



Workshop 3:

Are libraries prepared to face socio-economic and security challenges during crises?

Katarina Kukaine, Julie Calmus and Ulla Wimmer



Introduction: Questions for this session

- Are libraries **tooled up to face unexpected challenges?**
- Are libraries **well prepared by emergency plans** in the face of pandemic and other possible health disasters?
- **To what extent are libraries able to face the unknown?**



Agenda for this session

- What is the aim of this session? (Katrina Kukaine + Ulla Wimmer)
- Intro: examples for libraires roles in different crises (Ulla Wimmer)
- Libraries' role for refugees during war (Katrina Kukaine)
- Discussion of related questions (plenary or in groups)
- **12:15** : Coming together and summing up

Note-taker and report to EBLIDA Governing board: Julie Calmus



Example: natural disasters

Earthquake in Turkey and Syria, February 2023

Kütüphaneler de etkilendi

On bir şehrimizi etkileyen deprem bölgesindeki kütüphanelerin kimisi ağır hasar aldı. Depremi en ağır yaşayan Hatay'da dört kütüphane, Altınüzüm Halk Kütüphanesi, Kahramanmaraş'ta Saçaklızade Kütüphanesi yıkıldı. Az hasarlı olanların onarımları ise hızlıca yapılmaya başlandı.

Halime Kirazlı — 02:00 . 21/02/2023 Salı — Yeni Şafak



On bir şehrimizi etkileyen deprem bölgesindeki kütüphanelerin kimisi yıkılırken kimisi ağır hasar aldı.

„Libraries also affected

In the earthquake zone that affected eleven cities, some libraries were destroyed while others were severely damaged. Four libraries in Hatay, Altınüzüm Public Library in İslahiye and Saçaklızade Library in Kahramanmaraş were completely destroyed. Repairs to those with minor damage are being carried out quickly.”

(automatic translation by DeepL.com)

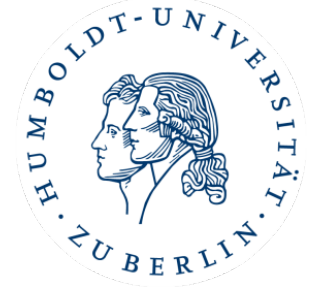
<https://www.yenisafak.com/hayat/kutuphaneler-de-etkilendi-4509521>

Earthquake in Turkey and Syria, February 2023



“Sivas Mobile library bus helps children overcome the fear of earthquakes”

(automatic translation by DeepL.com)



Earthquake in Turkey and Syria, February 2023

<https://www.aa.com.tr/tr/asrin-felaketi/gezici-kutuphane-otobusuyle-cocuklarin-deprem-korkusunu-atlatmalarina-katkisunuluyor/2824530#>

Stating that the bus had popularized the habit of reading books among children in Sivas and was now serving earthquake-stricken children in Malatya, Kaburcuk said: "At a time when Turkey was acting in unity, we were thinking 'what can we do as an institution' and we decided to send our mobile library vehicle to Malatya. With our vehicle, which we deployed in Selçuklu Tent City, we aimed to create an environment where we could heal the wounds of our citizens and children and alleviate their pain."

Kaburcuk pointed out that children of earthquake victims love the mobile library and said, "For this purpose, we give various books to children from our mobile library vehicle. We try to alleviate the pain of children who participate in various activities such as painting, cinema and games, and to help them forget the effects of the earthquake. We try to make them feel happy by giving them treats from time to time."

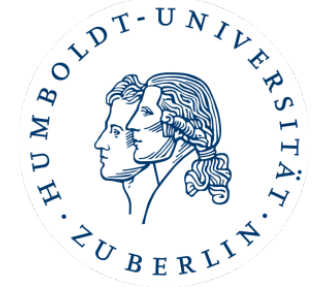
Emphasizing that the families who see the happiness of their children also comfort themselves in this way, Kaburcuk said:

"In the midst of so much pain, problems such as food, heating and shelter were obvious, but when they saw the mobile library bus, they were inevitably surprised at first. Later, when they saw the positive contribution of the activities here to the motivation of the children, they were very happy. All of them leave their children with us with peace of mind and encourage them to participate in the activities. Our library vehicle is the first vehicle to be mobilized in this sense in Turkey. After us, mobile library vehicles from all over Turkey have been directed to other provinces affected by the earthquake."

