

## Brazilian Libraries and the 2030 Agenda: actions to support compliance with ODS<sup>1</sup>

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### Abstract:

*The present work reveals some examples of programs and projects made by Brazilian libraries of different typologies that support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Objectives. It also reports actions being taken to publicize the Agenda and instigate librarians to truly recognize themselves as strategic partners in their communities.*

**Keywords:** Public Libraries, Specialized Libraries, Community Libraries, 2030 Agenda.

### Resumen:

*El presente trabajo muestra algunos ejemplos de programas y proyectos realizados por bibliotecas brasileñas de diferentes tipologías que apoyan el cumplimiento de los Objetivos del Desarrollo Sostenible. También relata acciones que se están emprendiendo para que divulgar la Agenda e instigar a los bibliotecarios para que realmente se reconocen como socios estratégicos en sus comunidades.*

**Palabras clave:** bibliotecas publicas, bibliotecas especializadas, bibliotecas comunitarias, Agenda 2030.

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## 1 Introduction

The slow world economic growth, social inequalities and environmental degradation have pressured countries to rethink production, energy and consumption patterns, with the need to change the dominant development paradigm and a path to sustainable development. The UN resolution 2010 "Fulfilling the promise: united to achieve the ODM Millennium Goals" and the activities that followed the promulgation of the Agenda 2030 have caused all UN member states to attempt the problem. In Brazil, the Rio + 20 Conference that took place in 2012 gave

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<sup>1</sup> Results of the research carried out by the "Federação Brasileira de Associações de Bibliotecários, Cientistas da Informação e Instituições" as part of the project "Mapping of the initiatives of Latin American and Caribbean libraries in support of the National Development Plan - Agenda 2030" proposed and coordinated by the IFLA Latin America and the Caribbean Section, 2017. More information: <https://blogs.ifla.org/lac/2017/01/proyecto-mapea-las-iniciativas-de-las-de-lac-en-apoyo-a-agenda-2030/>

visibility to these discussions among Brazilians because the event had a wide coverage in the open channels of the national TV stations.

Although discussions were on the national agenda, libraries did not feel involved in the subject. The attention of the libraries happened in 2014 during the IFLA World Congress in France with the declaration of Lyon. FEBAB made efforts in its dissemination among Brazilian professionals and managed to make the Brazilian Government, through the Ministry of Culture, one of the signatories of this document.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development came into force in January 2016 and with this a series of actions began to show that libraries are or should be strategic partners for the achievement of sustainable development goals.

The IFLA-sponsored International Advocacy Program was indeed a milestone that showed that libraries do indeed have a preponderant role in society. With the publication of the "Access and opportunity for all" documents and "Libraries can promote the implementation of 2030 Agenda", it was possible to work with the professionals and to align the actions that should be done for the governments.

The present work aims to present the activities that FEBAB has been maintaining so that the libraries can be recognized as strategic partners in the fulfillment of the ODS and to show some of the programs and projects undertaken by Brazilian libraries aligned to 2030 Agenda. As our national mapping action is under way, we already analyzed the projects that were deposited in the IFLA platform, projects awarded in the last two editions of the Living Reading Award promoted by the Ministry of Culture (MinC) and the Ministry of Education (MEC), in partnership with the Organization of Ibero-American States for Education , Science and Culture (OEI) and the support of the National Council of Secretaries of Education (Consed), the Union of Municipal Education Officers (Undime) and the Santillana Foundation, and yet, reports of participants of the "Esquentando CBBDD" in the city of São Paulo.

## **2 Brazilian Federation of Library Association and Institution (FEBAB)**

FEBAB - founded on July 26, 1959, brings together associations from different Brazilian states and works on two main aspects - advocacy for more and better libraries and the continuing education of professionals working in libraries, documentation centers and reading spaces. For this reason they have been working very closely with IFLA in order to disseminate among the professionals the priority guidelines that are being discussed by libraries around the world.

As one of the actions to support the continued development of Brazilian professionals, FEBAB is responsible for the organization of the largest event of Brazilian librarians professionals - the Brazilian Congress of Library Science and Documentation - CBBDD (<http://www.cbbdd2017.com/>) that this year will perform Its 27th edition. The theme of the event, defined in 2016, will be the 2030 Agenda. The choice of theme was due to the need to disseminate the Agenda among librarians.

The actions designed by FEBAB to publicize the agenda gained another dimension after the participation of its board members in the International Advocacy Program (IAP) training workshop offered by IFLA in November 2016.

### 3 Brazilian Plan of Advocacy

From the training received, we think on two fronts for the advocacy program:

- mobilizing influential and prominent associations and professionals to form a National Committee;
- disseminate the agenda among professionals, producing documents that can be used in the local actions of the libraries with their communities.

