

Library as cultural centre

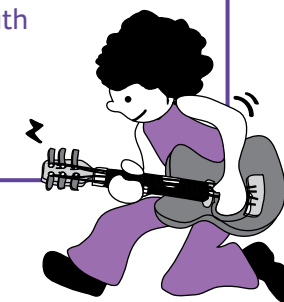
OUTCOMES

Through the kind of activities described in this table, libraries can help governments achieve their goals of

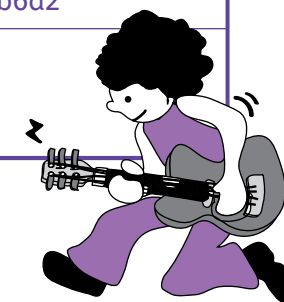
- ✓ enriching the lives of individuals and communities
- ✓ placing art and culture at the heart of regeneration
- ✓ promoting the social and economic role of arts and culture
- ✓ creating a vibrant creative economy



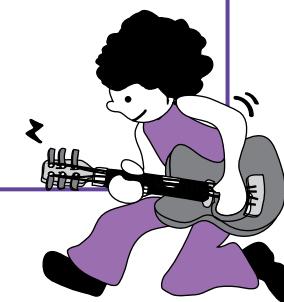
Area of Activity	Type of Activity	Details	Reference
Promoting literature		The report (click on link to the right) includes the findings of research into the ways in which libraries work with organisations promoting literature in England.	http://www.writerscentrenorwich.org.uk/artsliterary/buildingpartnerships.aspx
	Author talks and book groups	Edinburgh Libraries have regular events with authors of both adults and children's books.	http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/edinburgh-reads-1650684470
		Glasgow Libraries is one of a number of library services that runs book groups in many of its libraries, with some specialising in particular areas of interest.	http://www.glasgowlife.org.uk/libraries/books-reading/book-groups/pages/home.aspx
		Time To Read is a unique partnership of 21 Library Authorities in North West England, working together to promote reading through author visits, discussion groups and performances.	http://www.time-to-read.co.uk/aboutus/what-is-time-to-read
		Libraries NI and Dublin City Libraries will be celebrating Two Cities One Book in April 2016. The book chosen is <i>Fallen</i> by Lia Mills, a novel set in Dublin in 1916. Events will include: author events, reading group events, Twitter Q&A with Lia Mills, poetry readings, exchange visits, historical talks, workshops and exhibitions.	
	Book festivals	Essex Book Festival was started by Essex County Council in 1999. Since 2011 it has been run by an independent trust made up of volunteer members. Activities take place in libraries, schools, universities and theatres. Funding from ACE has allowed it to run writing development activities, and they also have support from the private sector.	http://essexbookfestival.org.uk/welcome-to-ebf-2016/
		The Aye Write Book Festival is an annual event run by Glasgow Life (the organisation responsible for the public library service in Glasgow). It takes place over a week in April and is funded by Glasgow City Council and Creative Scotland. It runs a programme celebrating the best of local, national and international writing. It includes ticketed events for adults and children as well as a schools programme and a variety of free community events.	http://www.ayewrite.com/Pages/default.aspx
		Portsmouth Bookfest (funded partially by ACE) aims to promote book buying and book borrowing. It is run by Portsmouth City Library Service in partnership with a local bookstore (Hayling Island Bookshop), Portsmouth Arts Service, and Tourism and Visitor Services. They offer incentives to audiences to sign up with the library service, and keep prices low to make events accessible to all members of the community.	http://www.portsmouthbookfest.co.uk/



