



## HESI SDG Publishers Compact Fellows: Top Action Tips

### For Academic Librarians

*Guidance for academic librarians, recognizing their role in helping authors and researchers identify SDG-related work (including in 'grey' literature).*

#### 1. Strategize

Identify the extent to which your institution supports the SDGs and incorporate [SDGs](#) into your academic library's strategic thinking using insights and resources freely available on [Higher Education Sustainability Initiative](#) webpages.

#### 2. Advocate for SDGs

Identify, review, and re-use work of library associations addressing the SDGs, e.g., products and graphics produced by the [American Library Association \(ALA\)'s SDG Task Force](#); the [International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions \(IFLA\)'s toolkit](#) and [UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science](#).

#### 3. Support SDG Research

Identify and support your institution's researchers who are helping make the world a better place— healthy, inclusive and sustainable.

#### 4. Share SDG Strengths

Help institutions identify, celebrate and champion relevant research strengths. Share information about areas of SDG strengths with other libraries (local, national, regional, global).

#### 5. Guide Users to SDG Content

LibGuides are already used as a content management system in thousands of

academic libraries, bringing together resources on a particular topic. Many examples of up-to-date and excellent SDG LibGuides already exist e.g., [University of Michigan Library](#), [University of Bolton](#) or [Worcester Polytechnic Institute](#). Our top tips for [Graduate Researchers & Students](#) encourages them to go to their library or use the library's online database when seeking SDG-related content, or considering where to publish SDG-relevant work.

## **6. Curate SDG Collections**

Recruit and support campus and community members to create bespoke, curated collections related to SDGs. For example, (i) collaborate with a teacher of adult, overseas English language students or indigenous scholars and peoples to invite and support the adult language learners in creating collections to offer the community introductions to different cultural knowledge and assets; (ii) invite people knowledgeable in areas of interest to the campus and community to create collections based on their area of expertise.

## **7. Refine SDG Metadata**

Promote [Knowledge Democracy](#), including, for example, elevating the [voices of historically unrepresented](#), diverse and [indigenous](#) scholars and [communities](#) in data processes. Facilitate/support diverse contributions toward producing more inclusive data and informing policy making and programs for addressing pressing social issues in a more equitable manner.

## **8. Cultivate SDG literacy**

Create educational programming to advance literacy in all key SDG areas including information, data, media, and sustainability.

## **9. Walk the SDG walk**

Align with your institution's and/or campus sustainability initiatives. These usually exist, often thanks to the great work of students and dedicated staff who help us all see the university as a kind of laboratory where sustainability-friendly practices are encouraged. Consider becoming a 'green library', as defined in 25 languages by the [International Federation of Library Associations and Institutes](#).

## **10. Opt for Open**

Set the default to open: support open access, open source, open data, open science, etc. Consider science as a global public good, view open science services as

essential research infrastructures, governed and owned by the community and funded collectively. Incentivize open science practices among researchers. Invest in capacity building and human capital. See UN [Open Science](#).

### **11. Convene**

Facilitate open discussion of the library's SDG policies among stakeholders e.g. collection specialists, students, researchers, patrons and other library users regarding strengths and gaps in library holdings pertinent to individual and collective achievement in particular SDGs as well as sustainability progress more broadly.

### **12. Assess**

Conduct user (and potential user) research to learn how library patrons and other current or potential user groups seek information on the SDGs.

### **13. Communicate**

Share with potential users at your institution or on campus and in the wider community the resources available to them regarding the SDGs. Encourage their exploration, use and curation.