Doing a Lot with Almost Nothing: German–Latvian Micro-Innovations in Libraries

FREIRAUM

PARTNER LAND LETTLAND 2025–28

PARTNER VALSTS VĀCIJA 2025–28

Partner Country Initiative

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Website: https://bi-international.de/ > Partnerland

Mailinglist: same link as above

Working Group: international@bibliotheksverband.de

Next Webinars:

15 June @10:00 „Transformation and A.I.“

18 June @10:00 „The Riga Reading Manifesto“

Common Constraints

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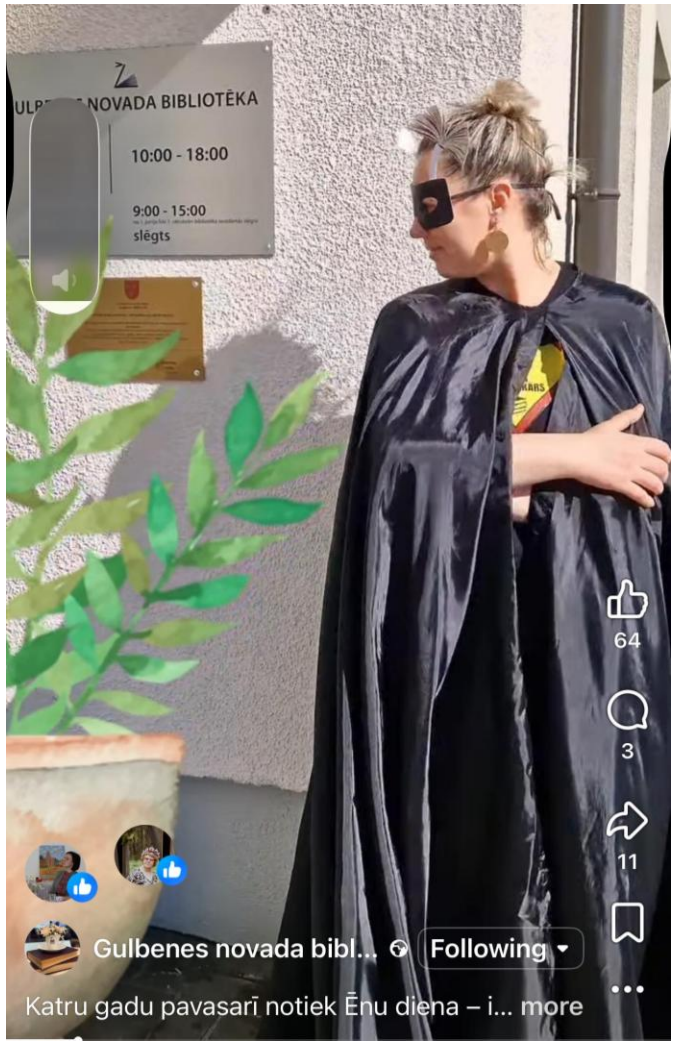
Foto von Towfiqu barbhuiya auf Unsplash

Foto von Ziph auf Unsplash

Foto von Benny Samuel auf Unsplash

Example 1 (Latvia)



SuperLibrarian by

The Gulbene Regional Library

Some examples:
https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1DKA94yGSK/
https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1QcsQMkSQS/
https://www.facebook.com/reel/1660412374887 85

Example 2 (Germany)

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Checklists for everyday problems in one-person libraries

Provided by German Library Staff Association
Berufsverband Information Bibliothek e. V. (BIB)
www.bib-info.de

Language: German

Check it out here: **www.tinyurl.com/opl2026**

Example 2 continued

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Checkliste Nr. 47: Gendersensible und diskriminierungsfreie Sprache / Uta Keite. 2024.

Checkliste Nr. 46: Grüne Bibliothek : Ökologische, wirtschaftliche und soziale Nachhaltigkeit in der Praxis / Petra Hauke ; Andrea Kaufmann ; Tim Schumann ; Janet Wagner. 2023.

Checkliste Nr. 45: Nutzendarstellung der OPL / Anne Jacobs ; Jürgen Plieninger. 2023.

Checkliste Nr. 44: Mastodon in der OPL / Jürgen Plieninger. 2023.

Checkliste Nr. 43: Coffee Lectures für OPLs / Sabrina Zoller. 2021.

Checkliste Nr. 42: Checkliste für Lernvideos / Frank Waldschmidt-Dietz. 2021.

Checkliste Nr. 41: Die publizierende One-Person Library / Jürgen Plieninger. 2019.

Checkliste Nr. 40: Coaching in und für OPLs / Gudrun Behm-Steidel. 2017.

Checkliste Nr. 39: Recherchieren in Wissenschaftlichen Bibliotheken / Jürgen Plieninger. 2015.

