Growth

With regard to libraries, they help users find new jobs by placing relevant advertisements on library bulletin boards, for example, providing job-related information resources as well as being a meeting point for community members, hence making them more relevant to cultural and functional areas.

Goal 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

Public and rural libraries also provide a good set of sources of printed information to enhance and help users understand economic, societal and contemporary issues. Therefore, the effort at once builds resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization as well as foster innovation.

Goal 10: Reduced Inequalities

Within countries of the world, libraries give their sources of information for all groups of humans regardless of differences in age, gender, political orientation, profession, or religious or sectarian differences.

Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

Libraries have a vital role in preserving and safeguarding invaluable documentary heritage, in any form, for future generations in order to make cities and also human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

It seems that the library has partaken effectively in energy conservation by delivered designed seminars on the subjects that link with the library community, involving clean energy in terms of its good use.

Goal 13: Climate Action

Libraries are holding awareness seminars on environmental hazards and the resulting diseases and intensifying the cultivation of surrounding areas to reduce pollution too.

Goal 14: Life Below Water

For this purpose, libraries and information centres provide information sources on preservation and conservation methods that can sustainably the usage of the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development.

Goal 15: Life on Land

In this term, libraries take a key part to encourage social awareness on protecting, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, and halt biodiversity loss.

Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

Libraries play a role by giving internet access to the community at no or low cost and guaranteeing public access to information, and keeping fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national law and international agreements.

Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goal

The last of SDGs goals, libraries work best with local and central governments for the purpose of creating real partnerships where the information can be accessed much more easily and also provide good services for all.

It is clear that libraries play a significant role in supporting education and literacy, research support, personality development and advocacy. Libraries facilitate the public access to information, preserve knowledgeable resources, store and retrieve, and also promote literacy. Additionally, it is interesting to note that libraries and librarians play a key role beyond what is documented about them by providing an opportunity for all libraries to empower people for their own self-development, offering access to the world's knowledge, providing expert guidance in a multi-stakeholder society. Babalola et al. (2012) stated that information is an important factor for political participation and social inclusion and the foundation for developing at all levels of human life.

3. LIBRARIANS AND LIBRARIES IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Librarianship community has recently emerged as a significant resource for the growth of the community or society, having made a significant contribution to resolving issues of social exclusion. Bowden (1999) defined librarian's contribution as a key in attaining any goal that requires access to information. Other than that, ensuring everyone has access to affordable, dependable, sustainable, and contemporary energy is one of the contributions in SDGs. Furthermore, promoting long-term, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, as well as full and productive employment contribute towards decent working conditions for all. Besides, some libraries provide business centres where entrepreneurs can get entrepreneurship training as well as legal and financial guidance. According to Onwibiko (2021), librarians need transformation from traditional to modern and versatile activities to fortify their roles, such as advocacy programme, community outreach and engagement. These modern roles will aid librarians to contribute meaningfully towards the realisation of these goals.

Libraries are at the core of projects to promote culture, which strengthens local communities and fosters inclusive and sustainable city development (IFLA, 2017). Libraries also provide a secure area for elderly people by offering an opportunity to socialize and participate in cultural activities, as well as specific programmes to reach the most vulnerable groups. They are a welcome area for immigrants, individuals experiencing homelessness, and refugees, all of whom confront many of the same issues.

In addition, libraries are long-term institutions that share resources within and between communities, ensuring that everyone has access to information. Libraries are predecessors of the new sharing economy, lending out a wide range of materials not just books, music, movies and other types of information. Included also are tools, appliances and other items that may lower carbon emissions and environmental effects. People can use recycled materials to create their creativity in libraries that have 3D printers and digital manufacturing skills. This contributes to a greater understanding of sustainable consumption, production and ensures long-term consumption and production patterns.

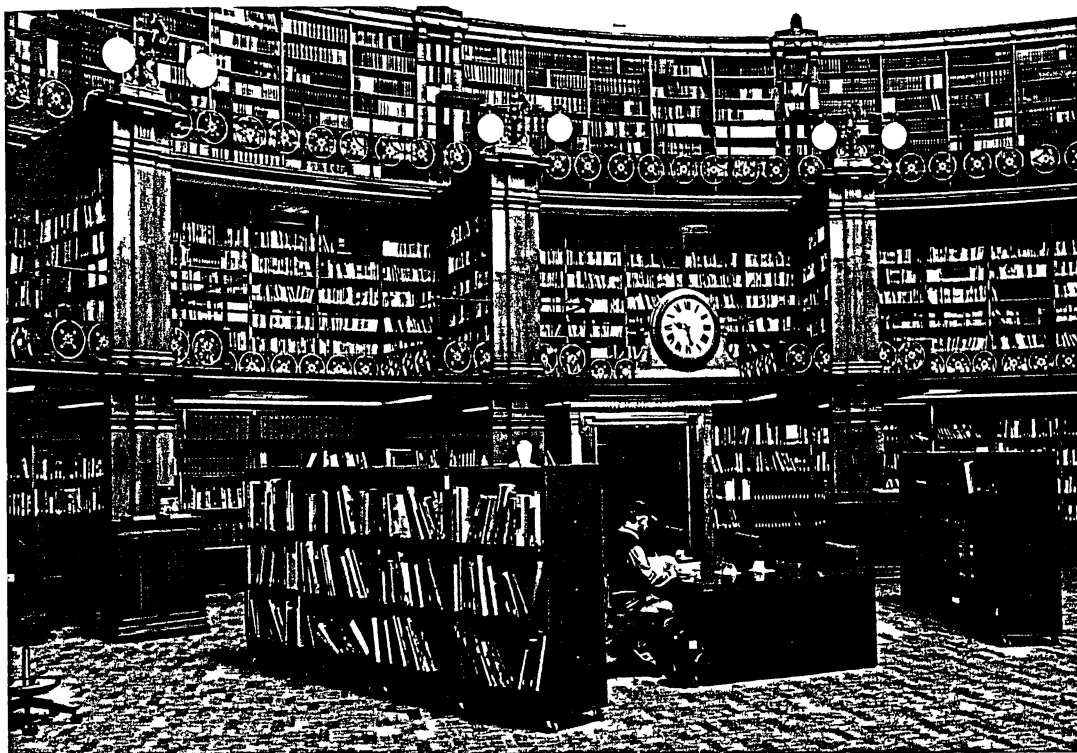
Taking immediate action to prevent climate change and its consequences also contribute to SDGs. Libraries play a critical role in providing trustworthy data, research and expertise to enable informed research and public access to climate change information (Mamtora and Pandey, 2018). They protect future generations' access to environmental data and information by implementing comprehensive preservation strategies that outlast specific governments' policies. School and public libraries also assist in raising awareness among younger generations about the vital and urgent need to protect the environment and work together to reduce and adapt to the effects of climate change.

4. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, libraries play a crucial role in supporting the SDG initiatives. Libraries help to eradicate poverty and to enhance agriculture, quality education, health, public access to ICT and universal service provision, namely culture and economic growth, and all other goals through increasing access to information. Librarians and libraries manifest their support through providing opportunity for all, offer access to the world's knowledge, provide expert guidance and serve as stakeholders in the policy development process. It has everything needed to support the achievement of the SDGs. However, for future development libraries need to work closely with the government, related agencies including non-profit organization, and association at both local and international levels. Libraries also need to seek funding from relevant parties in organizing the SDG related programmes.

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