



Editing, Concept
Cologne Public Library

Printing medienzentrum süd, Köln

Photos:

Cologne Public Library, unless otherwise indicated

Release:

February 2024

Stadtbibliothek Köln Josef-Haubrich-Hof 1 50676 Köln www.stbib-koeln.de

Always on the Cutting Edge

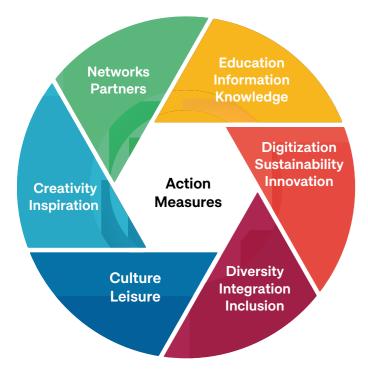
"Our strategic concept guides our operations. It was developed in a collaborative process and is aligned with Kölner Perspektiven 2030+ (Cologne's Perspectives 2030+) and the city's climate targets. One of the results is our sustainability plan, which is now being systematically implemented.

We follow developments in artificial intelligence very closely and our various programs provide critical insights into this groundbreaking topic. Diversity, participation, and social discourse are top priorities for us.

Promoting literacy is another of our core tenets. The results of the PISA study have shown, once again, that we must continue with our efforts in this area. That is why we convey a playful approach to reading for the very youngest children with our baby storytimes and why we cooperate with daycares and schools—to ensure that no one is left behind." senziell für uns.

Dr. Hannelore Vogt, Director, Cologne Public Library





Well Positioned - Our Strategic Concept

The Cologne Public Library revised its strategic concept in a collaborative process. The strategic concept shows the citizens of Cologne the vision that guides our policies, principles and goals and indicates what they can expect from us. It guides our operations, services, and offerings and will be continually developed in the coming years. In addition, the strategic concept gives not only the staff, but also the decision-makers in politics and administration, a view to future planning.

Our goal is to take an active part in creating cohesion in urban society through our libraries and programs, as well as through our interaction and dialogue with the citizens of Cologne. Our programs and activities facilitate fair, inspiring, and participatory access to knowledge and media for all. In cooperation with our partners, we are at the forefront of providing information, inspiration, integration, inclusion, interaction, and critical analysis of cutting-edge socially relevant and digital developments.



Expanded Equal Opportunities for All

The reduction in membership fees was a milestone event in February 2023 and met with enthusiastic response and acceptance from our users. The reduction was particularly beneficial for the many young adults who use the Library to study, as they now enjoy free membership until age 21, versus the previous 18.

The number of new memberships rose 10% for all age groups; there was an 18% increase by those under age 21. Of special note is our Kalk Library Branch.

Membership increased 20% at this branch, where two-thirds of the visitors are under age 30 and approximately 30% of visitors range in age from 11-20 years old.

Another Positive Side Effect

The projected revenue loss was less severe than expected — €240,000 more revenue was collected than planned.

The Green Library - Striving for Sustainability

Sustainability and resource sharing have always been a hallmark of libraries. Something that can be borrowed does not need to be owned, so sustainability is a tool of our trade. Keeping the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals in mind, we are continually working on our ecological footprint, particularly our carbon emissions. Our new bookmobile runs on biogas, and we replaced our library van with an electric model. We have added many everyday household and garden items to our Library of Things. The upcoming extended renovation of the Central Library will result in energy savings of 80%; energy-saving measures are also planned for our Neubrück Branch Library.

In addition, we have made less visible changes that contribute to the protection of our planet: the creation of a sustainability plan, the addition of water refill stations in all of our locations, and the switch to recycled paper and compostable book jacket covers. Our social media studio was a fixture of the city's first Climate Week, where for two days, via live stream, experts and stakeholders discussed climate protection.



© United Nations

Floating Green Travels through the Neighborhoods

As part of our education mandate, we are dedicated to raising awareness of how we can live more sustainably. Our new sustainability project, Floating Green, got underway in the fall of 2023. It provides information on environmental, climate and sustainability issues. In addition, it connects our users and stakeholders. It will reach many city residents in the coming months, as it "floats" through all of our locations until 2025, informing on a range of subjects from heating systems, to organic farming, to how to reduce packaging and more. Local neighborhood initiatives such as the Verbraucherzentrale NRW (consumer advice center), zero waste entrepreneur Tante Olga and IGLU, the hub for eco-friendly consumption, will also be participating.

