

FACTS & FIGURES

REPORT ON THE STATE OF LIBRARIES 2018 / 2019

DEAR READERS,

“Zugang und Teilhabe im digitalen Wandel” (Access and participation in digital change) was the title of the first Federal Congress on Library Policy held by the German Library Association in Berlin on 1 and 2 March 2018. This describes the core mission of public and research libraries. Libraries need political support, reliable framework conditions and strategic development opportunities in order to cope with these challenges innovatively and in line with current conditions.

I therefore welcome the statements on library policy in the coalition agreement, which acknowledge “the increasing importance” of libraries. The resulting perspectives are now to be promptly implemented. For this purpose, the German Library Association represents over 9,000 libraries in Germany. Contemporary international, European and German copyright law, which promotes teaching and research in the digital world and enables public libraries to lend e-books as well as printed books, is the key to future services offered by libraries.

Similarly, further development of the library landscape can and must also be promoted at federal level. Another important step in this regard is the “hochdrei” funding programme of the Federal Cultural Foundation, which aims to strengthen libraries as “third places” of urban society.

This year’s report on the situation facing libraries shows what further steps are urgently needed in order to provide cutting-edge library services for all citizens and what successes libraries have achieved.

I hope you find this an inspiring read!

Sincerely,
Barbara Lison
 Federal Chairperson of the German Library Association (dbv)



Image: ©dbv/katrin Neuhauser

WHAT THE POLITICIANS SAY

“Libraries have always been specialists in information. This expertise is even more important in the digital age: the wealth of information and knowledge must be wisely organised. People need places to discuss and debate matters beyond the World Wide Web. Moreover, academic institutions are counting on the support of libraries for new duties such as licence administration or the introduction of Open Access.

In this way, libraries are helping to make research findings accessible to more people, providing firm support for Open Science.”
Anja Karliczek, Federal Minister of Education and Research



“Libraries are a key location for media education. As digitisation becomes more widespread, they are transforming themselves into creative spaces where users find information, join in and try things out. Libraries are expanding their services and are involved in media education for children, young people and adults. Numerous libraries are supporting an initiative launched by my establishment, entitled ‘Lokale Netzwerke für ein Gutes Aufwachsen mit Medien’ [Local networks for a good upbringing with media]. For instance, they offer parents’ evenings for console and online gaming or programming, but also for video shoots or drawing comics for children. We still need the active support of libraries so that all children can enjoy a good upbringing with media!”

Dr Franziska Giffey, Federal Minister for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth



“Many large libraries in Germany embraced provenance research years ago and are examining books from their stocks with regard to their origin. These books are suspected of having been seized as a result of National Socialist persecution. It is very important to me to reinforce this provenance research in Germany. I more than tripled the funds for this in my cultural budget during my first term of office, and in 2015 I founded the German Lost Cultural Heritage Foundation together with the federal states and local authorities. I hope that even more libraries, in particular city libraries, will take advantage of the services offered by the Foundation and embark upon and reinforce provenance research among their stocks with the help of the advice and financial support opportunities available there.”

