# UN DAG HAMMARSKJÖLD LIBRARY

## An Overview

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# Dag Hammarskjöld Library

# History and Mandate

- Library established in 1946; formal mandate dates from 1949 (UN doc A/C.5/298, paras. 3-5): "[...] to enable the delegations, Secretariat and other official groups of the Organization to obtain, with the greatest possible speed, convenience and economy, the library materials and information needed in the execution of their duties. [...]

- The Dag Hammarskjöld Library building is a gift of the Ford Foundation and was dedicated on 16 November 1961 in honour of the late Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld.

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# Library structure and staffing

- 52 staff, half professionals, half paraprofessionals/ assistants, representing 27 nationalities, many are multilingual (4 official UN languages covered)

- 32 women (61%), 20 men (39%)

- 6 functional units
  - Client services, digital library, new materials processing (indexing, cataloguing), outreach & professional development, collection services, strategic projects (digitization, preservation)

- Cross-unit and cross-functional collaboration on projects is being encouraged by management, esp. for newly recruited professionals.

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# Collections



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# Collections

- Complete collection of **UN documents and publications** issued by UN offices worldwide in all available languages (approx. 10 million items)

- Comprehensive collection of **League of Nations** documents and publications (approx. 7,000 bound volumes)

- **Oral History Collection**

  Sound recordings and transcripts covering significant events in UN and world history; collaboration between Yale University and DHL

  **http://dag.un.org/handle/11176/89603**

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# Collections

- **Woodrow Wilson collection** donated to DHL on 12 June 1950 by the Woodrow Wilson Foundation (approx. 4,000 League of Nations and UN system publications, 5,200 monographs, 5,000 pamphlets, 18,000 periodical issues)

- Comprehensive collection of **materials about the UN**

- Comprehensive collection of materials on **international law**

- Collection of approx. 80,000 sheet **maps**

# Website - https://library.un.org

# Client services

# Client services

- Primary clients are delegates and staff of the Permanent Missions and staff of the UN Secretariat
- **Reading Rooms**
  - Computer access and wifi; quiet work space
  - Printing, scanning and photocopying facilities
  - Help Desk
- **Circulation and Interlibrary Loan**
- **Reference and research assistance**
  - In-person, telephone, email, Ask Dag; multilingual

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# Client services

- **Ask Dag** – **http://ask.un.org**
  - Growing knowledgebase of frequently asked questions (approx. 700) in English, French and Spanish
- **Research Guides** (80+) in 6 official UN languages – **http://research.un.org**
- **Training courses** and online tutorials
  - Focus on UN documentation, multilingual
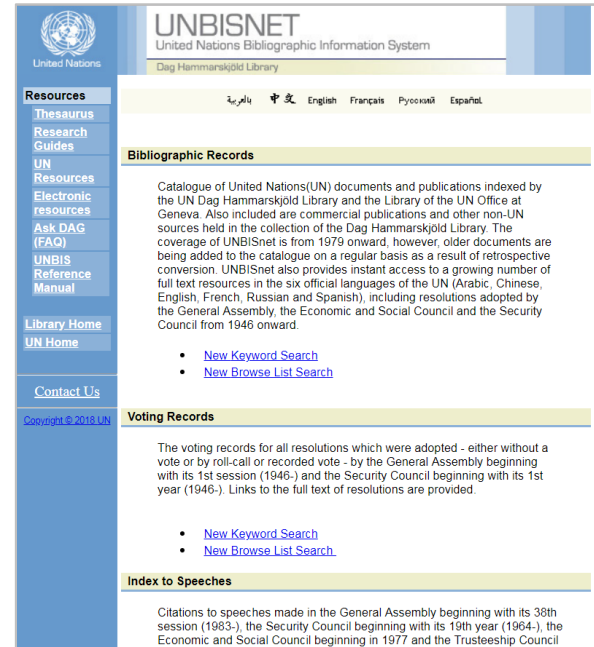- **Liaison librarians** to substantive Secretariat departments

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# Indexing and Cataloguing

# Indexing and Cataloguing

- Library catalogue **UNBISnet** (1979 to present)