Example 3 (Latvia)

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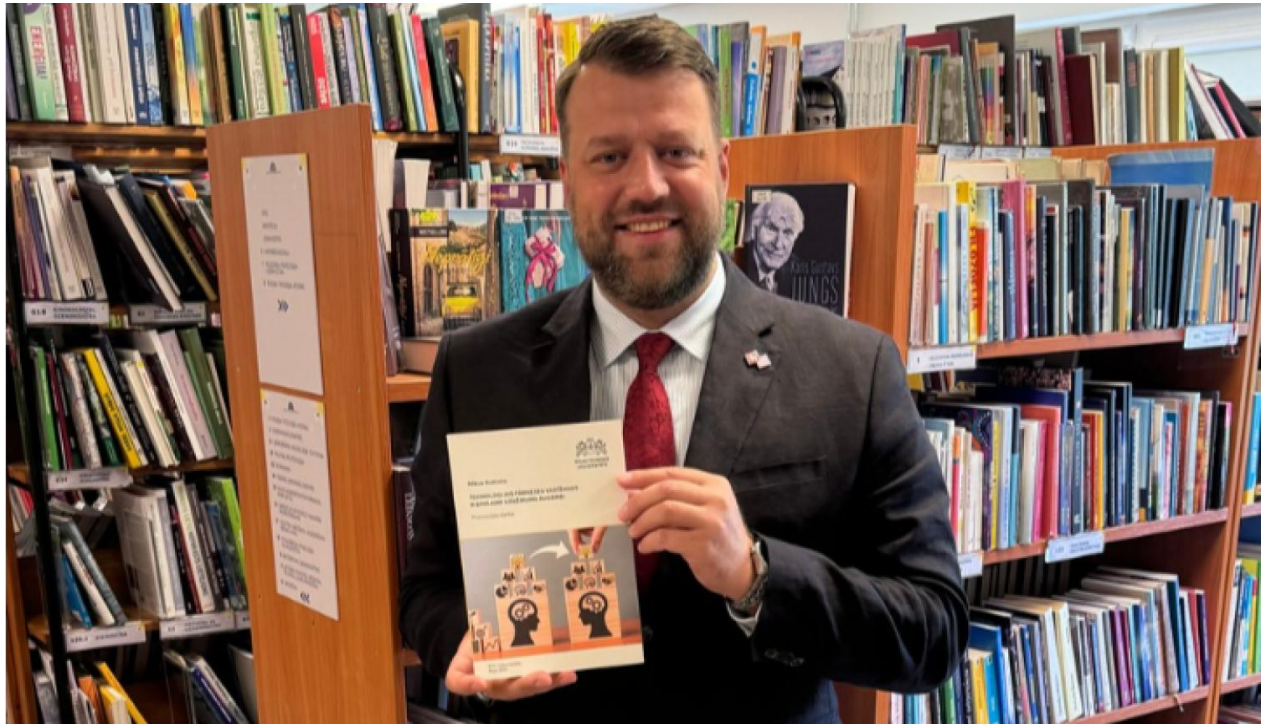
- **Deputy's Bookshelf** by the Smiltene Regional Library
- Event of the Year in a Latvian Library 2025, Local Significance Category



https://www.smiltenesnovads.lv/lv/jaunums/lasisanas-veicinasanas-projekts-deputata-gramatplaukts-savu-gramatas-stastu-atklaj-mikus-dubickis

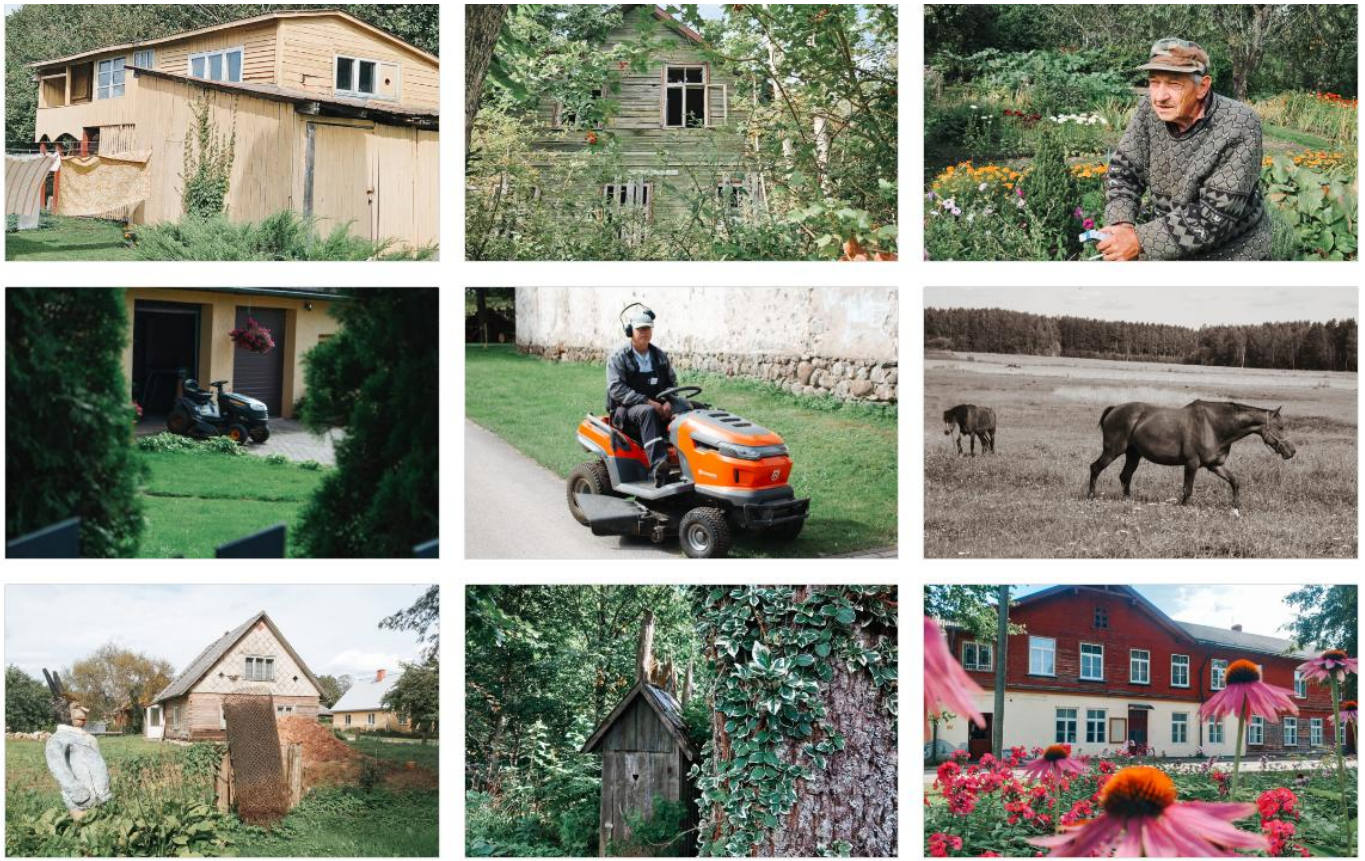
Example 4 (Germany)