Prof. Monika Grütters, Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media

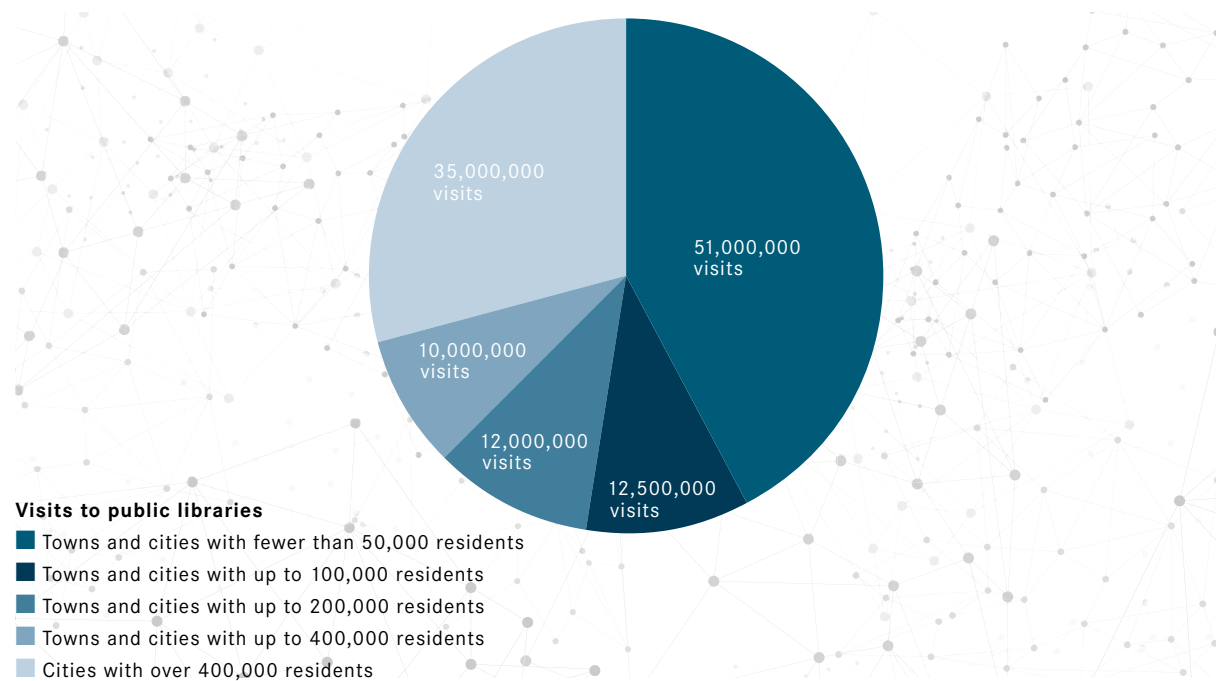


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FIGURES FROM GERMAN LIBRARY STATISTICS 2017

LIBRARIES IN GERMANY

The approximately **9,000 public libraries** in Germany are visited around **120 million times** a year.



346 million
Public libraries lend out around **346 million books, films and music titles.**

80%
More than **80% of public libraries** in towns and cities with more than 50,000 residents offer **Wi-Fi.**

34 million
Nearly **34 million e-media** can be borrowed from research libraries.

231,730
A total of **231,730 user workstations** are available, 103,000 of them in public libraries.

220 million
At research libraries, users access e-books approximately **220 million times** and **digital journal articles 8 million times.**

400,000
Public and research libraries organise around **400,000 events**, including readings, exhibitions, digital reading promotion and media literacy teaching, game conventions, makerspace activities, programming workshops, language courses and training courses. Of these, 179,000 (44.8%) are events for children in public libraries alone.

310 million
Around **60%** (€ 185 million) of the **acquisition expenditure** for (€ 310 million) research libraries is earmarked for **digital media.**

24 million
Public libraries lend out more than **24 million e-media items** each year. This is around 4 million more than in the previous year.

Source: German Library Statistics 2017

THE DBV CALLS FOR:

PROMOTION OF THE DEVELOPMENT AND EXPANSION OF DIGITAL SERVICES

Open Science aims to make science more transparent, faster and more accessible to all. **Research libraries are key hubs, accompanying this cultural change in research and supporting stakeholders in its implementation.**