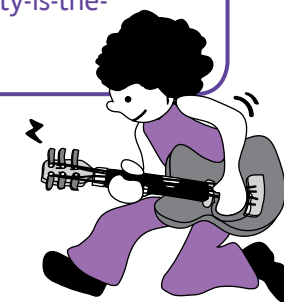
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	Writers in residence	<p>Tipperary Reads is an annual programme run by Tipperary Libraries. One novel by an award winning author is chosen as the focus for the festival. People in the local communities read the novel and explore the themes and writing styles through lectures and workshops. The festival ends on a high note with a county tour by the chosen author. Readers enjoy an informed and interactive exchange with the author. This festival is very popular and attracts new readers.</p>	<p>http://www.askaboutireland.ie/aai-files/assets/libraries/an-chomhairle-leabharlanna/libraries/public-libraries/publications/Opportunities-for-all-2013.pdf</p>
		<p>During Creativity Month 2015, Libraries NI offered 62 free events to the general public across 26 libraries resulting in a total attendance of 818 people. Adults could enjoy talks, author experiences, music events and workshops and advice sessions with a writer in residence whilst children had the opportunity to create short comics or books. Workshops for adults included radio broadcasting, song and script-writing and film and theatre make up demonstrations.</p>	<p>http://www.librariesni.org.uk/News/Pages/Participate-in-Creativity-Month-with-Libraries-NIs-Events-Programme.aspx</p>
	Creative writing and support for self-publishing	<p>The Library after Dark Café is a series of creative writing workshops held in Clondalkin library once a month after it has officially closed to the public. Sessions are facilitated and provide individuals with free advice and space to experiment with writing and increase their confidence. The project is supported by the Carnegie UK Trust.</p>	<p>http://www.carnegieuktrust.org.uk/changing-minds/knowledge---culture/the-future-of-libraries/carnegie-library-lab/helen-mcmahon</p>
		<p>Dudley and Halesowen Libraries host creative and reflective writing groups.</p>	
		<p>Espresso technology allows the possibility of printing any book, as well as self-publishing. In the USA, several public libraries have installed this technology for library users, while in the UK this can only be accessed at present through commercial sites, including Blackwell's bookshop in Charing Cross, London.</p>	<p>http://www.bklynlibrary.org/media/press/espresso-book-machine%C2%AE-comes-brooklyn-public-library</p> <p>https://bookshop.blackwell.co.uk/jsp/editorial/browse/News/espresso.jsp;jsessionid=0115A48D65EC0C4504EF018FCB9A3679.b6a2</p>
		<p>The Libraries NI virtual exhibition in April 2016 will be Postcards from the Easter Rising. Hot Press is running a competition for young writers as part of this initiative with internships at Hot Press as the prize.</p>	



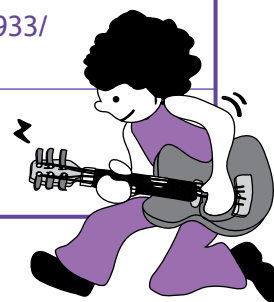
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		Penfest is Carlow Library's literary and writing festival. The festival runs workshops and has hosted leaders in Ireland's literary world such as screenwriter Ferdia MacAnna, journalist Sue Leonard, Impac winner Kevin Barry, and poet and social commentator Theo Dorgan.	http://www.askaboutireland.ie/libraries/irish-library-news/2014/10/24-120729/index.xml
Making music	Access to CDs and sheet music	Most public libraries provide access to music on CD and DVD.	
		Inter-library loans allow access to choirs and orchestras to sets of parts held throughout the UK at reasonable cost.	
	Young people making music	'Library Songwriters: Skipton Rewind Club' (North Yorkshire County Council & North Yorkshire Youth Music Action Zone) offers teenagers the chance to meet with library staff and a youth worker to develop their song writing skills, using the library as a cultural centre. The project has encouraged continued engagement with the public library, curbing the decline that usually occurs when children enter secondary education. Skipton Rewind Club provides young people with a safe space to build their confidence and friendships; through developing and delivering their own events the teenagers learn vital transferable skills that will help them in an increasingly competitive jobs market.	http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/article/25294/Skipton-library http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tkb-BWPKmOU http://www.cilip.org.uk/cilip/advocacy-awards-and-projects/awards-and-medals/libraries-change-lives-award/past-libraries
	Rhythm and rhyme for early years	Libraries NI's Rhythm and Rhyme programme is a free programme of stories, rhymes and songs delivered on a regular basis by Libraries NI staff (or held in partnership with SureStart) for parents, carers and pre-school children (aged 0-4 years). The aim of the programme is to improve children's language and communication skills before they enter formal education. In addition to sessions that are open to the public, the programme is also available to young children attending day nurseries, playgroups, parent and toddler groups etc. These dedicated sessions are mostly held on the library premises but some are also delivered by Libraries NI staff at external locations (eg. on playgroup premises, at community centres etc.). On occasions, public sessions are also delivered at external locations as part of community festivals etc. The most recent official statistics published (for 2013/14) indicate that there were 120,280 participants (54,676 adults and 71,604 children) engaged in a total of 4,431 Rhythm and Rhyme sessions for pre-school age children (0-4 years). This is a 26% increase in participation and a 23% increase in sessions since 2012/13.	http://www.librariesni.org.uk/Children/Pages/Rhythm-and-Rhyme.aspx



