



## **United Nations Library and Information Network for Knowledge Sharing (UN LINKS) & Lebanese Library Association (LLA): Open Dialogue**

**MAIN CONFERENCE HALL, B1 LEVEL, UN HOUSE, BEIRUT, LEBANON**

**7 OCTOBER 2019**

The United Nations Library and Information Network for Knowledge Sharing (UN LINKS) is the UN system libraries' annual Forum to share know-how and best practices amongst UN librarians. The Forum acts as a platform to open dialogue with and offer a space to share the experiences of the local library community of the host country.

By adopting the United Nations 2030 Agenda, Member States have committed to leave no one behind in their implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This means that the specific needs of vulnerable countries, including African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing states, countries in situations of conflict and post-conflict countries, need to be addressed, so that each of them can enjoy sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and social progress.

Within countries, all people, regardless of their backgrounds, have rights and responsibilities to fulfill their potential in life, and lead decent, dignified and rewarding lives in a healthy environment. This means that goals and targets need to be met for all segments of society. Those often left behind are people living in poverty and other vulnerable situations, including children, youth, persons with disabilities, people living with HIV/AIDS, older persons, indigenous peoples, refugees and internally displaced persons and migrants. Their voices must be heard, and their active participation as agents of change needs to be promoted.

Libraries have been called upon to provide information on a variety of sustainable development themes and they need to ensure that such knowledge is easily accessible. . Open data and open science are crucial to this effort and libraries will need to find ways to collate a range of information, backgrounds, statistical data released by countries at the central and local level, as well as a public policy think tanks, international organisations and institutions. Increasing awareness among librarians on sustainable development goals is also essential if library users are to make sense of the information that already exists, and which will necessarily continue to evolve.

*“Increased access to information and knowledge, underpinned by universal literacy, is an essential pillar of sustainable development. Greater availability of quality information and data*

*and the involvement of communities in its creation will provide a fuller, more transparent allocation of resources Information intermediaries such as libraries, archives, civil society organisations (CSOs), community leaders and the media have the skills and resources to help governments, institutions and individuals communicate, organize, structure and understand data that is critical to development<sup>1</sup>.”*

For 2019, ESCWA Library, in cooperation with the Lebanese Library Association (LLA), is organizing UN LINKS Forum “*UN Libraries, MENA Libraries, and Sustainable Development: Open Dialogue*” on Monday 7 October 2019 at the UN House, in Beirut, Lebanon.

Over a full day, the programme of the Forum on the theme “*UN Libraries, MENA Libraries, and Sustainable Development: Open Dialogue*” features a variety of issues in relation to Lebanese library-related programs for promoting development. The main components of the Forum are as follows:

- Showcasing the initiatives and projects of publishers in relation to Arabic content and open access;
- Supporting innovative ways of knowledge management to support sustainable development;
- Highlighting initiatives by libraries and information centers on making online Arabic content accessible;
- Portraying solutions to challenges facing libraries;
- Showcasing publisher’s new business models

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<sup>1</sup> Lyon Declaration on Access to Information and Development, <https://www.lyondeclaration.org/>

## Programme

09:00 am – 09:30 am	<b>Registration and Networking</b>
<b>Opening Session: Moderator: Zuheir Bakleh</b>	
09:30 am – 09:40 am	<b>(*) Welcome</b> Mr. Wouter Schallier, Chair UN LINKS
09:40 am – 09:50 am	<b>(*) Change For the Future of Librarians</b> Mr. Fawz Abdallah, President, Lebanese Library Association (LLA)
09:50 am – 10:00 pm	<b>(*) Opening remarks</b> Ms. Nidale Noun, Chief - Conference Services Section, ESCWA
<b>Session 1: Libraries, Knowledge, Information and Agenda 2030 Moderator: Zuheir Bakleh</b>	
10:00 am – 10:20 am	<b>(*) SDGs Learning and Information Platforms: Key Knowledge and Cultural Pillars of the 2030 Agenda</b> Ms. Mona Fatah, Unit of The 2030 Agenda, ESCWA
10:20 am – 10:40 am	<b>(*) LLA and the UN 2030 Agenda: Sustainable Development Goals</b> Ms. Randa Al Chidiac, LLA Vice-President
10:40 am – 11:00 am	<b>(*) Integrated and knowledge-based Sustainable Development Goals.</b> Mr. Najeeb Al Shorbaji, E-Marefa, Jordan
11:00 am – 11:30 am	<b>(*) Open Dialogue</b>
11:30 am – 12:00 pm	<b>Coffee Break</b>
<b>Session 2: Library initiatives for promoting development, supporting access to knowledge, lessons learned, and undertaken projects Moderator: Wouter Schallier</b>	
12:00 pm – 12:15 pm	<b>(*) Initiating an Educational Database in the Arab World: The experience of Shamaa</b> Ms. Rita Maalouf, Executive Director, Shamaa
12:15 pm – 12:30 pm	<b>(*) AUB Libraries Digital Collections; difficulties, solutions and opportunities</b> Ms. Basma Chebani, Associate University Librarian for Cataloging and Metadata Services & Mr. Elie Kahale, Director of Digital Initiatives and Scholarship, American University of Beirut (AUB)

12:30 pm – 12:45 pm	<b>(*) Consultative Center for Studies and Documentation (CCSD) Arabic Articles Archive</b> Mr. Ibrahim Issa, Information Director, The Consultative Center for Studies and Documentation
12:45 pm – 01:00 pm	<b>(*) SDGs at the American University of Beirut Libraries</b> Ms. Fatme Charafeddine, Associate University Librarian, Research and Academic Collaboration Services, American University of Beirut (AUB)
01:00 pm – 01:30 pm	<b>(*) Open Dialogue</b>
01:30 pm – 02:30 pm	<b>Lunch Break</b>
<b>Session 3: Online access to Arabic content and new business models</b> <b>Moderator: Randa Al Chidiac</b>	
02:30 pm – 02:45 pm	<b>(*) Arabic Union Catalog's Role In Facilitating Access To Knowledge In The Arab World</b> Dr. Saleh Al-Musned, Director, Arab Union Catalog
02:45 pm – 03:00 pm	<b>(*) The Modern IR: The University's Open Access Gateway to the World</b> Mr. Shadi Awwad, Senior Solutions Manager – Research Intelligence, Elsevier
03:00 pm – 03:15 pm	<b>(*) Challenges of e-Publishing in Arab World</b> Mr. Ali Abdallah, Sales Director of MENA
03:15 pm – 03:30 pm	<b>(*) Development in Arabic Language ePublishing Services</b> Mr. Mohammad Abedrabbu, Strategic Accounts & Services Manager, Al Manhal
03:30 pm – 03:45 pm	<b>(*) Arabic Language Searching &amp; Web Visibility</b> Mr. Wajdi Tahmoush, KAM Technology Manager, Naseej
03:45 pm – 04:00 pm	<b>(*) Open Dialogue</b>
04:00 pm – 04:15 pm	<b>(*) Floor open:</b> Attendees share experiences and projects
<b>Closing Session (LLA, UNLINKS, &amp; ESCWA):</b> <b>Moderator: Zuheir Bakleh</b>	
04:15 pm – 04:30 pm	<b>(*) Feedback from the 3 sessions and recommendations</b>
04:30 pm – 05:00 pm	<b>(*) Closing remarks</b>

All the sessions will be live streamed at: <https://www.unescwa.org/7oct>

You can participate and send in your questions at: <https://www.unescwa.org/opendialogue>