Floating Green, funded by the Ministry of Culture and Science of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia started at Central Library in fall 2023, and then traveled to the Rodenkirchen Branch Library. In the spring of 2024, it will go to the Chorweiler and Kalk Branch Libraries.



Our Roadmap for Climate Protection

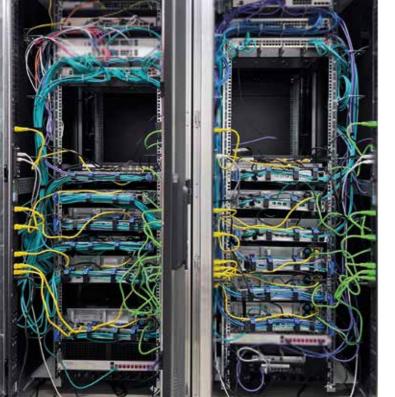
The ceremonious inauguration of Europe's first biogas-powered bookmobile took place in October 2023. The bookmobile's innovative biogas fueling sets a standard for the future and underscores our climate sustainability and climate-neutrality efforts. The opening ceremony featured the new bookmobile standing right outside of the Central Library, on the Josef-Haubrich-Hof. Information booths on bio-waste from the city's waste management department (AWB) and Floating Green were also present. The bookmobile's interior is custom designed to meet our needs and offers many more possibilities than the old one. One of the most exciting features is the big skylight. There is a small space for programs and a bench invites visitors to read and relax. A large screen will show movies, animated picture book storytimes and display information. The efficiently used space even leaves room for a 3.000-item collection.

The bookmobile, developed by the Finnish manufacturer Kiitokori Oy, is the first of its kind in Europe with biomethane gas propulsion.

The bookmobile is a sustainable, mobile library branch, developed and run in cooperation with the city's Waste Management Department (AWB). The city's bio-waste lands in AWB's fermentation plant, where the bio-waste is converted to biomethane gas. The bookmobile's CO2 emissions can so be reduced from 18 to 0,5 tons and is, therefore, almost emission-free. This optimal partnership creates a beneficial economic cycle in a major city.

"The bookmobile is an important part of our comprehensive offerings and contributes to improving the quality of life in the city's outlying neighborhoods. It was important to us to make an innovative contribution to helping the city reach its climate goals," explains Hannelore Vogt.





Ready for the Future

for online identification).

Our central IT-server moved to the city's datacenter in 2023, securing our future IT and data safety. The new server location ensures a high-performance operation and meets the best possible IT security and data protection standards. Together with the city's information processing department and the company Netcologne, the move was completed in only two days. Our patrons were very understanding about being able to use the Library only on-site during this time.

As part of the Central Library renovation and move to the interim location, further comprehensive migrations of the technical infrastructure will be necessary. RFID-based intelligent media return shelves will be one of the features of the new self-check terminals at the interim location. Our well-used self-check media cabinet, with its laptops, iPads, and E-Readers, will also have a place in the interim location in the Hohe Strasse. Additionally, we are preparing for the switch to a new library software. The Library is also the first city department to get an interface to BundID (centralized account

Artificial Intelligence

Al has become all the rage, since generative artificial intelligence, with its chatbots and image generations, has become publicly available. In our role as a provider of information, education, and media competence, not to mention a place of lifelong learning and democratic participation, the subject is highly relevant for us. To demonstrate how Al can be used sensibly, it is incorporated into our research and bibliographic instruction training for students. With the new concept "KI und Du" (Al and You), middle school students learn about the risks of using Al and how to use it as a tool.

The regularly occurring digital workshops of our "Digitale Werkstatt" provide a venue outside of school for students to use ChatGPT. In 2023, renown experts Doris Weßels and Kristian Kerstig intensively discussed the vast social significance of AI in two public programs with large audiences—a dialogue that will continue in the coming years.



Creating Change with STEM

"Create the Change" was the theme of the 6th annual STEM Festival, MINTKöln. Almost all of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals were addressed in the over 100 free and fully booked workshops held during fall break.