The mobile library bus, which was sent from Sivas to Malatya after the earthquakes in Kahramanmaraş, described as the "disaster of the century", is trying to erase the traces left by the earthquake on children.

The mobile library bus, which has been serving for about 8 years within the Şemsi Sivasi Provincial Public Library in Sivas and instills the love of books in children living in rural areas, was sent to Malatya.

There are 2 thousand children's books on the bus stationed in the Seljuk Tent City established for citizens whose houses were destroyed in earthquakes in the central Battalgazi district.



Role of libraries during natural disasters

e.g. Earthquake, Flooding, Hurricane, Mudslides, Tornadoes, Wildfires, etc.

Research triggered by hurricane Katrina in the U.S. of America (2005),

DOI: 10.1002/pr2.269

LONG PAPERS



What is essential?: Understanding community resilience and public libraries in the United States during disasters

Beth Patin

The U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) officially recognized **libraries as “essential community organizations,”** tasking them with the responsibility of fulfilling critical information needs in the case of a disaster.” (p. 1)

Patin B. What is essential?: Understanding community resilience and public libraries in the United States during disasters. Proc Assoc Inf Sci Technol. 2020;57:e269. - <https://doi.org/10.1002/pr2.269>



Role of libraries during natural disasters

Patin (2020): Strengthening „Community resilience“, which consists of

- economic development – e.g. filling out disaster claim / insurance forms
- social capital – e.g. being a place of solace, „normality“ and a sense of community
- information and communication – e.g. by internet connectivity
- Community competence

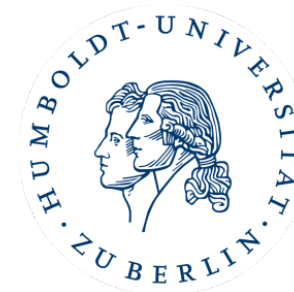
In the community resilience framework, community competence is about the organized action of communities and institutions and their ability to make decisions and improve communities. Several aspects of community

Patin (2020), p.8



Example: war

Libraries as victims of war...



“On May 11, 2022, the German Library Association in cooperation with the Ukrainian Library Association and the Goethe-Institut in Ukraine organized a public digital exchange on the situation of Ukrainian libraries and library staff. Ukrainian colleagues from various libraries gave insights into their work and reported on how they support the people on the ground with information and media despite the war of aggression by Russia. In addition, the assistance offered by the Network Cultural Property Ukraine was presented.”

Recording available at
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mwmqbUGKL_o

Translated with www.DeepL.com/Translator (free version)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mwmqbUGKL_o

...but also as actors for relief and support

e.g. internally displaced persons, providing information on registration, local aid, internet access....

The collage consists of three main parts. On the left, there are two photographs: the top one shows a woman in a white hoodie and a man in a brown vest looking at books at a desk; the bottom one shows a group of people, including a woman in a green jacket, gathered around a desk with a laptop. On the right, there is a screenshot of a video conference. At the top of the conference is the 'dbv' logo. Below it are several video feeds of participants with their names and roles: 'Deutscher Bibliotheksverband' (with a small portrait), 'Barbara Schliehagen', 'Andreas Degenitz' (with the role 'Interpreter/Перекладачка'), 'Daryna Melashenko', 'Olziana Bruy', and 'Samira Zahra, Go...'.

Libraries in Kharkiv subway

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mwmqbUGKL_o

...but also as actors for relief and support

...art therapy,
bibliotherapy and
psychologic
counseling...



