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Hello everyone! Добридень!

First of all, I want to thank the people who help Ukraine.

I thank the American Library Association and the Association of Colleges and Research Libraries, especially the European Studies Section, for the invitation.

I'm glad to be here today!

On June 26th, at the panel "Supporting Ukrainian Language Communities through library collections", I'll speak more broadly about all Ukrainian libraries.

Today I'd like to tell you how Ukrainian university libraries and librarians have been living and what we have been doing in the last two years since Russia started a large-scale invasion of Ukraine. I'll also tell you about my library, the Scientific and Technical Library of the National Technical University of Ukraine "Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute".

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I had planned to start my speech today with library statistics. But tonight, when Russia fired 20 missiles at Kyiv alone, I decided to start with other statistics.

Now the everyday life of each Ukrainian is a line of air raid sirens throughout Ukraine.

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Every day, Russia launches dozens of missiles and hundreds of drones over Ukraine.

In May in Kyiv every night was hot and asleep, just like tonight. Because every night Russia makes massive attacks on Kyiv. There were 17 attacks.

4.

The numbers on the screen are the numbers of the grief of millions.

In the photo, a dog is hugging the leg of a man who saved it from a lot of water in Kherson after Russia blew up the Kakhovska HPP.

In the second picture, this is what a Kyiv skyscraper looks like after a nighttime missile attack. Downed missile debris fell into the house.

I wish that you, your family and friends will never experience the horror that Russia, as a mad terrorist, is bringing to Ukraine now.

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And now some details about Ukrainian libraries.

There are library statistics for 2021 and partial statistics for 2022.

In Ukraine there are many libraries of various types.

In 2022, we had 3 123 less public libraries, and 8 less university libraries.

Full statistics will be available later. But now nobody knows exactly how many libraries there are in Ukraine and how many books they contain, and how many librarians work there.

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The Ministry of Education and Science has developed a special website that records destroyed and damaged educational institutions by region.

Thus, we know that 3,282 educational institutions were damaged by bombing and shelling. 265 of them were completely destroyed. In Kyiv alone there are 109 of them.

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Also more than 25 university libraries were damaged and destroyed.

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In Kharkiv the university libraries were the most affected. There are 8 such libraries. Before February 24, Kharkiv had about 60 universities and colleges, which is why it is called a city of students.

Now the Kharkiv National University Library is threatened with destruction of its unique collections of rare documents.

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Actually, Kharkiv is an example of resistance, which completely crushed the Russian myth about Russian speaking people in Ukraine.

Russians thought that people in villages, towns and cities in the Kharkiv region and other Russian speaking regions would meet Russian soldiers with flowers. Instead, they got strong resistance.

When Russians realize that they cannot take the city, they just try to burn the city to nothing.

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Some university libraries in Mykolaiv, Kherson, Chernihiv, Sumy, Irpin etc were damaged and destroyed too.

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It's the Scientific library of the Taras Shevchenko Kyiv National University. Last year on October 10th when the first massive missile attack on Kyiv was, the explosion was only 50 meters from the library. So, all the windows and doors and roof were damaged there.

The collections of this Library included to the State Register of Scientific Objects, which constitute the national heritage of Ukraine.

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Unfortunately, in Ukraine there is such a unique phenomenon as displaced universities and displaced libraries. In 2014, 19 universities with their libraries relocated from Luhansk and Donetsk to the territories controlled by Ukraine. Now many of these universities are destroyed, many of them as the Mariupol state university, relocated to Kyiv or Lviv, or other cities.

Some of these universities have already restored their educational process and research activity.

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Now Ukrainian libraries have many challenges. Of course, first of all, there are the challenges related to everything that affects each of us in Ukraine.

But the libraries have some specific challenges.

There are: Damages and destruction of libraries; Loss of books and equipment; Departure of competent librarians abroad; No or minimal funding; Rare books under threat; Closure of libraries; Reduction of librarian positions; Psychological problems

In addition the university libraries have two specific challenges:

distance education process and many teachers and students are abroad.