Clarissa Corrêa da Silva, host of "Wissen macht Ah!" opened the festival with her book "Mein wunderbares Ich." Together with the illustrator Maurizio Onano, she playfully showed how our genes create who we are and make us human. Next to perennial favorites like Kitchen Chemistry and workshops on coding, there were programs on mobility in the smart city, a DIY bicycle workshop and Crafting XXL, where children designed transportation of the future.

The Hands on Mathematics! exhibits, from the Mathematikum Gießen, were a highlight. Children flocked to the exhibits before they were even fully installed. The adults had fun trying out them out as well, particularly the one on figuring out the shortest route to visit all the German state capitals.



Rubik Cubes and algorithms, insects in food products, and crafting windmills out of toilet paper rolls were the subjects of a few of the booths at STEM Day, the festival's finale. The area in front of Central Library was dedicated to bicycles, featuring not only a workshop, but also an obstacle course.

STEM and DIY defined the Maker Kids program held during spring break, featuring workshops on programming, building robots, making paper, building solar-powered cars, chemistry experiments, virtual reality, and upcycling.

The experimenting will continue with the 7th annual STEM Festival during fall break in October 2024.

Enthusiastic visitors of the sixth STEM Festival: "My son said it was the coolest robotics event he ever saw. Many thanks for this event." "My daughter was enthusiastic. Her purse turned out great!" "A concise introduction to a comprehensive and cool coding program! After the very intensive introduction, I am looking forward to continuing to work on this! Many thanks!"





Our STEM activities were only made possible with the active support of partners, many of whom we have been working with for years. We would like to thank the following organizations:

- Fachstelle für Jugendmedienkultur NRW
- Fraunhofer-Institut für Intelligente Analyse- und Informations-
- systeme IAIS - Abfallwirtschaftsbetriebe Köln GmbH (AWB)
- Codiviti
- Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt e. V. (DLR)
- Hausdorff Center for Mathematics
- Frühes Forschen Langenfeld
- Klanginstitut

- RheinEnergie AG

- Deutsche Telekom Stiftung, Wasserschule Köln e.V.
- Deutsches Museum Bonn
- Codingschule Düsseldorf
- Ingenieure ohne Grenzen e.V.
- Mathematikum Gießen e.V. - NRW.Energy4Climate









Hands on Technology

Insights into new technologies and development: not all people have the access to or the proper knowledge of how to keep up with ever-increasing technological requirements and creative possibilities. Therefore, our Makerspace workshops on subjects such as virtual reality, 3D design and printing, cutting plotters and laser plotters are free of charge and can be attended by all, even those with little to no experience. The same is true for the introductory workshops on video technology and editing. The requisite technology is available for patrons to use at any time for independent projects, not only at Central Library, but also at our branch libraries in Porz, Kalk and Rodenkirchen.

The Maker Kids program is a similar program for children offered every year during spring break. Culture and creativity get their due in workshops on computer repair, learning guitar, solving a Rubik's Cube, stenography, sewing and more.

Our robot, NAO, was very busy in 2023. In addition to presentations and open programming workshops, the workshop "Neue Tricks für NAO" gave children and adults the chance to test their

own programs on our robot and get tips from experts. NAO was also part of the anniversary celebration of the Rodenkirchen Branch Library. Starting in 2024, NAO will be regular part of class visits to the Central Library and will tour the branches.

The workshops offered in our Digitale Werkstatt give insight into everyday digital topics, such as social media (TikTok, Facebook, Pinterest, Mastodon), photography, and image editing, as well as the Library's diverse digital offerings (e-media, film and music streaming, digital scores) and the digitization options for analog media. Workshops on cyber mobbing, hate speech, conspiracy theories, fake news, influencer marketing, and digital well-being, which was very popular with parents, were offered in 2023.

Stories, Adventures, and New Reading Friends

What draws children like a magnet to the glass display cases in children's areas of the Central and branch libraries? The booklet for our new reading initiative "Bücherbande", or "Book Gang", which started in 2023 and features masked friends on the bright red cover. Children, parents, and librarians alike were excited about the new initiative.

Promoting reading and literacy is at the heart of our work. We have been a partner in the education system and key place of learning outside of school for decades. It is our sincere wish and a matter of importance to us to promote literacy and foster a love of reading. Starting with storytimes for the littlest ones, we offer engaging programs teaching reading, information, and media literacy for all ages. One of our most popular programs is our dogassisted reading program, a staple for many years in several of our branch libraries. Children love reading aloud to Rudi Rakete, our reading dog. They gain confidence in their reading skills. Reading promotion apps such as eKidz and Tigerbooks complement our in-house programs.