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mwmqbUGKL_o

...but also as actors for relief and support

...and a space for joint defense preparations, preparing clothes, camouflage and food packages, and collecting Ukrainian books for European libraries

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mwmqbUGKL_o



Example: Libraries acting for refugees in times of war
... see report by Katrina Kukaine!



Example: areas of armed conflict

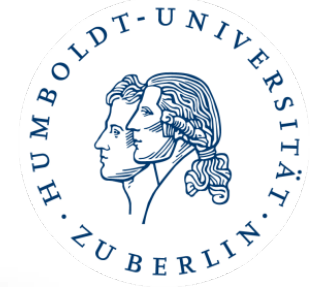
Bibliothèques Sans Frontières: Ideas Box: a „pop up“ library in areas of conflict



The screenshot shows the website for Libraries Without Borders (Bibliothèques Sans Frontières). The header includes the organization's logo and name, navigation links (ABOUT US, WHAT WE DO, WHERE WE WORK, IMPACT, NEWS, GET INVOLVED), a language selector (EN), a search icon, and a DONATE button. Below the header, there are social media icons for Facebook and Twitter. The main content area features a sidebar with menu items: OUR TOOLS & METHODOLOGIES (selected), OUR CAMPAIGN, PRIVATE PARTNERS, and INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS. The main text describes the Ideas Box as a highly-durable, easy-to-set-up, and energy-independent library. It lists the contents: satellite internet connection, digital server, power generator, 25 tablets and laptops, 6 HD cameras, 1 large HD screen, board games, arts and crafts materials, hardcover and paperback books, and a stage for music and theatre. The text also mentions that the expert team ensures each Ideas Box is customized to meet local needs by collaborating with organizations, leaders, and members within the community. A purple link is provided at the bottom of the text: [Emergencies, Post-Conflict Situations, and Peace Processes](#).

<https://www.librarieswithoutborders.org/ideasbox/#1472134509493-d91cf23f-c3e3>

Bibliothèques Sans Frontières: Ideas Box: a „pop up“ library in areas of conflict



- **The Syrian Crisis in the Middle East**

The Middle East is a critical response zone for Ideas Box projects in Jordan, Lebanon and both refugee camps and host communities. We support regional humanitarian response plans, with a focus on protection, and capacity-building of refugees.

- **The Peace Process in Colombia**

As Colombia moved toward peace with the FARC, the Colombian Ministry of Culture reached out to us to work in areas where demobilized fighters would be returning. In 2016, LWB continues to work in Colombia. In 2017, LWB implemented 20 Ideas Boxes in the country in an effort to leverage cultural tools for the Colombian peace-building process.

- **The African Great Lakes Region**

We began our first Ideas Box program in Rwanda inside and outside the camps. These Ideas Boxes have become landmarks and community centers. We broadened its work to include Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda in 2017.

- **The European Refugee Crisis**



Example: unexpected pandemic situation

Libraries during Covid-19 pandemic

Libraries had to close during lockdowns, **but** were among the first cultural institutions to re-open for lending

Maximal 30 Minuten Aufenthalt

Berliner Bibliotheken nehmen Leihbetrieb wieder auf

Mo 22.02.21 | 07:42 Uhr



Audio: rbb 88.8 | 22.02.2021 | Swetlana Oheim | Bild: dpa/Annette Riedl

Berlin Libraries resume lending services
- maximum stay 30 minutes



Libraries during Covid-19 pandemic

Libraries had to close during lockdowns,

But:

- they extended access to their electronic resources, streaming services etc
- loosened bureaucratic regulations (e.g. made registration possible without personal visit)
- installed click-and-collect services and to-the-door-delivery services
- prepared pre-ordered media packages for collection
- improvised outdoor shelving of media to allow access
- offered reference services via twitter
- offered online story-times, lectures, tutorials, teaching sessions via facebook, insta, youtube ...

