



## **The Impact of Libraries in Small States: Media and Information Literacy, Sustainability and Building Partnerships, Towards a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Information Society.**

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### **Abstract**

Library use and user groups evolve and change, continually. Nowadays, senior citizens stay active more and more, and after retiring, many choose to keep learning, and to keep participating in society through volunteering. The library also caters to their needs, not only by offering a "place to read", but also a place to learn, and to "connect" (in the broadest sense of the word).

Conversely, young learners use technology as an extension of their life. Access to information, to many of them, is something that's just there, nothing out of the ordinary. Access to all kinds of information is a given, and information is published and used, sometimes without thinking twice about possible consequences. Fake news, dubious sources, and re-use of information without the proper appropriation are real issues. Although libraries have perhaps lost the role of being the sole or primary source of aggregated information in a society, conveying the message of the importance of digital literacy and critical information skills, and establishing partnerships with schools and school boards.

Each and every library has its success stories and through examples mentioned in this paper we would like to illustrate this. More often than not they can also be linked to the United Nations Agenda 2030 and its Sustainable Development Goals, even if not specially designed as such. Libraries are inherently designed as sustainable institutions,

combining core societal values as literacy, lifelong learning, access to all, building societies and celebrating diversity and culture.