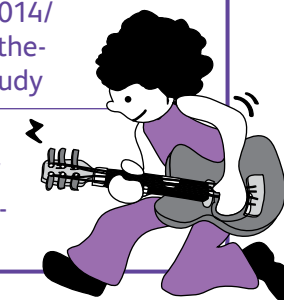
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	Library as music venue	<p>Get it Loud in Libraries works across 6 library authorities in the North West of England to develop libraries as music venues whilst supporting young people to learn and lead digitally. Plan B, Adele, Florence and the Machine, Speech Debelle, and the Thrills were just some of the names that participated in library events that aim to challenge the misconception that libraries are just about books. Get it Loud runs digital workshops for young people that are attached to the live programme of events. Partners include: We Heart Tech, Ogenesis Records, Brighter Sound, Blaze</p> <p>Rock band Everything Everything were artists in residence at Manchester Central Library in November 2014. Everything Everything are a critically acclaimed, Ivor Novello Award and Mercury Prize-nominated British art rock band and are part of a thriving scene of Manchester-based musicians. The residency was produced by Brighter Sound, a Manchester organisation that creates innovative music projects across the North West.</p> <p>Guy Garvey, frontman of Elbow, broadcast his BBC 6 radio show from Manchester Central Library in September 2015. The show coincided with hosting free family entertainment – including a chance for children and parents to try out a range of musical instruments. Guitars, pianos and drums continue to be available for public use in the Henry Watson Music Library, on the first floor of Central Library.</p>	<p>https://vimeo.com/94842012</p> <p>http://www.manchester.gov.uk/news/article/6889/everything_everything_artist_residency_at_the_newly_reopened_central_library</p> <p>http://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/greater-manchester-news/elbow-frontman-guy-garvey-joins-10001445</p>
Art, dance and drama	Space for exhibitions, art and dance	<p>Since 2013, St Helens library service has been working in partnership to deliver cultural and creative hubs, providing residents with access to cultural, recreational, educational and information activities. Part of the programme involves performances of ballet, music, storytelling, theatre, spoken word and poetry as well as visual art exhibitions. The aim is to support neighbourhood development and community cohesion – and to promote an environment that improves the wellbeing and quality of life for residents through creative use of the arts. The project was funded by ACE and was a 2015 CILIP Libraries Change Lives Finalist. St Helen's has shared its expertise with other libraries in the North West.</p>	<p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hreh8m9soA4&feature=youtu.be</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/case-studies/the-art-of-the-possible-libraries-as-creative-hubs</p> <p>http://www.publiclibrariesnews.com/2015/02/necessity-is-the-mother-of-invention-libraries-in-2015.html</p>



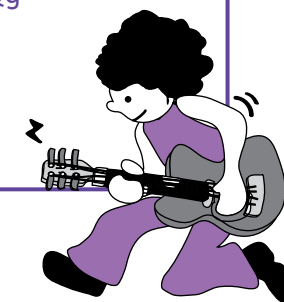
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		During Spring and Summer 2013, Norfolk and Norwich Millenium Library celebrated art with a range of free events. These included drop in drawing and craft sessions which were supervised by volunteer artists. To celebrate the launch of the Exhibition of Prints in the library foyer, the library hosted a one day special event in partnership with the Society of Book Writers and Illustrators featuring presentations, workshops, sketching performances from illustrator John Sherry, books and games illustrator and author Bridget Strevens, and author and illustrator Mike Brownlow.	
		Fun Palaces is a community project running across all 11 Lambeth libraries. The project aims to give community members the opportunity to engage with the arts and sciences on their own terms, in their own neighbourhood as active participants and makers. It is run with a freelance creative producer and Albany Theatre.	http://funpalaces.co.uk/discover/tate-south-lambeth-libraris-fun-palace/ http://www.publiclibrariesnews.com/practitioners/promotional-techniques-and-marketing/fun-palaces-in-public-libraries-what-how-and-why-the-case-study-of-lambeth
		Cheshire Dance have their headquarters in Winsford Library (Cheshire West and Chester Council) and hold regular dance sessions on one of the library's two dance floors.	http://www.cheshiredance.org/
		Leytonstone Play Reading Group meets in Leytonstone Library to read plays from the library stock, or new pieces of work by local playwrights. The group is sponsored by The Unity Theatre Trust and its patron is Sir Derek Jacobi.	https://www.walthamforest.gov.uk/Pages/Services/lib-Leytonstone-Library.aspx
		A few libraries are involved in the Big Draw, a drawing festival that aims to promote visual literacy and demonstrate the social, economic and health benefits that drawing can bring.	http://www.thebigdraw.org/the-big-draw
		Scariff Library held artist-led stop frame animation workshops with storytimes, crafts and early years music at their first 'Boom Young People's Art Festival' in 2015.	http://www.askaboutireland.ie/libraries/irish-library-news/2015/10/22-162933/index.xml
	Space for plays	Librarian Theatre is a UK-based theatre company that creates plays to be performed among bookshelves. By performing plays in libraries Librarian Theatre aim to take plays into the centre of communities.	http://librariantheatre.com/about-us/