  **http://unbisnet.un.org**

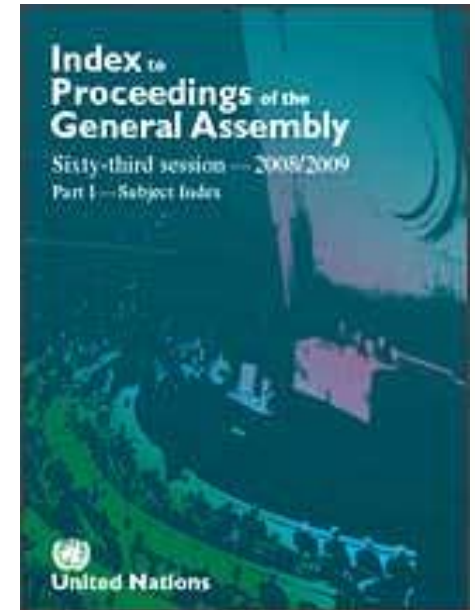  – Bibliographic records, speech records, voting records; links to full text documents on ODS

  – Selected metadata uploaded to ODS

# Indexing and Cataloguing

- Indexes to Proceedings (**ITP**)
  - General Assembly, Security Council, ECOSOC, Trusteeship Council
  - ITPs available online

**Https://library.un.org/content/index-proceedings-0**

# Indexing and Cataloguing: UNBIS Thesaurus
## https://metadata.un.org
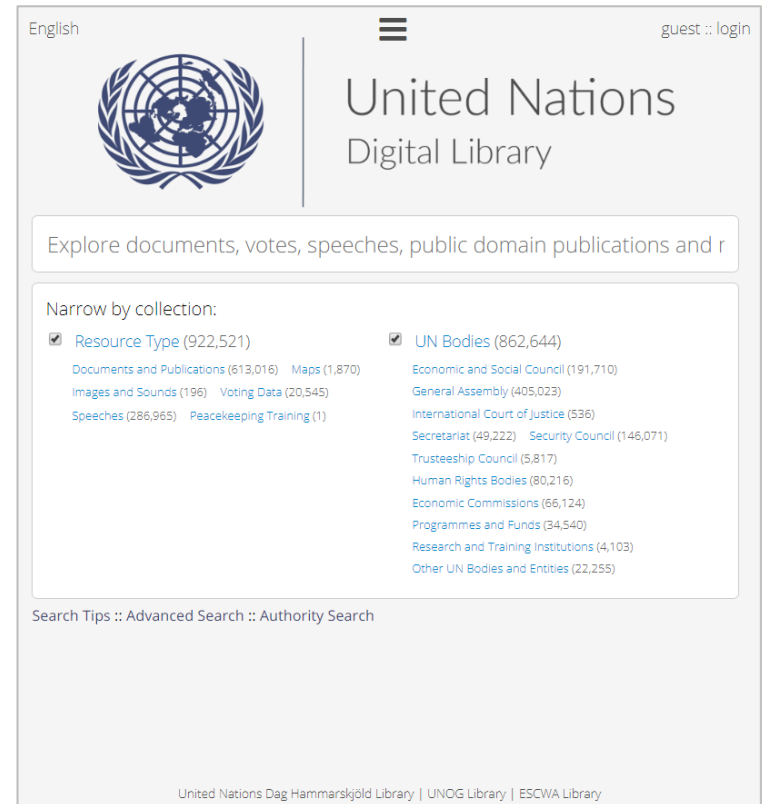
# United Nations Digital Library
## http://digitallibrary.un.org

- UN documents

- Speeches

- Voting data

- UN maps

- UN Oral History Collection

- Refine by UN body or by type of material

- Document linking

- Personalization features – create search alerts and baskets

English                                                          guest :: login

**United Nations**
Digital Library

Explore documents, votes, speeches, public domain publications and r

Narrow by collection:

☑ Resource Type (922,521)                    ☑ UN Bodies (862,644)

Documents and Publications (613,016)   Maps (1,870)      Economic and Social Council (191,710)
Images and Sounds (196)   Voting Data (20,545)      General Assembly (405,023)
Speeches (286,965)   Peacekeeping Training (1)      International Court of Justice (536)
                                                                          Secretariat (49,222)   Security Council (146,071)
                                                                          Trusteeship Council (5,817)
                                                                          Human Rights Bodies (80,216)
                                                                          Economic Commissions (66,124)
                                                                          Programmes and Funds (34,540)
                                                                          Research and Training Institutions (4,103)
                                                                          Other UN Bodies and Entities (22,255)