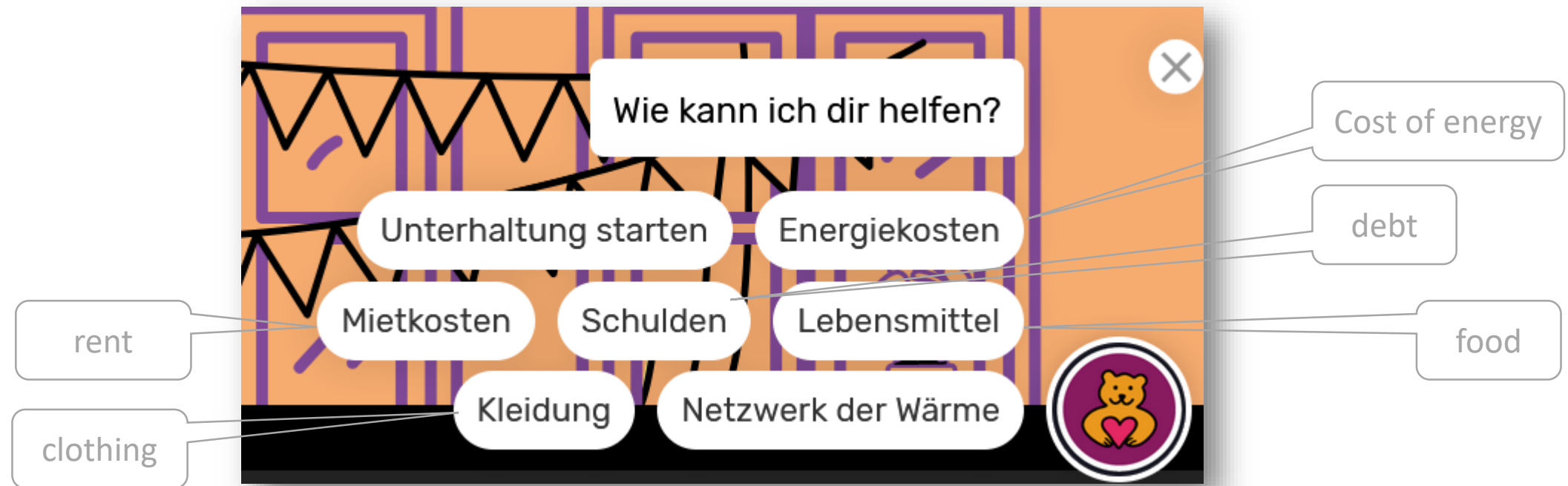
within relatively short time <https://bibliotheksportal.de/spotlight-corona/>



Example: social crises

Cost of living and energy crisis, winter 2022/23

Libraries as part of local social support networks, eg „Netzwerk der Wärme“ (network of warmth/kindness) – Berlin