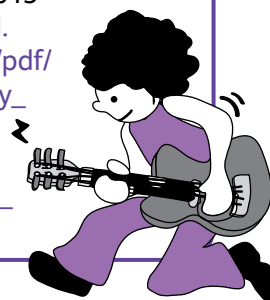
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		The Open Book Theatre Company perform theatrical interpretations of classic novels in library spaces. The aim is to inspire passion for literature, theatre and libraries themselves.	http://openbooktheatrecompany.com/
		Lowri Potts has written two plays to be performed in libraries. They have been tested in libraries in Glasgow. One deals with dyslexia, and the other with exploring one's identity through reading.	http://flyingpizza.wordpress.com/
Creative spaces		Newcastle Central Library's Commons are Forever project aims to empower library users to utilise culture that belongs to them (in the "public" domain) through hosting events and workshops. The project is supported by the Carnegie UK Trust.	http://www.newcastle.gov.uk/leisure-libraries-and-tourism/events/commons-are-forever http://www.carnegieuktrust.org.uk/changing-minds/knowledge---culture/the-future-of-libraries/carnegie-library-lab/aude-charillon
	Makerspaces	Gateshead library has worked with Newcastle Makerspace to run activities, courses and e-days in the library. The main aim is to bring people into contact with different types of technology as it evolves such as drones and robots etc. to spark interest in technology.	http://www.makerspace.org.uk/blog/2014/03/3d-printing-workshop-at-gateshead-library/
		In 2014 the first Fab Lab in a British library opened in Exeter, Devon. It provides a low cost digital fabrication workshop equipped with laser cutters, 3D scanners, 3D printers and programming tools. It runs workshops and is an open access, not-for-profit, community resource.	https://www.fablabdevon.org/
		The Waiting Room at St Botolph's in Colchester is exploring what is required to establish and run creative 'makerspaces'. It was particularly interested in sharing this learning with the public library sector. Shared Intelligence conducted an evaluation of the Waiting Room and pointers for libraries on behalf of the Carnegie UK Trust.	http://st-botolphs.org/ http://www.carnegieuktrust.org.uk/publications/2014/enterprising-libraries-the-waiting-room-case-study
		Carillion has established Creative Work Spaces in Croydon, Ealing, Hounslow and Harrow libraries. The space also provides coding clubs and coworking spaces.	https://katiepekacar.wordpress.com/2015/03/25/printing-a-new-kind-of-library/



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		<p>In 2014 Stirling Library Service acquired 3D printers, 3D scanners, an HP sprout, some doodle pens, a drone and other digital creation tools to enable them to set up a mobile makerspace.</p>	<p>http://www.scottishbooktrust.com/blog/reading/2015/11/behind-the-scenes-at-the-library-stirling</p>
		<p>Edinburgh City Libraries' Digital Toyboxes are a type of mobile makerspace. Six boxes, each containing different types of kit, are rotated among different libraries with staff delivering kit-based sessions to teens. The project is supported by the Carnegie UK Trust.</p>	<p>http://www.carnegieuktrust.org.uk/changing-minds/knowledge---culture/the-future-of-libraries/carnegie-library-lab/david-hayden</p>
	3D printers	<p>Dundee Central Library utilises 3D printing in their services for groups with additional support needs. Groups create characters that are used in storytelling sessions in the children's library to help enhance the experience for children who are blind, or partially sighted. Groups also reproduce objects from the past for reminiscence packs.</p> <p>Dundee was the first library in Scotland to get a 3D printer but Manchester Central Library, Staffordshire Central Library, Renfrewshire and Devon also have 3D printers available for use.</p>	
	Media workshops	<p>International experience shows the importance of informal learning environments for young people who want to learn new media and digital skills. Media workshops in music, video, blog and game production can all be used as outreach to bring young people into the library and introduce them to other library services.</p> <p>Manchester Central Library's Media Lounge has iMacs, PCs, creative software and gaming consoles. It hosts free events such as Coding for Kids, Sew & Show, Get Help with Adobe Master Suite and Manchester Indie Film Makers.</p> <p>'Studio 12: Writing Leeds/Britain' is a partnership between Leeds Library & Information Service and a specialist local film production company (Left Blind Eye). Library staff encourage visitors to use the dedicated audio visual studio to express their thoughts and work with them to turn these into creative writing. Left Eye Blind then turn these into short films with selected participants, giving the experience of co-producing a piece of cinema to industry standard. Most of the users come from BME communities and many were excluded from school, experienced poor formal education and many have been long-term unemployed.</p>	<p>Ito et al, <i>Living and Learning with new media:summary of findings from the digital youth project</i>, McArthur Foundation, 2008</p> <p>http://www.manchester.gov.uk/info/500138/central_library/6316/what_you_can_do_at_central_library</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EdPEI4WGo20&list=PLHhvD6bA34QgIgwDgg1mYYAcFFC hThDMe&index=2</p>