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So, how Ukrainian university librarians live and what they do to overcome these challenges.

I'm sure you know that community is a strong power.

It's true and in the wartime it's improved many times by Ukrainian librarians, in particular university librarians.

We have two very powerful networks for university librarians.

The first is the network of the regional methodical centers in five regional cities and the main methodical center of university libraries at the Maksymovych Scientific library of the Kyiv national university.

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The second is the University libraries Section of the Ukrainian Library Association.

Of course, university libraries, like all other members of our association, participate in events aimed at psychological support, improving information, media and digital literacy competencies etc. But the main goal of university librarians is supporting education and research at their universities.

So, in 2021 we started with our Antischool where we share with each other our experience on different topics. Very important points for us are open science, open access, open education resources, data management, etc.

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How do university libraries work after February 24?

As I said, many libraries were destroyed and damaged, many libraries were closed.

But in regions where there are no active hostilities, libraries work as usual. Of course, they are working especially hard.

Libraries provide services both physically and remotely.

The university library users use remote services more than physically. Because during two years of the pandemic before and wartime now the educational process has been to organize distantly in many universities.

Most university libraries implement new models of activities as answers to challenges, which we have now.

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Over their main objectives the university libraries have many activities as volunteer centers

A big volunteer center for humanitarian support of the Armed Forces and the residents of affected regions have worked in the Scientific Library of the Ivan Franko Lviv National University since May 2022.

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Many Ukrainian libraries have rare books that are cultural and scientific heritage, and they are under constant threat.

The public initiative «Cultural Heritage Center» was established in the Scientific and Technical Library of the National University «Lviv Polytechnic» for collection of equipment and materials from foreign partners and patrons for the protection and preservation of historical and cultural monuments, religious buildings, museum and library collections throughout Ukraine.

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I said that all our libraries and university libraries too have many challenges. I will tell how we cope with these challenges using the example of my library. It's the library of the biggest and the best technical university of Ukraine, the Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute.

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There is a piece of our team. Thanks to these people, our library has not stopped working for a single day since February 24. For a couple of months, we worked only remotely, but since May 1 we have worked both remotely and in live.

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From the first day of the Russian full-scale invasion, we have kept in touch with each other through a special chat.

Every morning and every evening we have started with roll calls. Every evening at 8 pm we had the Zoom call. It's very important to know that you aren't alone when the rockets are flying above you or when you're under occupation.

We realized that in order not to break down and withstand, we had to do our normal day-to-day work as usual.

So, every morning at 10 am the library top-management team has met and planned a day. Once a week we've met with our heads of departments. Every month we've had a work meeting with all our staff. And every day we've worked for our users.

I think it worked. We have stood up.

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All this time we've compared our actions with our vision and mission and with the goals which we set in our strategy.

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Now I'll say just more facts about my library.

The library is a space of 14,000 square meters on nine floors.

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There are 5 reading rooms, 3 coworking spaces, 2 training centers.

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1 FAB LAB – OPEN LABORATORY of ELECTRONICS, 1 conference hall and 4 open halls on different floors.

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Our collection of information resources has two parts: print and electronic. We have more than 2 300 000 print items, about 46 000 documents in our institutional repository and 3 00 digital copies of rare books in the digital library.

Also we propose to our users more than 80 databases of external e-resources.

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I said, our print collection has more than 2 300 000 volumes.

But only 46 % are in Ukrainian, 42 % are in Russian and 12 % are in other languages. The situation is approximately the same in other university libraries.

Most of the books in Russian are books published in Soviet times and aren't actually for teaching and learning.

So we remove about 50 000 volumes of irrelevant literature from the library collection per year.

It's a challenge for us. But we found the solution. It's increasing the electronic part of our collection. In the case of textbooks it can be Open Education Resources. Unfortunately, we're only at the beginning of this. But I hope we'll move on this way so quickly. In our library the Open

monograph press works in the beta version already. This platform can be used for this objective.

