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Advancing Digital Empowerment
of Libraries in Europe

Case study: Seed Library Nova Gorica

PR2



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Introduction

This document provides the template for the development of the Case Studies on digital transformation in libraries.

The ADELE project aims to contribute to the internationalisation of organisations that choose a path of digital transformation. Through the network they can connect, collaborate, compare, and exchange ideas with organisations across Europe and beyond.

The 100 case studies are aimed at initiating the digital transformation of libraries and inspiring libraries that want to improve their performance on certain areas of the tool.

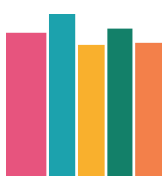
The areas of the ADELE tool cover the use of digital technologies in libraries from different perspectives: management, infrastructure and equipment but also lifelong learning, users training opportunities and community and stakeholders involvement.

The case studies may be linked to an activity, a service, a new professional profile, an initiative, a place or a library infrastructure in line with the areas and the statements of the ADELE tool. We aim to create a database of good practices to foster innovation and the adoption of digital practices in the library.



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<p>Library presenting the case study (Name, city, website and contact details)</p>	<p>France Bevk Public Library, Nova Gorica, Slovenia Website: https://www.gkfb.si/it/ General email: goriska.knjiznica@gkfb.si Contact email: sasa.vidmar@gkfb.si</p>
<p>Title of the case study</p>	<p>Seed Library</p>
<p>Area of ADELE tool illustrated by the case study <i>Please underline the selected area</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Management <input type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure, Equipment and Support <input type="checkbox"/> Continuing Professional Development <input type="checkbox"/> Self-reflection on digital competences <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Learning opportunities on digital competences for users <input type="checkbox"/> Collaboration, Networking, and Community
<p>Description of the experience: aim, methods and outcomes</p>	<p>In March 2020, the France Bevk Public Library opened a seed library for users to consult an online catalogue of seeds, order them online and come down to the library to pick them up (just like books!).</p> <p>For the loaning of seeds, the FBPL worked with external programmers to develop a programme similar to the book loaning. Not having any budget for this project – and therefore no budget to hire an employee for this – it was important that community members were able to use the programme by themselves. Therefore, when creating the programme, FBPL ensured that it would be accessible and easy to use for all ages in the community, including for example, older people.</p> <p>When the library closed during Covid-19, the FBPL developed an online catalogue where people could order seeds like books, and could come pick them up. The seed catalogue is accessible from home, but the programme (application) can only be accessed from the library.</p> <p>The project has had a lot of success, with young children bringing their parents to borrow seeds and people starting small gardens on their balconies. The public library also hosts events on ecology and gardening, which have had a very good turnout.</p> <p>Since FBPL started their seed libraries, 18 other public libraries in Slovenia have followed suit and started their own project!</p>
<p>Resources needed to implement the idea Please, provide any link and/or send them in attachment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The research into how to set up a seed library was done online, by looking into other examples in the US and by watching YouTube videos. ● On a technical aspect, the public library needed a touch screen computer, a printer and scanner for the tickets. Since the project had no budget it was important to keep it simple and cheap. ● Needed the help of an external programmer to develop the programme.



Target groups	All age groups and members of the community
Elements of innovation	The idea to start a seed library was suggested to the France Bevk Public Library by the community. In Nova Gorica, the practice of sharing seeds was already widespread within the urban and rural communities. Since FBPL already worked on projects which focused on ecology and teaching young people how to share and preserve seeds for the next generation, the seed library seemed like a perfect project for the community!
Tips to other library staff using this idea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It's important that the community is involved in and enthusiastic about the project. In FBPL's case, the community members came to library with the idea for the seed library – so the interest was already there. • Keep it simple and cheap! FBPL managed to do this project without funding, because it was a very new idea/practice that wasn't well known in Europe. Since March 2020, it has spread to 18 other public libraries in Slovenia because FBPL has shared information on their method of implementation with them. • Look for knowledge online! FBPL did a lot of research on YouTube and on how other seed libraries in the United States were created to figure out how to develop and implement the seed library in Nova Gorica.
Keywords	#ecology #seedlibrary
References	https://www.gkfb.si/za-uporabnike/knjiznica-semen