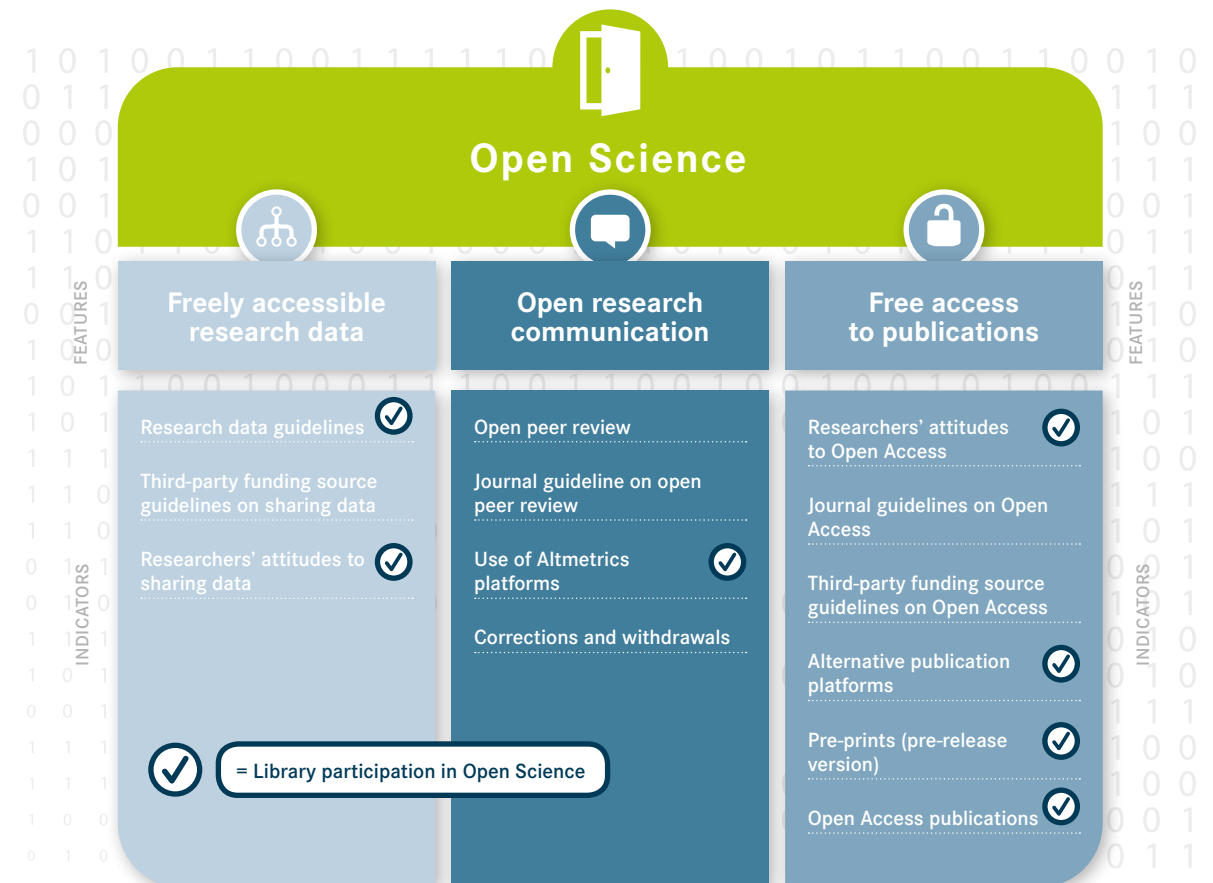
point of contact and a meeting place for researchers and support them in all phases of the research process, as well as in cooperation and teaching.

Digitisation requires the development and expansion of new services. For this, libraries require extended customer services which recognise the potential of digitisation beyond their traditional range of tasks and implement it in appropriate service developments and tools for academic research, teaching and innovation.

Advisory services and service offerings for academic publishing and research data storage, publication and open access are important duties performed by libraries due to the digital transformation of science and the associated variety of publication formats and options.

As information specialists, libraries perform an important advisory function on topics such as Open Data, Open Science and Open Access and are able to promote these specifically. They provide a platform, a

Research libraries in Germany can only successfully implement these functions in cooperation with the overall system. To develop sustainable and lasting structures, it is therefore necessary to reinforce them by means of a strategic approach, with targeted measures and coordinated investments at all levels of the research system.



THE DBV CALLS FOR:

FACILITATION OF CONTEMPORARY COPYRIGHT AND EQUAL ACCESS TO E-BOOKS

Lending options, books vs. e-books



A fundamental reform of copyright regulations for research and teaching took place in Germany when the Copyright Act for the knowledge-based society (UrhWissG) came into force in March 2018. This created urgently needed legal security for teachers, students, universities and libraries.