Turning the usual onboarding process for <u>new</u> staff into a „longboarding“ process for <u>all</u> colleagues

- Resulting from staff requesting to better understand the different departments of the library and to get to know their colleagues
- All departments and fields within the library prepare a short input on their work
- Scheduling and communication is run through the library‘s training and development department
- Both new and longterm staff can participate: This creates cost neutral inhouse trainings and strengthens community building amongst staff

Example 5 (Latvia)

One Day in Mazsalaca by Mazsalaca City Library,



https://www.valmierasnovads.lv/foto-akcija-viena-diena-mazsalaca/

Example 6 (Germany)

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Bottle Crates by the Central and Regional Library Berlin

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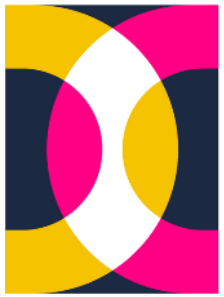

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Interactive idea-laboratory

Mentimeter

Mentimeter

Which cheap ideas do you implement at your library?

Spielenachmittag

Usage of free platforms such as Zenodo / Zenodo Community for our Research Data, Open Source Academic Publishing Suite, OJS, ...

Low-Tech Escape Rooms

Build a Trinket Box

Photo Backdrop for events made from old books

I don't like cheap.

Puzzles

Use of Open Source Software

We ask parents to volunteer for storytimes. They get training of course.

Patrons bring used bottle caps to the library to be used for crafts during summer reading. New York.

Cables with different plugs at the Servicedesk, if borrowers need to charge their phones ad have forgotten their own cables

Which cheap ideas do you implement at your library?

Makulierte Medien werden für Dekorationen und Veranstaltungen verwendet

Spieletauschbörse

Renting out our library rooms (for free) to organisation like MSOs and in exchange they organize one event per year for us.

Sport orienteering in the library. If your library is big enough to explore many hidden corners.

Coffee hours for senior citizens

Using "Standys" (cheap cardboard stands designed to be placed on a desk for working whilst standing): https://www.standydesk.com/home2

Printing with 3D printer tokens for library

Bag-Exchange-Station If you took too many items and forgot to bring a bag, we offer old bags for free to our patrons. Also, our patrons can bring their old unused bag, if they have too many at home.

Actionbound

Stempelpass: nach jeder Geschichtenzeit bekommen Kinder einen Stempel in ihren Geschichtenpass. Wenn voll,

Which cheap ideas do you implement at your library?

year for us.

Tiny library games for the Long Night of Science (how many books can you scan in a Minute, Put the books Back, Balance your Book...)

re use of furniture from second hand shops

Second hand games and toys exchange market

Printing with 3D printer tokens for library lockers if patrons do not have 1 & 2 euro coins.

Second hand clothes exchange event

Exchange point for second hand items to promote circular economy. We currently have one (for staff only).

einen Stempel in ihren Geschichtenpass. Wenn voll, bekommen Kinder einen Aufkleber.

Bücherflohmarkt mit ausgesonderten Büchern

Upcycling Projects with the users

Not exactly saving "money", but we ask participants to remember to clean up after themselves and help stack the chairs after outreach events, so it kind of saves us time to focus on vexing things.

Start voting
Group responses

Wrap up

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