Search Tips :: Advanced Search :: Authority Search

United Nations Dag Hammarskjöld Library | UNOG Library | ESCWA Library

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# Digitization programme

# Digitization programme

- Mandated by General Assembly, operational since 1998
- UN documents issued before 1993 (ODS coverage begins)
- Finished pdf files with metadata uploaded to Official Document System (ODS) and the new UN Digital Library
- Work shared between DHL and its sister library in Geneva
- Programme expanded in collaboration with another Secretariat department and with extrabudgetary funding; future of expanded programme uncertain
- New programme to digitize UN-produced maps

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# UN Depository Library Programme

well as libraries at research institutes and think tanks. In order to be designated a depository, libraries commit to:

- Place the material received in the care of qualified library staff;
- Keep the material received in good order at their institutions;
- Make the material received accessible to the general public, free of charge, at reasonable hours; and
- Make the material received available through interlibrary loan, document delivery, photocopying or other means to users who cannot easily visit the depositories concerned.

Collections of print material at depository libraries vary depending on the date they joined the network and the type of deposit (Print Plus or partial). Depository libraries provide expert reference and research assistance and can facilitate the discovery of UN information via traditional and electronic research tools.

**UN Depository Libraries Around the World**

- Find a United Nations Depository Library near you
- UN Depository Libraries activities around the world

**Doing research at a UN Depository Library? We'd like to hear from you!**

- Download all FAQs (PDF 300KB)

## Depository Libraries

- Depository Libraries Homepage
- Information for Depository Libraries
- What's New - UN Deposit Info
- Depository Libraries Directory

- Contact us
- Join us on Facebook
- UN Depository Libraries activities

## Additional Resources

- Key Research Tools
- Services for Researchers and Librarians
- UN Documents - Status of Digitization (PDF)

**UN Depository Libraries Activities**

By UNDepLibs    99 notes

📍 València    📍 Moskva    📍 Centro, Rio de Janeiro    📍 Moskva

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# UN Depository Library Programme

- Formally "inaugurated" in 1947; advocacy by ALA
- 356 libraries in 135 countries and the State of Palestine
- National libraries, parliamentary libraries and large university libraries
- NYPL, Columbia Law, NYU main depositories in NYC
- Main function is to provide access to UN documents and publications to researchers and citizens free of charge

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# UN Depository Library Programme

- More info: **https://library.un.org/content/united-nations-depository-library-programme**

- Directory of depository libraries: **https://library.un.org/content/depository-libraries-directory**

- Facebook: **https://www.facebook.com/United.Nations.Depository.Libraries**

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# Outreach to library community

- DHL joined Metropolitan NY Library Council (METRO) in June 2014
- Library tours, open house information fairs
- Presentations and briefings for depository librarians and information professionals interested in international documentation
- Participation at local library conferences, most recently at SLA-NY Symposium
- ALA/GODORT/International Documents Round Table
- IFLA
- International Association of Law Libraries

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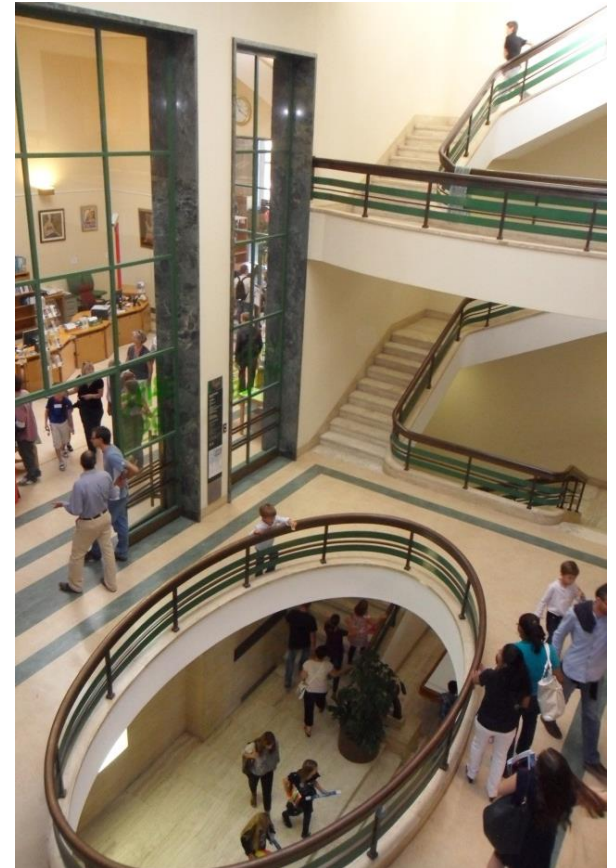LIBRARY