Our old reading program had run its course—too old, too familiar, not sustainable. The new booklet takes the form of a friendship book. On 15 pages, children record 15 books they have read and answer questions: What is the title? Who is the author? How did you like the book? Each page is unique and offers something new. The entries can be individualized with words, or more creatively, with pictures, making each new entry an adventure. Interspersed are game and puzzle pages, as well as information about the program.

The Bücherbande-Mitmachbuch (Activity Book) for elementary school and up and the Bücherbande-Mini-Malbuch (Mini Coloring Book) for the younger children were developed, with assistance from designer Anja Neuefeind, by a small team in a creative process. We lucked out being able to work with the prize-winning Cologne children's book illustrators Heike Herold and Katrin Stangl. Both have illustrated numerous children's books and captivate with their style—rich in color, with silk-screen like layers and two-dimensional forms. In addition to the booklets, stamps, stickers, flyers, and posters were created as well.









Two big sponsors, the Imhoff Stiftung and the Sparkasse Köln-Bonn, were so impressed that they supported the project with €12,000 each. Additionally, the Imhoff Stiftung gave an additional donation to purchase new children's books, in order to keep the joy of reading alive in our children's libraries.

From the Branch Libraries

Ehrenfeld shines in new splendor

Our neighborhoods need strong branch libraries! They offer a wide variety of media to enjoy, provide a place to read, study, and work. Neighborhood libraries are places where one can encounter and spend time with others. In addition to the "Kalk Living Room," as the branch library in Kalk is affectionately known, the newly designed branch libraries in Rodenkirchen, Nippes and Ehrenfeld are welcoming, easily accessible and very present in their neighborhoods.

"I'm staying here!" The redesigned Ehrenfeld Branch Library was so cozy that a patron decided she wanted to spend the night. The new library furnishings, comfortable seating, and colorfully decorative walls are very inviting. A large stuffed bunny greets the children, and there is even space for a tree in the very middle of the Library. Interior design plays a big factor in feeling comfortable and welcome.

The renovation, refurbishment and redesign of more branch libraries will take place over the next few years, thanks to additionally acquired funding. The Sülz Branch Library is next in 2024. In 2025, the Mülheim Branch Library will be conceptually redesigned to accommodate its heavy usage. The renovated branch in Neubrück will become a meeting place for people of all ages.

In cooperation with the Bürgerverein Köln-Neubrück e. V., an open building will be designed, with multiuse rooms and plenty of space to read and study, as well as for DIY activities, such as sewing, singing, and cooking. It will be a place where people enjoy coming and feel comfortable, a place of information, inspiration, integration and interaction.









What is New in Porz, Sülz and Mülheim

After the Nippes and Neubrück locations, Mülheim and Porz took part in the "Strategy Development for Branch Libraries" training program run by the Fachstelle für öffentliche Bibliotheken (Department for Public Libraries) in NRW in 2023, where suitable action measures were identified and developed. In addition to target group analysis, measures include increasing visibility and recognition in the neighborhood, as well as improving the ambient quality.

The grand opening for the redesigned upper floor of the Porz Library will take place in January 2024. The children's and young adult area has been transformed into a contemporary and cozy venue, thanks to funding by the Ministry of Culture and Science of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia. It will have new flooring, colorful zones for different age groups, creative areas and suffici-

ent workstations for students. Additional changes are underway.



Exhibit Transit - Chorweiler x Kollwitz

There was a very special exhibit at the Chorweiler Branch Library by photographer Damian Zimmer, who himself hails from Köln-Chorweiler. Featured were photos of 50 children and young adults, all of whom were participants in Outline, the creative graffiti workshop in the neighborhood. The photos showed them posing in various neighborhood locations that were special to them. The young people also selected the photos that were displayed in the exhibit.

The exhibit at the Library also featured reproductions of graffitart done by the youth, some of whom were trained as guides to offer tours of the exhibit. In addition, there were workshops, class visits, and guided tours of the Chorweiler neighborhood. Prior to their showcase at the Library, the photos were the basis of a highly regarded exhibit at the Käthe Kollwitz Museum.



