

(G)AI, Open Access, and Sustainable Development: The Evolving Role of Libraries in a Transforming World

Presenter: **Mr. Thanos Giannakopoulos**

Date: 17 September

Time: 14:30 - 15:30 (SAST/CET) or 08:00-09:30 (ET)

The session delves into the importance of exploring new collaborations, across countries, sectors and knowledge communities based on the idea of common purpose (Global Challenges) and shared value (leave no one behind). The session alludes to the library professionals' significance in thinking about the university as an anchor institution that serves as a unique resource to the broader communities in which it is located. It further delves into the role of Open Access in facilitating TD research and fostering societal impact.

This was an online event.

[Watch online](#)

Presenter



Thanos Giannakopoulos is the Chief of the Information Management Section and the Dag Hammarskjöld Library of the United Nations headquarters. He has re-envisioned the UN Dag Hammarskjöld Library as an open space for public dialogue, debate, and equitable knowledge sharing, while also strengthening the Section's role as an essential component for managing the UN's parliamentary and research digital output. Under his leadership, the UN released the United Nations Digital Library, a central repository for the UN Secretariat aimed at promoting permanent access to UN content and furthering the Organization's commitment to the widest possible dissemination and sharing of its outputs. In 2023, the system recorded over 61 million downloads from 12,000 locations worldwide. Several other scholarly communication products and digital workflow projects have been developed under his stewardship to contribute to the UN's information management best practices portfolio. These include a change management initiative that led to the development of the Strategic Outlook 2020-2025 and, more recently, to the Section's updated Strategic Outlook 2024-2028, as well as a new annual series of publications, a global, collaborative UN Open Science conference, an information analysis digital workflow, a UN grey literature project and a generative AI experimentation endeavor.

Prior to his role at the UN, Thanos served as the head librarian for the European Molecular Biology Laboratory in Heidelberg, Germany, and for the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, Austria. He can be reached at: Thanos.Giannakopoulos@UN.org