# UN system libraries

- UN Office in **Geneva** (UNOG) library and archives:
    - Economic Commission for Europe, League of Nations
- Libraries of the other 4 **regional commissions**:
    - Economic Commission for Africa (**ECA**) – Addis Ababa
    - Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (**ESCWA**) - Beirut
    - Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (**ESCAP**) - Bangkok
    - Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (**ECLAC/CEPAL**) – Santiago (Chile)

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# UN system libraries

- Libraries with **specialized collections**:
  - Legal library of the UN Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) - Vienna
  - Library of the Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights - Geneva

- Libraries of **funds, programmes** and specialized agencies

# UNOG Library



- Sister library to DHL with similar mandate
- Also manages the **archives** of the UN Office in Geneva
- Participates in the retrospective **digitization** of UN documents (Arabic, Chinese and Russian)
- Manages a cultural programme
- Serves as the archive of the **League of Nations**

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# Libraries of the regional commissions

- Similar mandates, activities and services as DHL and UNOG Library; much smaller staff.

- Focus on documents and publications issued by the regional commissions, publications and information resources covering economic and social development in respective regions.

- Service primarily to delegates participating in the work of the regional commissions and Secretariat staff; some open to public.

- ECLAC and ECA libraries maintain digital repositories.



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# UN system libraries - resources

- List of UN Secretariat libraries: **https://library.un.org/content/un-libraries**

- List of UN System libraries (UN Chief Executives Board for Coordination): **http://www.unsceb.org/link-type/library**
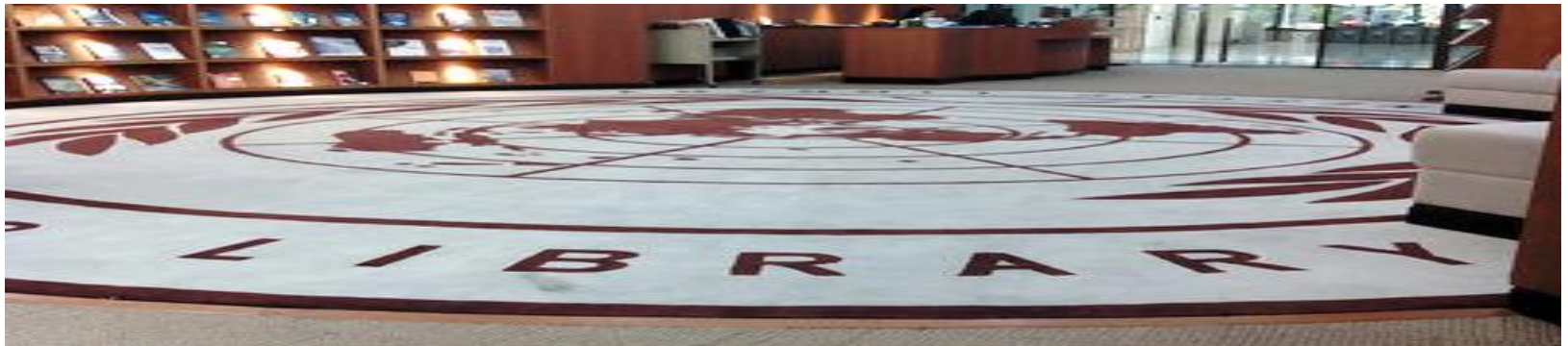
# Interlibrary Cooperation

- UN Secretariat libraries are independently managed and activities/programmes focus on local needs/mandates

- DHL chairs the Steering Committee on UN Libraries

- Digitization work divided between DHL and UN Library in Geneva; libraries share Alma ILS and Primo discovery

- UN System Electronic Information Acquisition Consortium (UNSEIAC) – managed by DHL

- Occasional collaboration on research guides; translation into Arabic and Russian

- Interlibrary loan/document delivery

# THANK YOU!

E-Mail : **library-ny@un.org**

Phone **: 212-963-3000**

Website : **library.un.org**

FAQs : **ask.un.org**

Twitter : **@UNLibrary**