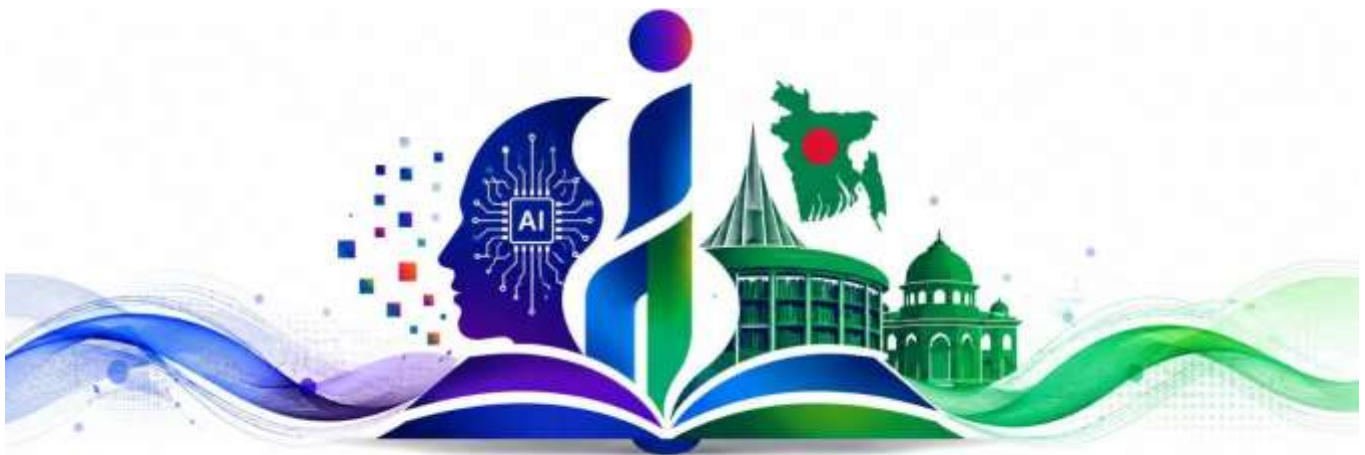




NEWSLETTER

JULY 2026



Bridging Ideas, Building Futures

OPEN EDUCATION

MEDIA LITERACY

GREEN LIBRARIES

DIGITAL HERITAGE

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Global calls, practical toolkits, professional learning, and open-source platforms shaping the information landscape.

Explore two major institutional opportunities, a UNESCO toolkit for youth organizations, carbon literacy training for libraries, 400+ learning resources, and Omeka for digital collections.

DEADLINE WATCH

31 JULY

UNESCO MIL Alliance chapter proposals

31 AUGUST

OEGlobal 2027/2028 host proposals

EDITORIAL NOTE

This issue connects five timely developments: institutions are being invited to host a flagship open-education conference; UNESCO is opening new pathways for collaboration through MIL Alliance chapters and a youth-organization toolkit; libraries are gaining a structured route into carbon literacy; WebJunction continues to expand free professional learning; and Omeka remains a practical bridge between collections, communities, and digital storytelling.

Taken together, these opportunities point to a larger shift. Information organizations are no longer expected only to preserve, organize, and provide access. They are increasingly asked to convene networks, build public resilience, support climate action, teach responsible participation, and create visible digital spaces for community knowledge.

IN THIS ISSUE

- | | |
|----|--------------------------------------|
| 03 | Host the OEGlobal Conference |
| 04 | Build a UNESCO MIL Alliance Chapter |
| 05 | Journey Through the MILtivers |
| 06 | Carbon Literacy for Libraries |
| 07 | WebJunction: Learn Without C |
| 08 | Omeka: Digital Collections Spotlight |
| 09 | GIF Action Board & Resource L |

EDITORIAL BOARD

Dr. Md. Nurul Islam

Board Chair, Global Information Forum
Post-Doctoral Fellow, University of Malaya, Malaysia
Research Fellow, Shinawatra University, Thailand
Assistant Professor, Khulna Khan Bahadur Ahsanullah University, Bangladesh

Dr. Priyanko Das

Postdoctoral Research Associate, Center for Policy Research on Energy and the Environment (C-PREE), Princeton University, United States

Dr. Mohammad Sohail Haider

School of Information Management, Nanjing University, China

Dr. Md. Monirul Islam

Vice Chair, Global Information Forum
Chattogram Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Bangladesh

Md. Nazim

Executive Director, Global Information Forum
Khulna Khan Bahadur Ahsanullah University, Bangladesh
Lead Researcher, Knowledge Academy, Bangladesh

Abul Hasanat Gloam Rabby

Media & Branding Coordinator, Global Information Forum
Khulna Khan Bahadur Ahsanullah University

OPEN EDUCATION

Could your institution host OEGlobal?

Proposals are open for the 2027 and 2028 Open Education Global Conference. Submission deadline: 31 August 2026.