However, opportunities for supraregional provision of literature have been considerably limited in some cases. Document delivery for commercial purposes is permitted only if a suitable licence is available.

Teaching and research involving daily newspapers and general-interest magazines for which no licence offers are available, were even drastically restricted: it is no longer possible to use or send entire articles. This affects history, social sciences and media sciences in particular. Contemporary solutions are needed here. Restriction of the mandatory secondary publication right should be lifted and the version published by the publisher should be allowed to be used instead.

The regulations regarding the field of education and science that only apply in the UrhWissG until 2023

must be consolidated so as to offer lasting legal certainty for research and teaching.

The reform of copyright law currently under discussion at European level must also be developed while taking into account the needs of science and research and it must not fall short of German legal standards.

The non-commercial “lending” of e-books by public libraries remains unregulated. Although many publishers grant licences for e-books to libraries, they do demand higher prices for this and are increasingly combining this with months of waiting before libraries can even purchase new publications (which is known as “windowing”). This significantly limits the information available with e-media. Following the ECJ decision in November 2016, the dbv calls on the German government to make electronic “lending” legally secure for library customers. Every e-book that is offered on the German market for end customers must essentially also be available for purchase by libraries and the copyright holders must be fairly involved. Access to culture and information for all citizens, including in the digital world, is at stake.

THE DBV CALLS FOR:

INTEGRATION OF LIBRARIES IN LOCAL AUTHORITIES’ DIGITAL STRATEGIES

As public, non-commercial places of learning and education, libraries are part of municipal services of general interest. Digital change is expanding their cultural and educational mission and offers opportunities to implement this in new ways and reach target groups more effectively. Local authorities should strategically develop this potential.

Libraries have been dealing with digitisation matters for years like no other municipal institution: libraries in particular make many digital offerings and services accessible to all citizens and thus counteract the digital divide in society.

At the same time, their importance as a “third place” has increased in the digital world, as a meeting place

for exchange and communication alongside the home and workplace. They can only develop their potential for the digital urban society if they are taken into account in municipal digital strategies and “Smart City” concepts. A key factor here is the fact that the highly dynamic processes of digitisation require openness for the development of new offerings. To be able to design these, cultural institutions need internal and external structures that facilitate agile management processes.

Implementing institutions, cultural administrations and donors must promote this and bring with them the flexibility, error tolerance and trust needed.

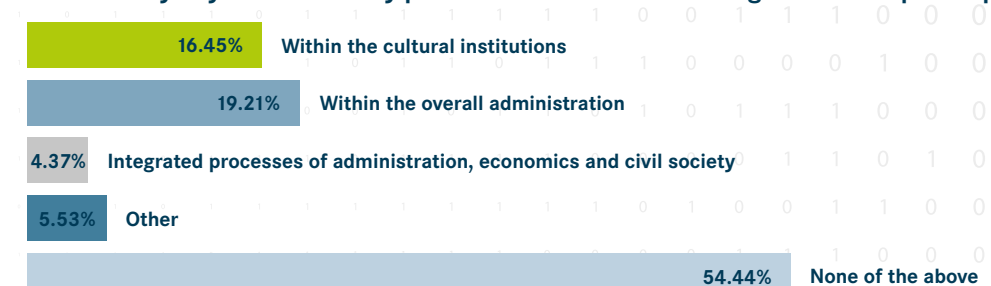
Will digitisation increase the importance of libraries in urban society?



Is there a digital strategy in your community that includes the library?



Is the library in your community part of formalised urban or regional development processes?



THE DBV CALLS FOR:

INVOLVING PUBLIC LIBRARIES MORE INTENSIVELY IN PROVENANCE RESEARCH



Library stocks are a national cultural asset and are protected. But where do they come from? How did books get into libraries? From whom were they wrongly taken? Provenance research at libraries deals with these questions. It assists with the protection of cultural assets, establishes information systems and fulfils the obligation of all public institutions to search for cultural assets seized as a result of National Socialist persecution.