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Since 2019 our universities have had Scopus and Web of Science as national licenses.

After February 24th many scientific publishers have provided free access to their databases for Ukrainian universities. In 2023 the Kyiv Polytechnic has access to ScienceDirect, Elsevier Health, Springer Nature, Cambridge University Press, ACM Digital Library, Research4Life, Web of Science, Scopus, SciVal etc.

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Beside this Clarivate provides the RapidILL service for Ukrainian universities for free. It's also very good support for us.

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After February 2022 we have done backups of our local databases (electronic catalog, institutional repository and digital library) on clouds. Because we want to save these in any case. We cooperate with SUCHO in this.

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Last year we had zero money for the acquisition. But we received almost 3000 books as a gift from our professors, students and alumni.

I have my personal tradition - every month I have presented one or more books to my library for three years already.

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Last year our library became the first library in Ukraine where a discovery system was implemented. It's open source software VuFind.

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Because many of our students and teachers are in different places of Ukraine, we offer book delivery by post for them.

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Certainly, as any other university library we pay special attention to research support.

Our library is a driver of open science at the university.

Since 2014 we have developed the university open access platform. There are three components: institutional repository, open journals and open conferences.

In 2022 the University Open Science Policy was approved. The library played a key role in this. Now we are working on the implementation plan. And we understand that we need to work hard to realize it. Our university is the first university in Ukraine which developed the Open Science Policy.

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The library is also a driver to increase the level of the academic integrity culture at the university community.

I lead the university's Commission and Working group on academic integrity. The library coordinates the verification of academic texts for plagiarism.

And the library is a competence center on these issues. We give consultations as well as propose specific courses for our students and professors.

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Library services on different topics of research life cycle are in high demand among our researchers.

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Last year we started active collaboration with the library of the Sheffield University in the UK. It's in the special program of Great Britain and Ukraine named "twinning universities". We have held five online meetings. In the picture there's one of them which was during an air alarm in the library bomb shelter.

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Our library isn't a typical university library, because we pay special attention to different events for personality development. In addition to being a center of learning and research, our library is also a cultural and communication center. Before 2022 we hold about 400 events per year. There were lectures and training on different topics, and art

exhibitions, and concerts, and maker fairs, and yoga on the library roof, and meetings with celebrities, businessmen etc.

Last year we held only 160 events. Most of them were online.

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Since 2022, the topics of our events also have been specific to the war

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There were several mine safety trainings

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We hold regular book-therapy meetings,

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And a cinema discuss club worked there. Because psychological help is now important so much

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We've continued to do some art- exhibitions, but they had the specific topic too – the war.

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In 2022, we learned how to make camouflage nets.

Like many other libraries every month we hand over a new such net to our soldiers.

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Last year was very difficult for us, but last year we did many new things which we planned to do several years before.

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As I said, Russia is bombing everywhere every day.

So, in my library we decided to make a shelter in our basement. We removed all books and shelves from a bookstore.

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There are 600 square meters. And now we work to create a smart shelter as a smart multifunctional space for comfortable studying under any conditions.

Our students helped us to remove all books from a bookstore. It was really an action which united the university community.

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At the end of my long speech about my library, I want to show you the main statistics in 2022.

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From February of last year until now, colleagues from many countries often ask me: how can we help you?

My answers are:

Please, Ban all relations with Russian librarians, libraries and library associations!

Please, bring the truth about the Russian-Ukrainian war to the world

Please, donate to the ALA Relief Fund for Ukrainian libraries and librarians.

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All this time since February 24th we all have lived in different ways with different emotions but with a common great dream – our victory.

I believe whatever trials we've yet to face, we'll win.

Because we defend our land, our country and our future, and we're also fighting for the future of the entire civilized world, and in the end, good always wins over evil.

In the picture there is a girl whose home was damaged by russia tonight. She took the most valuable from her damaged flat. She holds it in her hand. It's the flag of Ukraine.

Thank you! Дякую! Слава Україні!