3,385+

REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS
SINCE 2008

76

COUNTRIES REPRESENTED AT
PAST EVENTS

3 DAYS

TYPICAL CONFERENCE FORMAT

2027/28

HOST YEARS NOW OPEN

A global stage for open education

The OEGlobal Conference is described as the world's largest gathering dedicated to open education, bringing together researchers, practitioners, policymakers, and educators to exchange ideas, share practice, and shape the future of the field.

- Hosting can raise the visibility of an institution's open-education leadership locally, regionally, and globally.
- A proposal may include strategic partnerships with national conventions, education organizations, and tourism bureaus.
- The conference usually takes place over three days between September and December.
- Only OEGlobal Institutional members are eligible to host.

A distinguished hosting tradition

Previous host institutions include MIT, Cambridge University, Taipei Medical University, Delft University of Technology, Politecnico di Milano, the University of Cape Town, APTIKOM Indonesia, Vietnam OCW, Nantes Université, and the University of Southern Queensland.

SUBMISSION CHECKLIST

- Confirm OEGlobal Institutional membership.
- Complete the conference location proposal.
- Complete the conference budget form.
- Email both documents to conference@oeglobal.org.
- Submit no later than 31 August 2026.

2026 conference

MIT Open Learning and the Massachusetts Open & Low-Cost Educational Resources Advisory Council (OLERAC) will host the 2026 conference on 7–9 October at MIT's Samberg Conference Center in Cambridge, Massachusetts, with online participation.

LOCATION PROPOSAL

[Open conference location proposal](#)

Google Docs template • Submit to conference@oeglobal.org



BUDGET FORM

[Open conference budget form](#)

Google Sheets template • Submit to conference@oeglobal.org



UNESCO MIL ALLIANCE

A new chapter for collaboration

The first call to create regional, thematic, or shared-interest chapters is open to Alliance members until 31 July 2026.



FROM "NETWORK OF NETWORKS" TO ACTIONABLE CHAPTERS

Chapters are designed to make the MIL Alliance more localized, flexible, inclusive, and responsive to shared priorities.

They can be organized around geography, themes, or common characteristics—helping members expand outreach, strengthen connections, and build collective ownership.

649

MEMBERS

117

COUNTRIES

2 MONTHS

FUTURE BIENNIAL CALL WINDOWS

What chapters can strengthen

- Context-specific MIL initiatives that reflect linguistic, social, and cultural realities.
- Advocacy for the institutionalization of MIL with public authorities.
- Greater participation from underrepresented communities and young people.
- Knowledge exchange, outreach, partnerships, and shared programming across member organizations.

Governance

The MIL Alliance Global Board reviews and validates chapter proposals and oversees chapter development and reporting, working closely with UNESCO.

GIF OPPORTUNITY LENS

Potential directions for member discussion—not UNESCO prescriptions:

- A Bangladesh or South Asia geographical chapter focused on locally relevant MIL policy and practice.
- A thematic chapter on youth-led MIL, digital citizenship, and responsible information-sharing.
- A libraries-and-education chapter linking academic institutions, public libraries, educators, and civil society.
- A multilingual practice network producing adaptable resources for diverse communities.

CHAPTER DESIGN CANVAS

PURPOSE

Define the shared MIL challenge the chapter will address.

MEMBERS

Identify eligible Alliance members and complementary partners.

FIRST 90 DAYS

Choose one achievable activity that demonstrates value.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Agree on coordination, communication, and reporting routines.

EXPLORE THE SOURCE UNESCO MIL Alliance chapter call and guidance

UNESCO announcement dated 15 May 2026. First call deadline: 31 July 2026.



YOUTH & MEDIA LITERACY

Journey Through the MILtiverse

UNESCO's practical toolkit helps youth organizations embed media and information literacy into policies, strategies, and everyday operations.

A TOOLKIT DESIGNED AS AN INTERACTIVE JOURNEY

From understanding MIL to writing an organization-wide action plan.

Developed with CIVIX Colombia and partially supported through the UNESCO "Social Media 4 Peace" project funded by the European Union, the resource is designed for adaptation across different youth-led contexts.

LAUNCHED

21 FEB

2025

1. Understand the landscape

Build a shared foundation in media and information literacy and connect it to the organization's mission.

2. Train through missions

Use hands-on activities addressing disinformation, online hate, and ethical content creation.

3. Develop policy and strategy

Adapt customizable templates for MIL policies, organizational strategies, and internal commitments.

4. Move to an action plan

Translate priorities into practical activities, responsibilities, and context-specific implementation steps.

A 30-DAY ADOPTION PATHWAY FOR A YOUTH ORGANIZATION

WEEK 1

Map risks

Identify the organization's main information challenges and audiences.

WEEK 2

Run a mission

Facilitate one interactive session on a priority such as disinformation.

WEEK 3

Draft commitments

Use the templates to outline policy, strategy, and responsibilities.

WEEK 4

Launch action

Approve a small action plan and communicate it across the organization.

FACILITATOR CHECKLIST BEFORE THE FIRST MISSION

AUDIENCE

Who will participate and what information pressures do they face?

CASE

Which locally relevant example will make the mission concrete?

SAFE SPACE

How will respectful participation and discussion be supported?