Rodenkirchen Celebrates 50 Years

cuts in 2003.

A double anniversary was celebrated on November 10, 2023: the Rodenkirchen Library turned 50 and the Friends Group, Literamus e. V., celebrated its 20th year.

The Library first opened in October 1973, with a collection of 4,000 books. After a few years, it moved from its first location in the Gesamtschule Rodenkirchen to the district administrative building. Since 1991, it has been at its current location at Schillingsrotter Straße 38. The Library contains over not only 32,000 media, but also a lounge area, workstations, and a broad range of programs done in cooperation with Literamus.

The Friends group has a 20-year history of cultural programming that saw many highlights. Literamus embodies great ideas, creative minds, unwavering commitment and persistence, as when the Library was threatened with closure as part of city budget

Gaming is Knowledge

Gaming fosters cognitive skills, sensomotoric capabilities, and in particular with multiplayer-games, social skills. Above all, gaming is fun! Our now well-established "GamesCon Warm-Up" brought people of all ages together at four different gaming stations. In addition to the weekly gaming sessions in Kalk and Chorweiler and escape games in Haus Balchen, we offer on-site stations to play and learn about console and computer games at almost all branches, in addition to offering them for lending at all locations.

Analog games are more popular than ever! Curious and interested participants age 16 and up have been meeting at the Central Library to explore the creative world of pen and paper games since March 2023. Through role-play, storytelling, and the roll of the dice they experience a joint adventure. As a bonus, empathy, communication skills and strategic thinking are fostered. People of all ages tried out new games for the first time at the Library as part of the the nationwide "Stadt-Land-spielt!" Included, of course, were games that were nominated for and won awards as "Spiel des Jahres."



Learning for the Future with Culture

Making and Experiencing Music

Live performances by Cologne musicians now take place in the middle of the Library. "Kanti – ein Chor für alle" (Kanti – a Choir for All) also meets in the Library every Thursday to rehearse and perform. Students from the igis Schule Köln get to experience the Library as a musical venue on their class visits, as part of a cooperation with the Offene Jazz Haus Schule in Cologne. In addition to the very popular music instruments available for lending, patrons have a selection of instruments available to play in-house at Central Library as well, including a grand piano, e-piano, e-drums and e-guitars.

The successful cooperation with the Cologne Philharmonic and the Cologne Opera continued in 2023, with introductory workshops taking place at Central Library before certain concerts. The very popular ukulele and vinyl-DJ workshops will continue to be offered.



Researching and critically evaluating texts

Media and information literacy are crucial in our every-increasing digital world. Our portfolio of online press databases, such as Nexis, SZ-Archiv and Pressreader has been expanded with RiffReporter, the online news portal from independent journalists.

Our school services department supports Cologne's schools by offering engaging programs with individually adaptable research methods and content for all age groups. A new program is the "Fake News Factory," where 9th and 10th graders can learn how to recognize false reporting by creating and generating their own fake news items.

In honor of World Press Freedom Day on May 3, and as part of the nation-wide school media days, students could attend sessions online and in-person on research and information resources. 60 students attended the program on fake news—a huge success.

Getting creative

Regular writing workshops, sponsored by SchreibLand NRW, help children and young adults gain confidence in their own creativity. In her writing workshop, Cologne YA author Christina Bacher shared how to come up with ideas and plot a story, as well as how to write a suspenseful mystery novel. The ten workshop participants presented their stories in a big closing event.

Adults also have the chance to learn something new in our learning circles, on subjects such as hand lettering, Bullet Journals or creative writing, under the guidance of a trained facilitator. Schreiben.

Current Events: Social Developments, Diversity, Anti-Racism, Fake News, Democracy

The cultural program at the Central Library revolves around current events and exciting new non-fiction releases. 2023 featured the topics identity crisis and finding identity. These issues play out not only on an individual level, in works by Angelina Boerger ("Kirmes im Kopf"), Peer Jongelings ("Emil:ia") and Clarissa Corrêa da Silva ("Mein wunderbares Ich"), but can also apply to our society as a whole, as in Alice Haster's "Identitätskrise" (Identity Crisis).

Melina Borčak took a stand against islamophobia in "Mekka hier, Mekka da." Natasha A. Kelly related the fight for gender equality with the fight against racism in "Schwarz. Deutsch. Weiblich." What form protest takes and what it expresses is the theme of the essays in "Links ist nicht woke" from Susan Neimann and "Protest" from Yasmine M'Barek.