In relation to the creation of a National Committee with professional librarians, we have found it difficult to receive invitations accepted by FEBAB. We can understand the reasons given the political and economic context we are experiencing in Brazil. Even though we have not yet received the acceptance of entities and professionals, we are working with our affiliated Associations, seeking to establish dialogues with entities and government.

Regarding the implementation of the Agenda, the Brazilian government created a National Commission for the Sustainable Development Objectives (ODS), the maximum governance body of 2030 Agenda Brazil. The structure of this Commission is composed of eight governmental actors, eight of civil society and has the mission to internalize, diffuse and give transparency to the process and implementation of the said Agenda. Of the eight government representatives, six are from the Federal Government, the Ministries of Planning Budget and Management (MPDG), Environment (MMA), Foreign Relations (MRE), Social and Agrarian Development (MDSA), Civil Presidency of the Republic (SEGOV) and other two of collective of the State and Municipal Governments. The appointment of the members took place on May 25, 2017, and we will begin the contacts since we understand that this Committee is an important channel for disseminating the work of libraries. We have partnered with UNDP (United Nations Development Program) to support the work of the FEBAB. We were also with the National Front of the Municipalities where we could present the work of the libraries. With the support of UNDP we intend to contact the National Confederation of Municipalities and National Association of Municipalities. This strategy is also due to the fact that our main interlocutor in the Government, the Ministry of Culture, is for the second time without a minister. Therefore, we will have to wait to continue with our actions with the National Book, Reading and Literature Plan that involves the Ministry of Education.

Regarding the second aspect of our advocacy plan - disseminating the agenda among professionals, we understand that in addition to providing information to library teams, FEBAB should show libraries that 2030 Agenda can be seen as a strategy for sustainability and improvement from the perception of society to the work that libraries carry out on a daily basis, which is often not perceived. This is because, in Brazil, libraries suffer from the stereotype that they are only places for books, places for scholars, places for few people. So how could a library support compliance with ODS?

Taking into consideration the continental dimension of Brazil, the FEBAB and its associations are committed to publicize the 2030 Agenda and, above all, to make professionals recognize themselves as strategic partners in achieving sustainable development objectives.

Firstly, we translated the material produced by IFLA from the Sustainable Development Objectives and the "Access and Opportunity for All" booklet. Since Portuguese is not the official language of IFLA, in order for us to have the desired dissemination, it is essential that there be a translation of the whole material.

Since the largest congress of professionals in the area, CBBB, will have as its central theme the 2030 Agenda, it was defined that thematic axis 1 would be all ODS in order to allow the reporting and registration of ongoing projects developed by libraries, in a similar way of what was done by IFLA. In this way it will be possible to map the programs and projects of the libraries with the aim of constructing an "Access and Opportunity for All" notebook with Brazilian examples. We also have the prospect of making notebooks for States of the Country, since the realities of our States are very different.

We also understand that only the translation and dissemination of the material through social networks would not be enough to bring professionals' attention to 2030 Agenda. For this reason, the FEBAB has planned and is carrying out a series of face-to-face meetings in partnership with affiliated associations called "CBBB" because the brand of the event is strong among professionals and they want to know what will happen in the congress. It is important to mention that the event happens biannually in a different region of the country.

Without advancing the dissemination and understanding of the Agenda among librarians it will be impossible to align actions with governments, since libraries need to be strategically placed. We think of our program as a tree that needs to be well rooted to get where we want. It is work that has to be done together on the bases to be able to strengthen the dialogue. And that is how we are moving forward, with libraries and governments. Other support material was also produced by FEBAB so that we can work with the community leaders about what a public library can offer. This material called "Living Library" is being circulated to mayors and governors.

#### **4 Projects of Brazilian Libraries**

As we mentioned, the projects that we are going to report is a small sample of actions undertaken in the country. The inclusion in the platform of IFLA in Spanish or English also inhibited the participation of the Brazilian professionals, reason that we are still mapping the actions to present in the CBBB 2017.

##### **Project: CITIZEN RECEPTION**

Library of São Paulo (São Paulo, SP)

Alignment with ODS 1 End poverty in all its forms everywhere and 10 Reduce inequality within and between countries

The project aims to promote socio-cultural inclusion to the citizen. Until the end of 2015 the library did not have a specific reception service for the adult public, but with the installation of new shelters near the library, it brought the need to develop a specific activity to attend this public. The intent of the library is that these people can integrate into space. The reception consists in the realization of some dynamics by the team with this audience (games and music) stimulating the dialogue from themes such as feeling, work, rules, time, future, expectations, among others. In this way, in a subtle and delicate way people feel at ease to present their demands. Some of the demands expressed by them were: that they want to study to give a public tender, that they need to get a job, that they want to have contact with

relatives living in other regions of the country, that they need a place to take a shower and have clean clothes, that they want to know how they can request documents, that they need to talk about their addictions (many ask for help because they have some addiction by alcohol or drugs).