FOLLOW-THROUGH

What commitment or action should participants leave with?

EXPLORE THE SOURCE Open UNESCO's Journey Through the MILtiverse article

Toolkit launch article published by UNESCO on 21 February 2025.



SUSTAINABLE LIBRARIES

Carbon literacy becomes a library skill

A shareable course led by the National Library of Scotland equips library and information professionals to understand the climate crisis and commit to practical emission-reduction action.

Validated by the Carbon Literacy Project

The course provides a comprehensive introduction to the climate crisis and is designed to empower library professionals to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions while supporting sustainable communities. Learners submit an evidence form and commit to two actions in order to be certified as carbon literate.

200+

librarians certified as carbon literate

400+

actions pledged

WHAT THE COURSE COVERS

Climate science	Climate impacts	UN Sustainable Development Goals	Climate justice
National & international policy	Carbon-footprint calculation	Emission-reduction action	Library case studies

Evidence of impact

The National Library of Scotland began cascading the training in autumn 2024. Six months after participation, learners were contacted to review progress. All respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the course encouraged sustainable action at work.

LIBRARY ACTION IDEAS

- Run a basic review of energy, travel, procurement, and event practices.
- Create a climate-literacy display or community learning session.
- Adopt one team action and one public-facing action for the next quarter.
- Document progress and share practical lessons with peer institutions.

TWO-ACTION PLEDGE TEMPLATE

ACTION 1 • OPERATIONAL

One change we will make inside the library to reduce emissions:

ACTION 2 • COMMUNITY

One action we will take to support a more sustainable community:

EXPLORE THE SOURCE Access the [IFLA repository record and course file](#)

Authors: Laragh Quinney and Alison Stevenson. Repository item dated 15 July 2026.



PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

WebJunction: a free learning Platform for library Professionals

Library staff and volunteers can access live webinars plus a searchable catalog of more than 400 on-demand courses and webinars.



400+

courses and webinars to search

LEARNING THAT FITS A LIBRARY SCHEDULE

Choose a live webinar for shared discussion—or an on-demand resource for self-paced development.

The catalog makes it possible for staff and volunteers to build skills without travel costs and to learn around existing service responsibilities.

BUILD A SIMPLE LEARNING HABIT

SELECT

Choose one topic connected to a current service or project.

SCHEDULE

Reserve one protected learning hour in the month.

SHARE

Discuss one takeaway with colleagues or volunteers.

APPLY

Turn one lesson into a small operational improvement.

A team-based approach

Instead of collecting certificates without changing practice, connect learning to a real institutional need. A monthly “learn–share–apply” cycle can turn a single webinar into better guidance, improved workflows, or a small pilot service.

- Keep a shared learning log with the resource, key insight, and action taken.
- Invite volunteers and early-career staff to lead short peer-learning sessions.
- Review after one month: what changed for users, staff, or the service?

START HERE



Scan to search the catalog

[Open WebJunction Course Catalog](#)

MONTHLY LEARN–SHARE–APPLY LOG

RESOURCE / TOPIC	KEY INSIGHT	ACTION TO TEST	REVIEW DATE
-----	-----	-----	-----

SOFTWARE

Omeka: publish collections digitally

A free, open-source platform for presenting cultural-heritage objects online—lightweight enough for small projects, extensible enough for ambitious digital exhibits.



FREE • OPEN SOURCE

Designed for online digital collections and exhibits

What makes Omeka distinctive

Omeka Classic is a web application that allows users to publish and exhibit cultural-heritage objects. Compared with traditional institutional-repository platforms such as DSpace and Fedora, it is presented as a lightweight, display-focused solution and uses unqualified Dublin Core metadata.

- Themes control presentation; plugins extend functionality.
- It is used by libraries, museums, historical societies, educators, and archival projects.
- Omeka.net offers a hosted option that does not require server or programming experience.
- Omeka S is designed for institutional use and can support multiple sites drawing from a shared resource pool.

CHOOSE THE VERSION THAT MATCHES THE PROJECT

OMEKA CLASSIC

A focused choice for individual projects, educators, small institutions, and digital exhibits.

OMEKA.NET

A hosted route with a free option and paid tiers—useful when local server management is not practical.

OMEKA S

An institutional platform for multiple sites that can draw from a common resource pool.

Starter exhibit ideas

- ◆ **Campus memory:** Photographs, newsletters, oral histories, and milestone documents.
- ◆ **Local heritage:** Community objects, place-based stories, and curated historical narratives.
- ◆ **Student research:** Course-based exhibits that combine metadata, interpretation, and public communication.
- ◆ **Special collections:** A thematic window into rare books, manuscripts, posters, maps, or archives.



EXPLORE OMEKA CLASSIC

Visit the official site

METADATA-FIRST STARTER CHECKLIST

SCOPE

Define the collection theme, audience, and rights boundaries.

DESCRIBE

Agree on consistent Dublin Core fields and naming rules.

DIGITIZE

Prepare clear files, filenames, captions, and accessibility text.

CURATE

Build an interpretive story—not just a folder of uploaded objects.