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Local history and heritage resource	Access to family and local history material	Local newspapers are a key source of local history information. Belfast Central Library has one of the major collections of Irish newspapers including 100 titles and 3,500 bound volumes, dating back as far as 1792.	http://www.rascal.ac.uk/index.php?CollectionID=189&navOp=locID&navVar=6
		The Family History Centre and Archives in the Mitchell Library in Glasgow houses major resources to trace family history in Glasgow and Scotland.	http://www.glasgowlife.org.uk/libraries/the-mitchell-library/family-history/Pages/home.aspx
		The ground floor of Manchester Central Library has touchscreen displays and an interactive touchscreen wall of archival resources. This arrangement enables the public to access and engage with local history and search the archives with ease.	http://www.manchester.gov.uk/info/448/archives_and_local_history/522/access_arrangements
		Tipperary is working to digitise its Local Studies Material to make the information available online to all adults around the world with a Tipperary background. It aims to preserve and increase accessibility of rare, fragile and popular Local Studies material. The resource will include images, text, podcasts etc.	http://www.askaboutireland.ie/reading-room/culturenet/archives/tipperary/tipperary-libraries-local/
		Many libraries offer access to genealogy databases and software, and provide advice on how to utilise these to research family history.	
		Libraries NI hosts monthly virtual exhibitions to promote heritage resources. Recent examples include: <i>Where You Have Fished Many a Summer Day</i> ; <i>The Poet of Wicklow and Down, George Francis Savage-Armstrong</i> ; <i>A Fatal Malady Has Broken Out Among the Potato Crop ...</i> ; <i>Love is Enough – the Life of Alexander Irvine</i> ; and <i>Yours Always – the Letters of John Mitchel</i> . Some of these highlighted events within the Decade of Commemorations along with other significant anniversaries.	
	Learning sessions on local and family history	Peterborough libraries and archives ran a project to explore the 40 year history of a new town. The three year programme of theatre, oral history and reminiscence work ended in 2014.	Ipsos Mori and Shared Intelligence, <i>Envisioning the library of the future, Phase 1: a review of innovations in library services</i> , ACE, 2013 http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/media/uploads/pdf/Envisioning_the_library_of_the_future_phase_1_a_review_of_innovations_in_library_services.pdf



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		Family History fairs organised by heritage staff in NI libraries involved partner organisations including the Federation of Ulster Local Studies and the Ulster Historical Foundation.	<i>Libraries NI, a year of progress, 2010-11, Libraries NI</i>
		Dudley library hosts local history talks delivered by local authors.	
	Local people contributing to resources	The Digital War Memorial enables local libraries to work with communities and established artists to create their individual response to the First World War. Each of the local projects has been captured digitally and will be the foundation of a national memorial that will continue to build over the four years of commemoration, 2014-2018.	www.digitalwarmemorial.com
		The Voices of the Quarter project at the Waiting Room at St Botolph's, Colchester is an example of how local people can contribute to the creation of local history material in an interactive way. While not a public library, the Waiting Room demonstrates an approach which could be used in public libraries.	http://st-botolphs.org/voq/
		Wakefield and the Cheshire Image Bank have an expanding collection contributed to by the public.	http://www.twixtaireandcalder.org.uk/ http://cheshireimagebank.org.uk/
Libraries as cinema	Film clubs in libraries	Kirklees Libraries runs an informal cinema club in the library. Library members are automatically members of the cinema club. The library is run by Fresh Horizons, a social enterprise which employs over 70 people delivering a range of services across Kirklees, Huddersfield.	http://www.freshhorizons.org.uk/?p=1339
		Suffolk Libraries screen live performances and films. Entry is charged for.	http://suffolklibraries.co.uk/presents
	DVDs to hire	Many public libraries provide DVDs to hire usually for a small charge.	