Researching the origins and fates of books and their owners and making them visible is a task that will take generations and requires reliable structures. For this reason, the dbv is increasingly calling for sustainable support for the consolidation of specialised knowledge at public libraries as well.

Cultural assets worldwide, including books, are destroyed, looted and taken away; they migrate from place to place by legal or illegal means. Collections

were scattered and thus destroyed after the National Socialists came to power in 1933. Libraries – as an important part of historical-political education – can trace the origins of their stocks of books and make hidden networks visible. Only in this way can cultural assets be responsibly acquired and preserved. The origin of these complex cultural assets must be researched and prepared for the public. This requires a broad range of expertise that can only be acquired over many years. To consolidate this knowledge in the long term, policymakers and sponsors must recognise that provenance research and indexing is an important task for libraries.

The dbv therefore calls for sustainable support for the expansion of the digital infrastructure for provenance information on the basis of standards established internationally by libraries, as well as the long-term safeguarding of jobs for provenance researchers and the increased networking of data.

THE DBV CALLS FOR:

SUNDAY OPENING HOURS FOR CITY AND COMMUNITY LIBRARIES

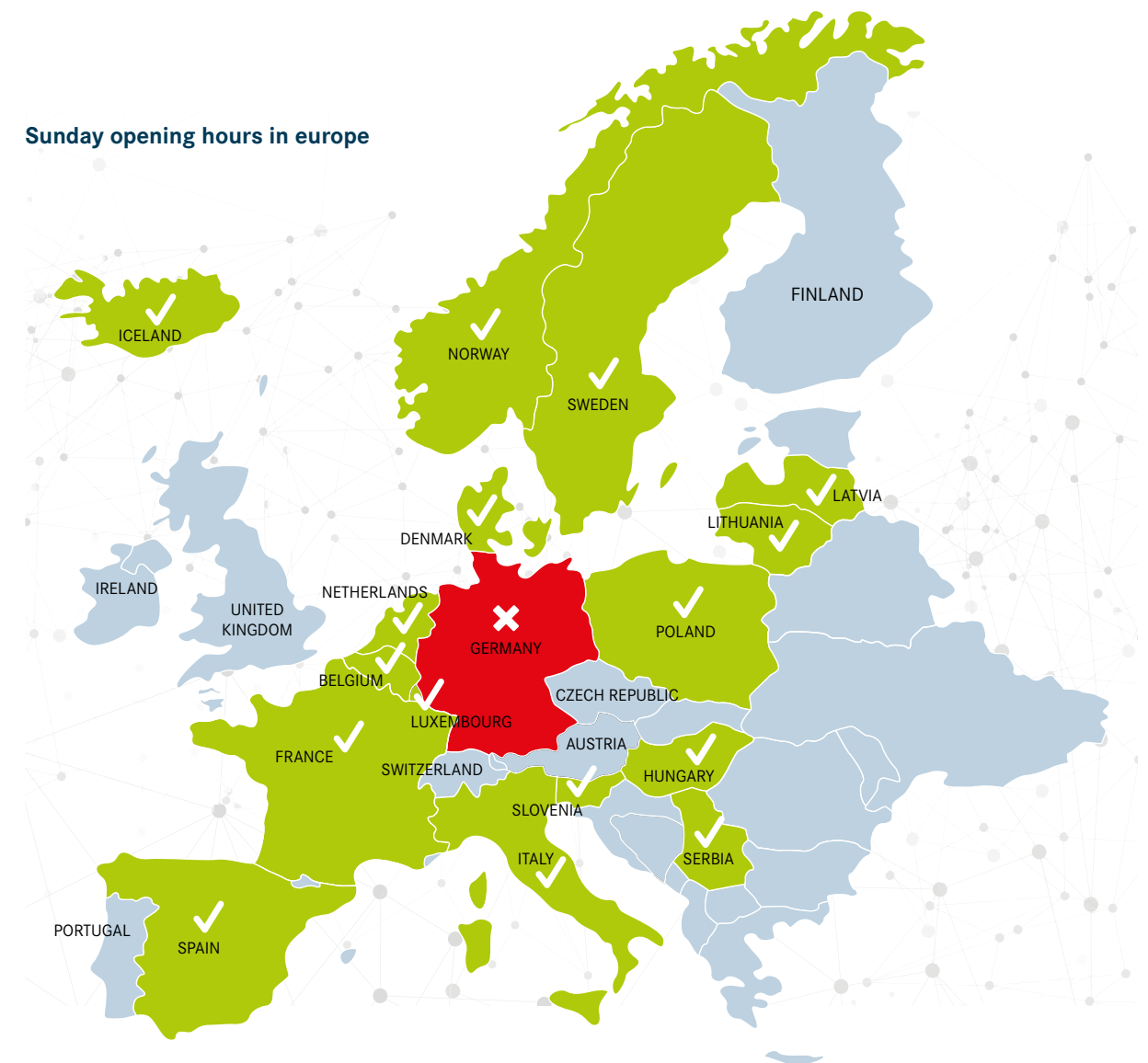
While museums, theatres, research libraries and other cultural institutions are able to open on Sundays, this has not been legally possible for city and community libraries with their own staff. This needs to change as a matter of urgency.