Programs on feminism and democracy are planned. In 2024, the German constitution celebrates its 75-year anniversary, and the European parliament and U.S. presidential elections are taking place. However, we will not lose sight of the climate crisis and other issues, from Iran to the Ukraine, and we are staying on top of developments in Al. We eagerly await the coming programs.







Active against Antisemitism

Founded in 1959, the Germania Judaica is one of the most distinguished European special libraries on the history and present of German-speaking Jewry. The Library's collection, programs and educational offerings make an important civic contribution to the prevention of antisemitism.

Primarily Jewish authors invented the superhero comic genre; this is something students learn about in a workshop developed by educators, with funding by the state of North Rhine-Westphalia. The students get to engage with the Library in a practical way and learn about unknown aspects of Jewish culture.

Peter Finkelgruen, a tireless fighter against Nazis and their accomplices, reported on his life between Shanghai, Prague, Israel and Cologne. Christian Geisslers new novel, "Anfrage," led to lively discussions on "Entnazifizierung 2.0 – Was haben wir aus unserer Geschichte gelernt?" (De-Nazification 2.0 – What Have We Learned About Our History?)

A moving reading with musical accompaniment was dedicated to Abraham Sutzkever, the most important Yiddish poet of the 20th century. Finally, Meron Mendel spoke in a sold-out matinée about Germany's challenging relationship with Israel.



Literary Encounters

The Heinrich Böll Archive stands for multifaceted book presentations, readings, and discussions.

Among the guest speakers in 2023 were Mohsen Banaie and Christoph Danne, as well as Mathijs Deen and Markus Orths. Ismene Poulakos presented the first book in her new "Köln Storys" series. The opening celebration of the "verbrannt & verbannt – 90 Jahre Bücherverbrennung" (Banned & Burned – 90 Years Book Burning) action week featured Akgün, Fatih Çevikkollu, Navid Kermani, Eva Weissweiler and Günter Wallraff. The Cologne Public Library was also an event location for the Cologne festival for world literature, poetica.

The new "Anderland" program was developed in cooperation with the Klaus Bittner bookstore and focused on poetry. It took place in the spring and fall and featured well-known authors including Federico Italiano, Raoul Schrott, Jan Wagner, Jenny Erpenbeck, Monika Rinck and Uljana Wolf.

A highlight in 2023 was the awarding of the Heinrich-Böll-Preis to Kathrin Röggla. The day before the ceremony, she held a workshop discussion about the ongoing project with Sandra Kegel. The fifth volume of the acceptance award speeches will soon be released in the publication series of both archives.



What Diversity and Integration Mean to Us

Establishing diversity long-term

Promoting diversity is one of our central tenets. Our goal is to incorporate diversity in all our programs and offerings. It was therefore an integral part of our 2023 programming, from STEM, to maker-events, to gaming, to our new initiative Floating Green, as well as in our various storytimes, preschool and class visits and tours. This was possible in part with support from the "360° – Fond für Kulturen der neuen Stadtgesellschaft" from the Kulturstiftung des Bundes.

In order to cement our diversity strategy, a new training concept was developed in 2023: all new employees receive an orientation on diversity and the Library's diversity concept by specially trained staff members.



"sprachraum" - Integration and Encounter

as well.

The Cologne Public Library's sprachraum, or language room, is an open place of learning for people of various backgrounds and a meeting place for intercultural exchange. Conversing with others, doing homework, meeting new people—many things are possible. Since 2015, volunteers help others with learning German. Those with more complex or legal questions are referred to the appropriate department. The volunteers are as diverse as the users, and do their work with energy and drive.

A variety of programs are offered throughout the week. In addition to three discussion groups, one of which meets online, programs helping with writing letters and filling out job applications offer further enticement to visit. The sprachraum has become a third place, not just for the volunteers and the visitors, but for others





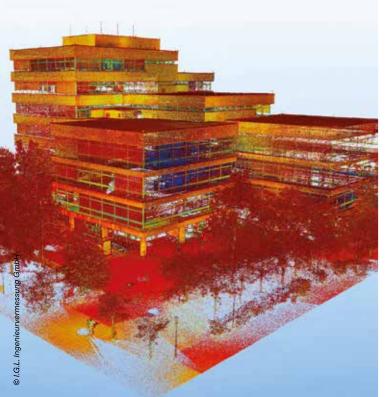
Visitors from Around the World

The Library was once again a popular destination in 2023. From group tours to weeks-long job shadowing, library colleagues from Denmark, India, Italy, Korea, Lithuania, New Zealand, Slovakia, and the Czech Republic visited the Library.

