

Drivers And Barriers Of Civic Engagement In Open Science And The Role Of University Libraries In The Baltics

Citizen Involvement in Open Science: Roles, Levels and Opportunities
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Introduction

University libraries:

- foster Open Science within their organizations
- act as educators
- provide space, information, training opportunities for the society

Yet,

- little to no collaborative projects
- no well established link between Open Science and civic engagement



Research questions

- What are the current drivers that could enable academic libraries to take part in citizen science projects?
- What are the current barriers that have not enabled academic libraries to take part in citizen science projects?
- How to further develop collaboration between academic libraries and civic engagement?



Methodology

Three online roundtables with

- librarians (23)
- researchers (19)
- students (20)

- Thematic analysis of interviews



Photo from Unsplash



Main themes

- Personal experience with citizen science
- The drivers of civic engagement in academic libraries
- The barriers of civic engagement in academic libraries



Main drivers

- Data management skills
- Digital literacy skills
- Large network
- Library as a physical meeting place
- Internal repositories
- Established and trusted communication channels

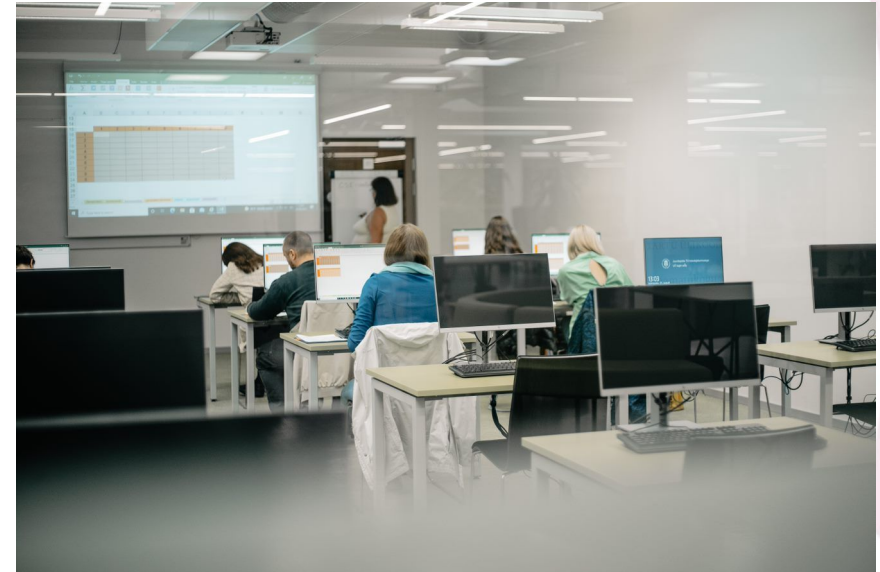


Photo by Gabriela Urm

“So I believe that libraries are and always were /.../ like a bridge between researchers, between students, between university administration's, like a bridge. So I believe that academic libraries could also aid in extending communication to the public.”

Main barriers

- Lack of knowledge about CS
- Lack of knowledge about libraries' services and potential
- Not enough visibility of CS projects
- Lack of workforce
- Not a priority for universities
- Lack of experience and specific skills
- Lack of ideas

„The barrier is the engagement of the universities itself. Because we still are a part of universities. So our works are priorities, I mean, dictated by the priorities of the university.“



How to break barriers?

- Training librarians on CS and data management
- Creating a platform that unites national CS projects
- More collaboration with the University, students and other memory institutions
- Changing the stereotype about libraries
- Giving out credit points for participation
- Establishing a connection between libraries and civic engagement

“So maybe libraries could turn into certain multifunctional centers, especially in relation to science, you know, having data, giving data, you know, to encourage this participation of citizens in science, in data making and so on. So, definitely, we have to move from one paradigm to another in relation to libraries.”





Thank you!

The full report will be published in June 2022

<https://www.libocs.ut.ee>