People who work long hours, families and pupils generally do not have time to use the services and public spaces offered by libraries during the week. A pilot project at Bremen City Library 2012/2013 and the current opening hours of the American Memorial Library in Berlin and the Mönchengladbach City Library

due to services offered by third parties are proving, by way of consistently high visitor numbers, that there is a need for local libraries to open on Sundays and that this will be accepted by the public.

The opening hours of libraries on Sundays are subject to federal legislation and are regulated within the framework of the Federal Working Hours Act, which only needs to be updated slightly to allow city and local libraries to open to the public on Sundays for educational and leisure purposes.

Sunday opening hours in europe



THE DBV CALLS FOR:

USE OF THE POTENTIAL OF LIBRARIES TO ACHIEVE SUSTAINABILITY TARGETS

As broadly based cultural and educational institutions, libraries are relevant stakeholders in the attainment of the sustainability targets of the Federal Government and the United Nations Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.

This is true in a number of regards. Libraries are free to use and there are usually no barriers to their use, they are places of integration, inclusion and diversity and they offer a central place where people can go. They have always worked according to the principles of resource sharing, as is evidenced by lending. Their structure makes them original institutions of social, economic and ecological sustainability.

Their core mission – providing free access to information – is fundamentally linked to these targets. The option of public access to information helps to provide a foundation for self-sufficient decisions and insights.

Nations in which people are able to obtain relevant information offer better conditions for combating poverty and inequality, optimising their economic conditions, offering high-quality educational opportunities, contributing to the health of the population, and promoting the culture, research and sustainability of the country. The networked library system can be used to distribute information on sustainable consumption and lifestyles, thus raising awareness of the social significance of sustainability. Libraries aim to ensure the sustainability of their activities when it comes to the procurement of media and materials. This means they can also act as a role model for other public institutions.

To achieve the sustainability targets, the Federal Government, states and local authorities need to set up libraries by 2025.