As part of the Young African Library Innovators program from the non-profit organization EIFL (Electronic Information for Libraries), head librarians from Ghana, Namibia, Uganda and Kenia spent several days in Cologne. They were full of praise for their visit: "We returned full of ideas and inspiration that we want to process and build on, in order to improve public libraries around the world."

The Kalk Branch Library welcomed two distinguished visitors at once. On a visit to Cologne, Ronald van Roeden, ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and Ahmed Aboutaleb, mayor of Rotterdam, stopped by Kalk to see for themselves, five years after its opening, the still pioneering concept of the Library, designed by Dutch architect Aat Vos. The WDR (West German Radio and Television) was a frequent visitor to Kalk and used the Library in a live broadcast as an example of active participation.

As part of the ongoing EU project "Books without Borders", set to run until 2025, the Library is working with organizations in Norway and Poland to find and design books that are suitable for all. The goal of this international group is to provide better barrier-free books for all those with reading difficulties, ranging from second language learners to those with dyslexia, as well as those who have little to no relation to reading.



Renovation and Relocation

After a lengthy public debate, the Cologne City Council unanimously decided that the Central Library will undergo extensive renovation in 2024. Preparations are still in full swing: the relocations have been planned down to the last detail and the general contractor for the renovation, led by the firm Züblin, is ready.

In the meantime, 14 billion individual points in the building were scanned with a laser scanner, creating 3D-data that will be used to document the original building and plan renovation measures. The impressive results can be viewed in the Library's blog.

We are looking forward to a big farewell celebration at the Central Library with all of our visitors, friends and neighbors at the end of June, before our move to the interim location in the Hohe Strasse.

With a Word from our Patrons

"Digitizing albums at the Vinylbar at the Library -- From 'One, two, three, four!' to 10101000110010" Marthe: It is so amazing that you provide all of these opportunities! Libraries rock! (Review via Google)

Thank you for being here! Thank you for doing such a great job and being so young, dynamic and helpful. Thank you, thank you, thank you! Enjoy the pre-Christmas season and wishing you a successful 2024! Stephan

Hello Dear Library Team, I just wanted to pay you a quick compliment. Looking back on the past year, I realized how much I used your services and what an incredibly great job you are doing. I am learning a language with Rosetta Stone—it's great, that using it on my iPhone app is so easy, I love the Neuverortungs programs, love the branch libraries in Kalk and Neubrück as a third place and of course, your core offering—all the books, media and more. You have so much fantastic stuff and it is so much fun!



Facts and Figures

The Library System

Central Library Children's Library, Music Library, Makerspace, MINTspace, sprachraum, Heinrich-Böll-Archive, Literature in Cologne Archive (LiK), Audio Library for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Germania Judaica e. V. New! Starting in March 2024, the Central Library will be open until 6:00 p.m. on Saturdays. **Branch Libraries** 11 branch libraries and the minibib in Chorweiler 18 stops Bookmobile

Visitors (total number) (number of these virtual visitors)	6,421,731 visitors, 28 % more than the prior year 4,081,350; 35% more than the prior year

Almost 70% of our visitors are under age 40.

Third Party Funding: In 2023, we acquired 442,695 € in third party funding.

2023 Most Popular Checkouts

Fiction	Ewald Arenz: Die Liebe an miesen Tagen
Non-fiction	Prinz Harry: Reserve
Children's Book	Jeff Kinney: Gregs Tagebuch 17: Voll aufgedreht!
Audiobook	Dörte Hansen: Zur See
Film	Elvis
Children's film	Encanto
Music CD	AnnenMayKantereit: Es ist Abend und wir sitzen bei mir

Programs and Events

	Programs	2,706
	Attendance	47,256

Social Media

5,577 followers (up 777)
7,400 followers (+-0)
725 followers
225 followers

Staff

sitions	159
aff	247 (46 of these are temporary staff for weekends)
unteers	175

