

Libraries' role during
war in Ukraine.

Example of Latvia

31st EBLIDA Annual conference

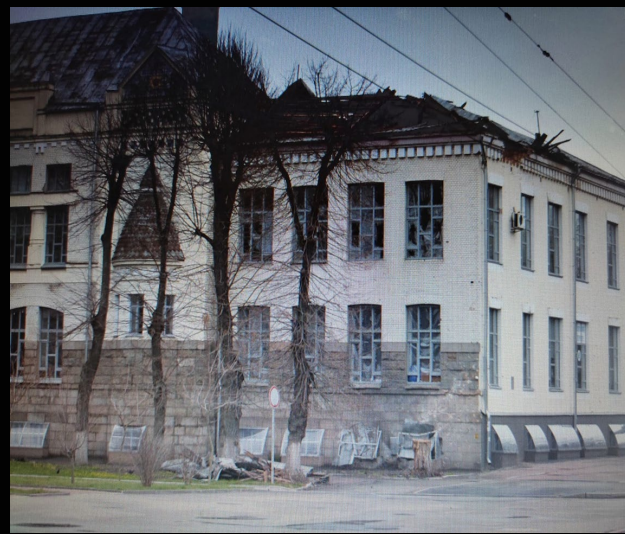
Workshop 3

Luxembourg

18 of April 2023

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528 libraries
damaged or
destroyed
because of
Russian
aggression in
Ukraine*.

Most of them
Donetsk
(31%),
Kiyiv(21%),
Mikolayiv
(13%) Harkiv
(11%).

* MCIP data





International
Federation of
Library
Associations and Institutions

IFLA Statement on Ukraine

01 March 2022

IFLA stands in solidarity with our colleagues in Ukraine – condemns all violent actions and joins the international community in their statements on the situation.

In alliance with the protest of the international Library community IFLA urgently appeals to the libraries all over the world to mobilise in favour of accurate information to be spread on the conflict as a means to support democracy and freedom of expression. IFLA also asks libraries to support any Ukrainian refugees, in collaboration with governmental and non-governmental organisations. We should be ready to find practical solutions and be prepared to provide Ukrainians with assistance and support as needed.

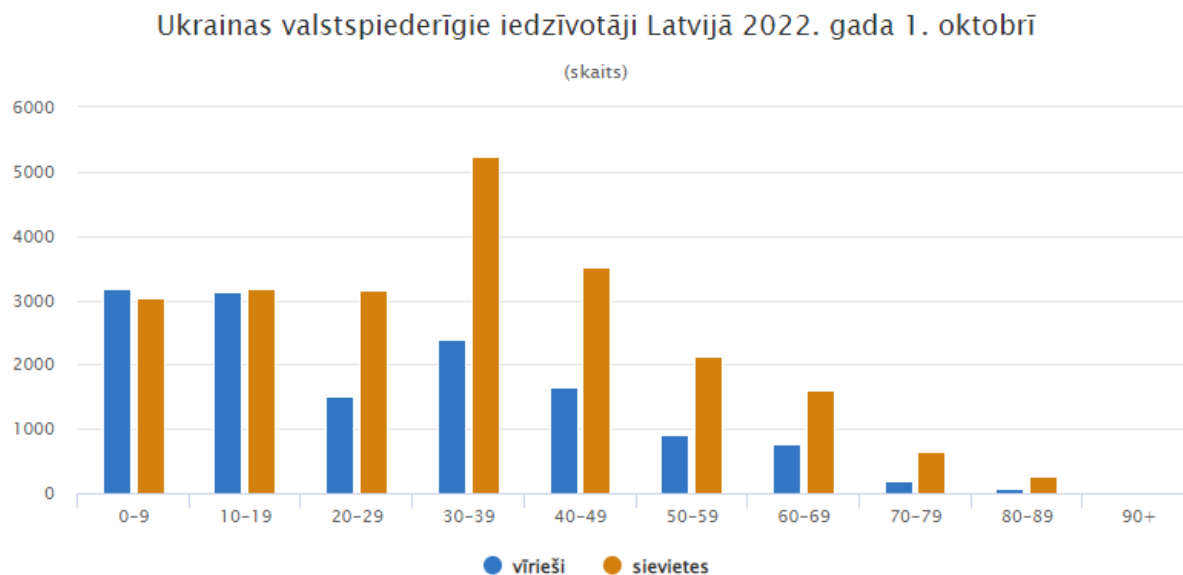
IFLA Governing Board

1 March 2022

Symbolic solidarity from libraries around the world

Ukrainian refugees in Latvia

36 600 Ukrainians registered their place of residence in Latvia*
11 300 or 30.8% are children (not reached the age of 18);
women 62.2%, men 37.8%



Datu avots: PMLP Fizisko personu reģistrs

*data of the Department of Immigration and Immigration Affairs as of October 1, 2022

Library services in general

- diverse literature in Ukrainian, English and Russian
- use of books on site in the library / home delivery
- printing, copying, scanning services
- access to the Internet, online information resources
- library premises for mutual communication, Latvian language lessons, remote work and studies
- board games
- individual consultations / assistance
- educational events
- digital guides in Ukrainian



Technical support

- printing, scanning, copying services
- assistance in obtaining banking services (to open an account)
- help to access medical personnel
- digital resources on the website - access to free Internet resources
- workplace for Ukrainian librarians -

Colleagues from Ukraine work in the Riga Central Library (the opportunity to receive individual consultation, talk in their native language)



Support for studies and work

- assistance to Ukrainian youth who continue their education remotely in Ukraine
- study materials on the Internet, printed workbooks, help with homework is offered
- prepared CV and other necessary documents in Latvian and helped to submit them on the necessary websites
- libraries as a place of study / provided facilities / internet connection

Learning about Ukraine

About Ukraine for Latvians / about Latvia for Ukrainians

- Collections
- Exhibitions
- Conversations and meetings



Books in Ukrainian



Help in learning the Latvian language

- Space for language learning
- Informal conversations for language learning
- Creative lessons in Latvian language learning with teachers



Creative and calm environment

Creative Workshops for adults, Children's classes, Poetry evenings etc.



Other support

- Charity
- Donations
- Cooperation with NGOs, funds etc.
- Cooperation with municipal institutions – social services



Integration in Latvian communities

Madona library writes - We tried to give them the feeling of spring in Latvia, pamper the children with sweets, birch juice and home-baked pancakes. We informed about cultural and sports events in the city. We had become friends, and we were together when they went back on June 2. We said goodbye, we parted with tears in our eyes, we gave them bread for the journey, but we were very aware that they had to return to the land in war. We exchanged contacts and continue communication on social media. Our friends call Madona their city, enjoy the changing colors of the seasons, recognize places and people, share memories...



The role of the librarian in crises

- Guide in the field of reliable and verified information
- Mediator
- Social assistant
- Community builder
- Facilitator of democratic processes and resilience of community



Endurance for the
Ukrainian people!

Thank you!

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