With this information, the library which also has social workers on its staff identifies actions that they can promote or forward to the network of available services in the city. Thus, a series of activities are carried out by them continuously, such as workshop to make a curriculum, workshops of access to the internet, help in the search for jobs in the networks and newspapers, among others.

This work is formatted to serve street dwellers and shelters, but it was also taken to a community of Bolivian immigrants. This is because the region that the library is inserted concentrates the greater presence of Bolivians of the city of São Paulo. Thus, the library went to meet this community that attends the Fair of Kantuta, in Canindé, North zone near the location of the library. Aside from the library having this host service as one of its daily actions, it understood that it would have to look for the immigrants. For this group were presented the various services that the city has, computerization workshops and curriculum development were promoted in Spanish, because the library staff is able to speak in this language.

**Project: MAKING VISIBLE THE INVISIBLE, AN INSTIGATING CHALLENGE**

Avertano Rocha Municipal Public Library (Belém, PA)

Alignment with ODS 1 End poverty in all its forms everywhere and 10 Reduce inequality within and between countries

With a small relaxation of rule adopted by the library, it was possible to accept that street people drop books and magazines, even without having a fixed residence, as required for user registration and library loan release. The library invited the homeless to participate in its activities. At first the residents were suspicious of the invitation but gradually they went to the library, losing their resistance. This action was supported by the Pop Center which is the social assistance area of the city. After a short time the residents who were previously thrown in the street of the library, began to enter the building and whenever there were scheduled activities, they chose to take a shower to participate. The library organizes film sessions and conducts workshops addressing the demands presented by them. The library recognizes that action is not easy, but believes that the goal is for these people to feel citizens and the community began to see them, to call them by name. This allowed people to participate in other cultural activities promoted by the municipality. This project was the winner of the Living Reading Award (\*) of 2016 in the category Public Libraries.

**Project: WORD OF WOMAN**

Reading House Wilson Bueno (Curitiba, Paraná)

Alignment with ODS 5 - Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

The project consists of a Cycle of Readings - composed of a set of reading circles - whose repertoire covers works for young audiences and adults of diverse profiles. The selection of works to compose this repertoire of readings, aims to draw a panorama of the writing of Brazilian women in twentieth-century, a fundamental period for understanding the relation and the mechanisms of symbolic power and domination between the sexes, and how these are inscribed in the Literary production of the country. Although the intention of the project is to

make known the readership of Brazilian authors, it encourages the discussion of the images, characters, sensations and ideas present or raised by texts, dialoguing with the reality of the community in which the activity is being applied. This project was a finalist of the Living Reading Award (\*) of 2014 in the Public and Community Libraries category.

**Project: RURAL PRODUCER SERIES**

Library Division of the "Luiz de Queiroz" School of Agriculture of the University of São Paulo (Piracicaba, São Paulo)

Alignment to ODS 2 - End Hunger, Achieve Food Security and Improve Nutrition, and Promote Sustainable Agriculture

The Library realized the need to bring qualified information to farmers. In this way, he devised the Rural Producer Series with the objective of publishing texts accessible to producers, on diverse topics and practical information, contributing to the Rural Extension. The texts are written by researchers and professors of ESALQ and CENA of the University of São Paulo, and are reviewed with guidance from the library to ensure that the language is simple, accessible, didactic and also contains illustrations that facilitate the comprehension of the text. The series has so far 64 issues, all available for free at (<http://www4.esalq.usp.br/biblioteca/publicacoes-a-venda/serie-produtor-rural>). In Brazil TV Globo has a program that is broadcast on an open channel on Sundays called "Globo Rural". This program discusses topics of interest to farmers, whenever a theme of the program coincides with the subject of the Series, TV GLOBO informs the data of the Library so that the public can have access to the publication. The library realized that although the Series was on the internet for free doawnlod, it received a large number of requests per letter. For this reason the library maintains the printed version and when it receives demand from the small producer, the library forwards the publication free of charge by mail. With this action the library ensures that quality information is within the reach of small producers as many of them could not get the information through the internet.

**Project: COMMUNITY LIBRARY BARCA DE LIVROS**

(Florianópolis, Santa Catarina)

Alignment to ODS 4 - Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education through life for all

Barca dos Livros: a library with a soul, was conceived by the Lovers of Reading Society, offers a collection of more than 14,000 books and numerous activities. The Barca has already promoted 115 meetings with authors and book launches, 85 literary books and 664 school visits, among other innovative actions. There are, for example, Stories in the boat of books, with reading activities in a boat that sails by the Lagoon of the Conception. The Barca serves the entire community that lives in the region that would not have access to participate in activities elsewhere in the city. Florianópolis is an island so the locomotion becomes more difficult for the less favored people of the region. Story-telling activities are promoted within the boat to attract children. This project was the winner of the Live Reading Award (\*) of 2014 in the Public and Community Libraries category.