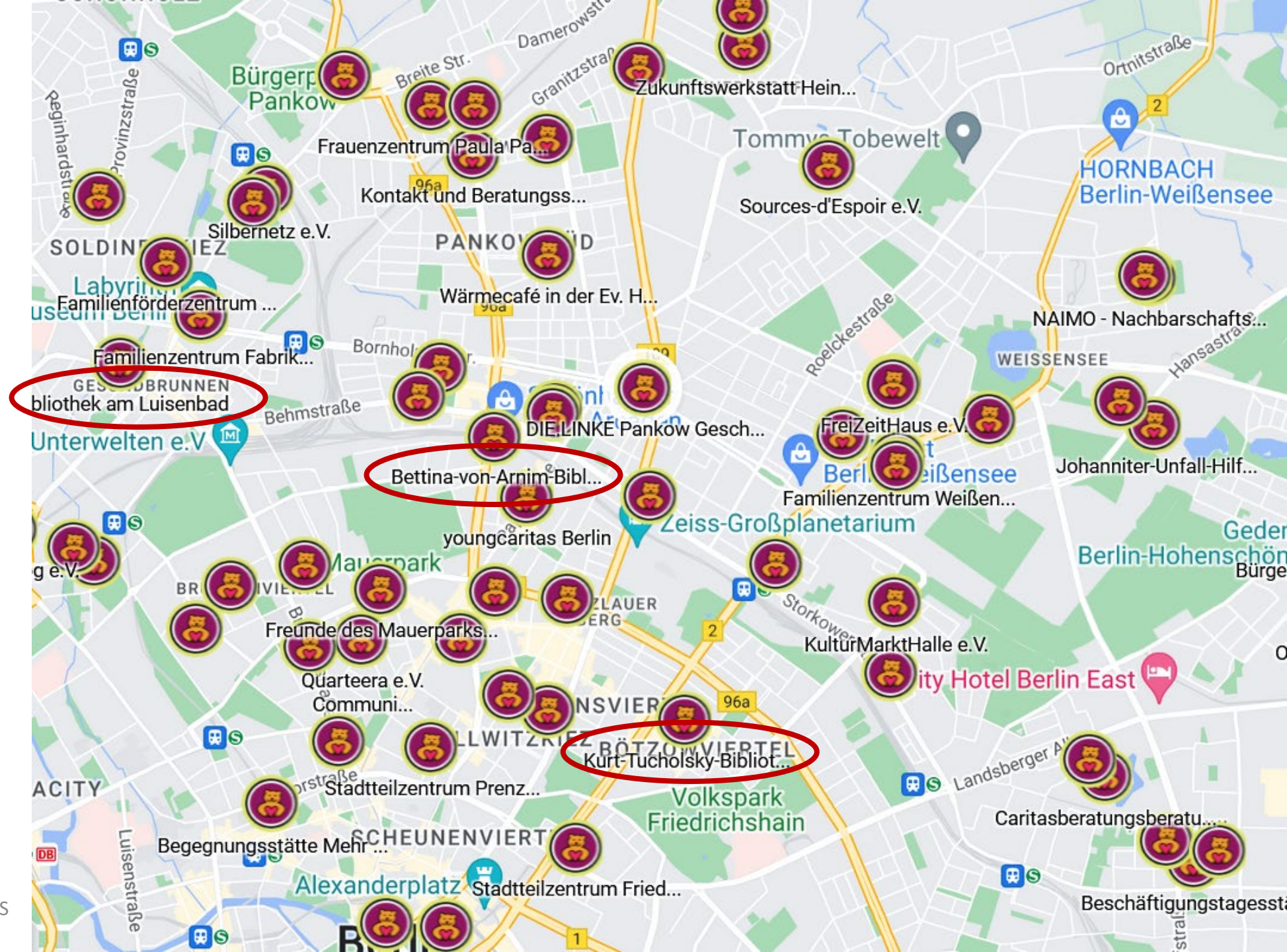


<https://netzwerkderwaerme.de/>

„Netzwerk der Wärme“

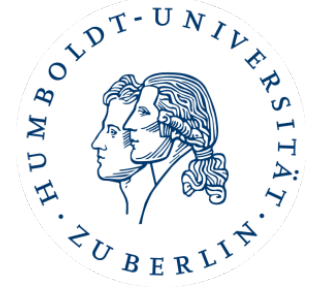
Almost all Berlin City libraries became part of the network, offering a warm space, information and advice to citizens.

Some of them even managed to get extra funds to extend their opening hours to Sunday.





Thank you!



Questions for discussion

1. Do you know **other examples** for libraries providing relief during crises?
What kinds / areas of relief can libraries be useful in?
2. Which **library assets** enable libraries to take an active role during emergencies?
What makes them strong?
(space, holdings, technical and solid infrastructure, backup from funding body, staff...?)
Which qualities of these assets are especially relevant?
3. **Which challenges** do libraries encounter when facing emergencies?
(e.g.: ethical challenges)
Which **common obstacles** must they overcome? **What do they need** to act?

Literature and sources



are referenced on the slides.