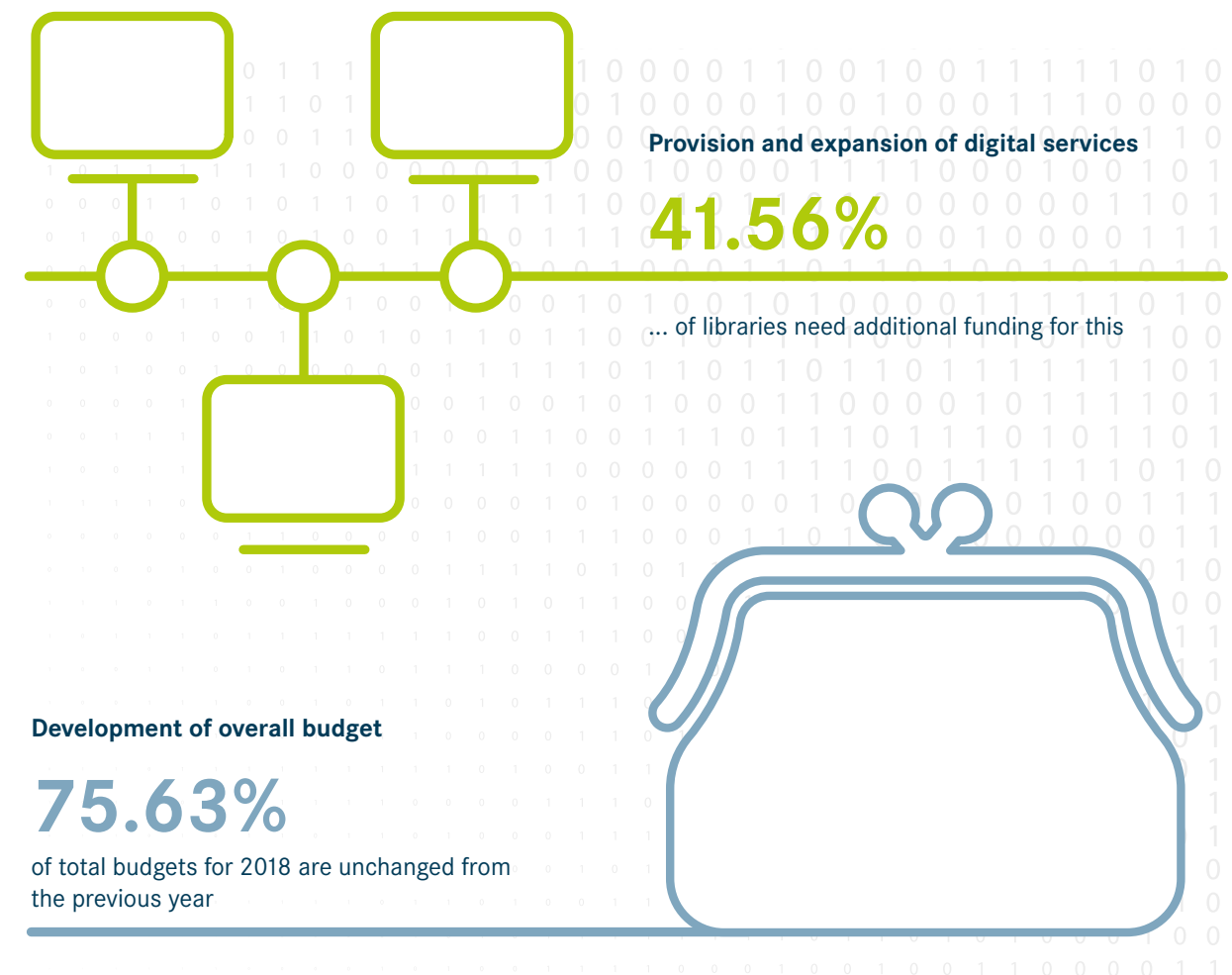
Sustainability targets



Source: United Nations, 25 September 2015

THE DBV CALLS FOR:

INVESTMENT IN LIBRARIES NOW IN ORDER TO SHAPE DIGITAL CHANGE



This year's survey of around 1,350 institutions by the German Library Association on the financial situation at public libraries once again proves that no additional funds are available for the increased range of services.

The stagnation in the funding of libraries is tantamount to genuine cuts as libraries take on a variety of additional socially relevant responsibilities in the

fields of cultural and digital education, integration and inclusion, for example. Digitalisation is also changing the range of media and services on offer: providing both analogue and digital media and services requires greater expenditure, as these are associated with additional costs. In the future, libraries will have to be better equipped by their sponsors to handle strategic further development and modern services in communities.

Source: financial survey undertaken by the German Library Association of ca. 1,350 public libraries, 2018

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