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#SSU LIBRARY

SUMY STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

GREEN LIBRARY PROJECT

Start: September 2018

Location: Sumy, Ukraine

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Green Library Project Report

Urbanization, consumer boom and speed up of the daily human activities have caused accumulation of a large amount of garbage in the world. Many countries have already launched the innovative policies and initiatives to make their cities and communities sustainable. Ukraine is only at the start of this process. Thus, the construction of waste infrastructure and switch to eco green thinking, responsible consumption and recycling are of great importance.



The launch of the Green Library Project was intended to promote sustainable way of living among the university and Sumy region communities through open access information materials and live example in academic integrity, waste sorting and recycling.

At the start of the campaign Sumy State University Library demonstrated its open active position organizing and participating at the local ecological projects.

In September, 2018 in a partnership with volunteer student group we made a Cleanup action "**Clean Ukraine – Green Earth**" in several areas of Sumy city.

In October 2018, librarians' team organized cleaning of the coast of the Psel river from garbage. Sorted waste (6 bags of plastic, 3 bags of glass, 1 bag of metal and 1 bag of paper) was sent for recycling. Unfortunately, 4 bags with trash were sent to the landfill.

Next actions with the involvement of more groups of people are planned for April 2019, the Earth Day. That time the snow goes away and the awaked nature reveals many unpleasant things left by people.

Our goal is to attract the attention of the inhabitants of the city to the preservation of nature. We think that a man who at least once joined the cleaning will never throw garbage past a trash can. Another important thing – is to change the mentality of our people towards responsible consumption, decreasing substantially the amount of waste.

The further actions of the Green Library Project were implemented in 3 steps:

1. Waste Sorting and Recycling

35 waste sorting bins were acquired and installed at 9 offices, 4 library locations throughout the city. Initially we planned to buy 12 expensive metal containers. But because of big problems with their delivery to Ukraine and very small choice on the market, we had to cancel the prior agreement and acquire cardboard boxes from NGO “No Waste Ukraine”.



Additionally, we made ourselves big posters and stickers to describe the Green Library idea and main principles of sorting and recycling.





We made agreements with university administration and local companies to take out the garbage for recycling, as well as established collaborations with the NGO specializing in sustainable projects and waste management:



nowaste.com.ua



zeleniyptah.com.ua



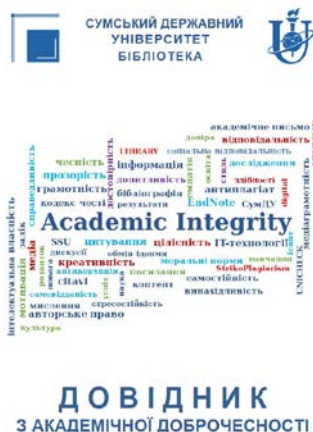
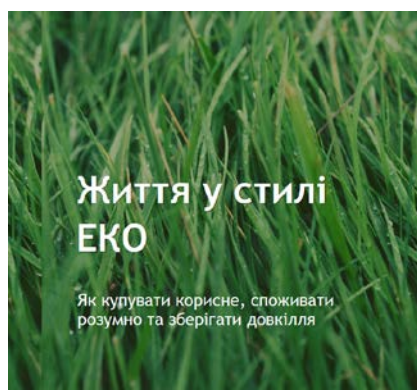
batareiky.in.ua

2. Open Educational Resources Development and Sharing

In order to popularize sustainable way of living, help change public awareness and habits, the library staff prepared and published a series of documents:

- **booklets and bookmarks:** Practical Tips for Creating Eco Habits; Life Without Garbage; Tips on Paper Recycling; How Long Does Rubbish Decay; Save the World from Plastic etc.;
- **brochures** ([Think Green](#), [Academic Integrity Guide](#), [Life in Eco Style](#));
- **posters** («Green University, Green Library», «Save the Earth. Sort waste») and **stickers** (for particular types of waste).





The presented ECO educational materials are intended to promote Goal 11 “Sustainable Cities and Communities” of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. They focus on the innovative foreign and domestic experience of waste management, the principles of responsible consumption, practical tips on waste sorting, recycling and reusing.

Another group of educational materials, devoted to [Academic Integrity](#), concerns both SDG 4 “Quality Education” and SDG 11 “Sustainable Cities and Communities”. Our primary task here is to help form the culture of academic relationships at the university and its colleges and inform the stakeholders about the practical methods of keeping the principles of academic integrity.