**Project: READING IN THE NEST - READING MEDIATION IN EARLY CHILDHOOD**  
Parque Villa Lobos Library (BVL) e. Library of São Paulo (BSP) (São Paulo, São Paulo)  
Alignment to ODS 4 - Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education through life for all

It is a program that aims to promote the love of reading among children from six months to four years. It has two key ingredients: the playful and affective bond between the little ones and their caregivers. The program aims to stimulate the reader culture, create affective bonds so that the children create a taste for the books. The idea is to make the time for reading mediation pleasurable by encouraging the audience to return to the library, and especially to be able to reproduce the activity at home. The library provides a bag with supplies to continue the play at home. The material is being renewed as the program develops. The activity started in 2012 at BSP and in 2014 at BVL. In the beginning despite the actions of dissemination the adhesion to the program was very low. As the libraries are located in parks in the city of São Paulo the team realized the need to seek out their potential participants. Thus, it began to carry out the activities of the program under the trees of the Park. With this change people began to participate in the project and express their perplexity in having in libraries activities for babies. This invigorates that the image of the library has to be improved because they are spaces for the whole community. With the success of the program, The State System of Public Libraries of the State of São Paulo sought resources so that it could be reproduced in 10 cities of the interior of the State. They are: Auriflama, Birigui, Guararema, Igarapava, Itapetininga, Jundiaí, Lençóis Paulista, Ourinho, Praia Grande and Presidente Prudente. This action that is now systemic is changing the perception of libraries with their communities.

**Project: ACCESSIBILITY IN PUBLIC LIBRARY**

State Library Estevão de Mendonça (Cuiabá, Mato Grosso)  
Dr. Isaias Paim State Library (Campo Grande, Mato Grosso do Sul)  
Benedito Leite Library (São Luis, Maranhão)  
Library of the State of Bahia (Salvador, Bahia)  
State Library of Acre (Rio Branco, Acre)  
State Library of Amazonas (Manaus, Amazonas)  
Luiz de Bessa State Library (Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais)  
State Library Levy Cúrcio da Rocha (Vitória, Espírito Santo)  
Library of the State of Paraná (Curitiba, Paraná)  
Professor Barreiros Filho Municipal Library (Florianópolis, Santa Catarina)  
Alignment with ODS 10 - Reduce inequality within and between countries

Considering that Brazil has 45 million people with disabilities (which results in 23.9% of the population), in 2014 the Ministry of Culture through the National System of Public Libraries, in partnership with the NGO Mais Diferenças, started the Project so that 10 libraries from different Brazilian states could have the conditions to offer products and services for people with disabilities. Traditionally, libraries only had books in Braille to attend the blind. With the project, it was possible to equip libraries with assistive technology to attempt the needs of people with disabilities, different equipment kits were purchased for each library, training sessions were promoted totaling 116 hours with all library teams. On-site visits were carried out to accompany the professionals in the care of people with disabilities. This allowed the libraries to be able to extend care to people with different disabilities. The project envisaged accessing 25 books, teaching sign language, holding inclusive reading promotion workshops.

The entire content of the project is available through (<http://acessibilidadeembibliotecas.culturadigital.br/>) so that this material serves as a reference for replication in other libraries in the country. In all the libraries mentioned, specialized care for people with different types of disabilities is a reality.

## **Final Considerations**

In Brazil there are many other examples of libraries that maintain programs and projects that contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, but as we have already mentioned, we intend to have a complete map by the end of October of this year that will be widely disseminated. It hopes that the librarian community will contribute by sending the data, which will be presented in the 27th CBBDD. We want to bring together examples of all types of libraries for a mapping as complete as possible that will be used in local advocacy programs. This material will be the set of best practices that should encourage the improvement or offering of new programs by libraries. The examples are already being stored on the job submission platform of the event. The State of Pará is already completing its mapping and the results will be presented as "case of Pará" of public libraries. This mapping is being carried out with the Institute for Relational Policies (IPL) , partner of FEBAB in International Advocacy Program (IAP).

We know that our great challenge is to make the actions undertaken better disseminate and to disseminate among libraries, stimulating them to improve their services and products. But we also want libraries to gain more visibility in society. Unfortunately the country does not have a strong system of access to information and although there are many examples we still know that we have a big deficit to promote equitable and quality access to the population. Especially at this point in our history that we are living in a delicate time, libraries more than ever need to show themselves as strategic partners so that they can have more support and resources and thus continue to contribute to 2030 Agenda. Libraries are open democratic spaces to all, regardless of the social and age condition, so they are fundamental agents for us to have a society that is more just and inclusive.

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