Both topics are new to our society and crucial for the quality and trust to education, smart cities and people's welfare in Ukraine. To make our work more visible we made all developed information materials available as Open Educational Resources through the library electronic catalogue (<http://lib.sumdu.edu.ua/>) and open-access repository (<http://essuir.sumdu.edu.ua>) and distributed printed versions among university faculties, local schools and colleges.

3. Events, exhibitions and interactive seminars

We use different ways to popularize ECO life style, green thinking and academic integrity. Besides regular talking to people and spreading information about our activities through the library and university websites and social media, we organize different events to bring people together and discuss what we can do together.

In November 2018 we announced about the contest “Life in ECO Style Together with SSU Library” among schoolchildren, students and all indifferent people. The main motto was the inspirational appeal: "Do you have ECO thinking? Do you want to live on a clean and flourishing planet? Do you love and protect nature? Do you have solutions for environmental problems? Do you want to be heard? Then come to us! "



Creative individual and group work in the following areas was taken into consideration:

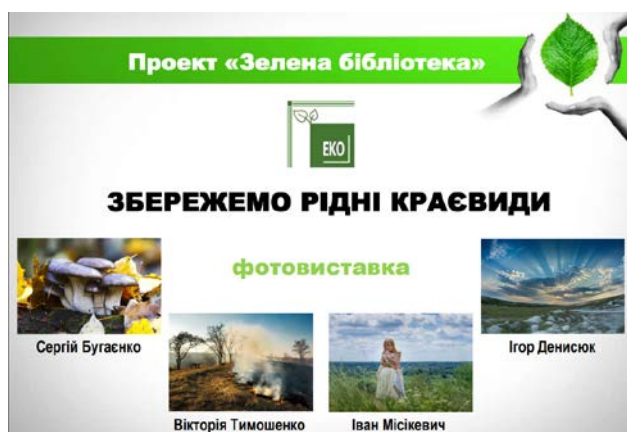
- posters, pictures and photos on ecological problems and ways to solve them;
- products and mock-ups: ideas' designs or art objects from garbage and waste.

A virtual presentation of exhibits and posters was created. It can be seen here:

http://library.sumdu.edu.ua/data/eco_life.pdf

At the same time, we started working with our local photographers to find both inspirational and threatening works to demonstrate the existing ecological problems and at the same time the beauty of the nature through the art. We collected about 50 works of 5 local photographers, printed them and organized their exhibition at their consent:

<http://library.sumdu.edu.ua/data/fotovystavka.pdf>



In December we organized a big event to sum up the results of the competition, present photo exhibition and make public discussion on ecological problems together with invited guest speakers. Out of 80 works 25 nominations were selected. All participants received prizes from sponsors: local IT companies, entrepreneurs and Sumy State University. The guest speakers represented different spheres of public life – volunteers, social entrepreneurs, scientists, photographers, activists. The ecological start-up FoodBioPack that introduces organic substitutes of plastic bags and cups, presented by one of the speakers, caused the highest interest and discussion. Volunteers and social entrepreneurs appealed to the public to be responsible consumers and get rid of unnecessary packaging. Photographers and activists encouraged youth to enjoy nature, make photos, preserve the environment, sort, recycle and refuse from littering.



The event was broadcasted on the local radio, TV and in press:

<http://sumdu.edu.ua/ukr/news/10357-10357.html>

<https://tribuna.sumy.ua/news/u-sumah-prezentuvaly-vystavku-zhyttya-v-styli-eko/>

<http://debaty.sumy.ua/news/society/u-sumah-vidkrylasya-vystavka-art-ob-yektiv-zi-smittyi-i-nepotribnyh-rechej-foto/>

We plan to continue making common actions and interactive seminars with students and schoolchildren. Thus, we started a new library project “Meeting with inspirational people”. First three meetings with an activist blogger, professor and student that had several international exchange programs, were of great success. Now we organize joint actions for the Planet day with the student government, colleges and schools.

Thanks to the project the library bought the interactive sensor module Cam Touch, Aser laptop and Epson projector. This helps us organize interactive events and seminars at the Library and use modern IT technologies to be in stream with our readers.



The results of the Green Library Project and experience of the Library Summer School were presented at the Ukrainian Library Association Conference. The presentation described the ways in which libraries can contribute to the development of sustainable cities and communities and focused on the creation and sharing of the Open Educational

Resources. It is available at:

<http://essuir.sumdu.edu.ua/handle/123456789/70492>

Keep doing!

