

UKRAINIAN
BOOKSHELVES WORLDWIDE

ANALYTICAL REPORT

Ukrainian Bookshelves Worldwide

Analytical Report

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1. About the project, and objectives of survey

1.1 About the project

Ukrainian Bookshelves Worldwide Project, implemented by the NGOs Chytomo and the Ukrainian Literary Center, is aimed at highlighting and analyzing initiatives that distribute Ukrainian books to Ukrainian refugees abroad in the context of war.

Fragile and threatened in the times of war, the Ukrainian book publishing industry remains courageous, and publishing houses, independent initiative groups, and librarians organize bookshelves abroad to help children of Ukrainian refugees and their parents feel connected to their lost homes and distant homeland.

The goal of **Ukrainian Bookshelves Worldwide Project** is to highlight the efforts of the organizers of such initiatives, learn about their work and the challenges they face, and make their experience useful to those who are only planning to create a **Ukrainian bookshelf** in their city, organization, or establishment, or improve the work of an existing one, and want to help Ukrainian books become more accessible abroad.

***Ukrainian bookshelves**, as we see it, are books in the Ukrainian language collected on purpose, presented, and made available to the public for free.*

For the **Ukrainian Bookshelves Worldwide** Project a survey of organization, institutions, and cultural institutions that have established Ukrainian bookshelves in other countries was conducted, a Database of such initiatives was made and a Handbook that contains recommendations on team building, fundraising, work with the audience, program content, and organization of Ukrainian bookshelves for those who are going to implement such an initiative in their city or improve the work of the one that exists was prepared.

The project partners are Ukrainian Book Institute, Ukrainian Library Association, The Association of German Librarians, Goethe-Institut in Ukraine, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine. The project was implemented with the support of the Stabilization Fund for Culture and Education of the Federal Foreign Office of Germany and Goethe-Institut.

1.2 About the survey — objectives, methods of information collection, monitions to representativity

This report is a summarization of the findings of a study of initiatives working to distribute Ukrainian books to Ukrainian refugees abroad and a desk research conducted as part of the **Ukrainian Bookshelves Worldwide** Project in October 2022 – January 2023.

The **participants of the survey** are organizations and establishments that create Ukrainian bookshelves in their cities. The focus was on the content of the shelves and sources of acquiring literature, financial capacity, peculiarities of working with their audience, the main obstacles to their activities, and the needs of such initiatives.

The subject of the survey are the main challenges and factors that complicate the activities of Ukrainian bookshelves around the world.

Survey objectives:

1. To describe initiatives under the survey: how Ukrainian bookshelves are created and at which establishments they function, their geography, the number and genres of literature on the shelves, etc.
2. To describe the sources of Ukrainian books and the main obstacles to obtaining them.
3. To study the sources of funding, budget practices, and the ability to independently purchase Ukrainian books for the shelves.
4. To study the audience of Ukrainian bookshelves abroad, how they inform Ukrainians about their existence, and what is the program content of such initiatives (kinds of events they organize).
5. Identify the challenges that Ukrainian bookshelves face when launching and implementing the initiative, and what their greatest needs are.

The key method of the survey was a poll based on respondents' self-completion of a Google form. The group was self-selecting and is not representative of the total amount (all initiatives of Ukrainian bookshelves that exist abroad). The questionnaire was distributed with the help of partner institutions by email to the official emails of relevant institutions, establishments and organizations, through professional communities and social media pages in two waves. It could be filled out between November 21 and December 31, 2022.

The survey does not claim to be an accurate assessment of the status quo or to be an exhaustive description of the issues and challenges faced by such initiatives. The methods of information collection may lead to distortion of results. The experience of initiatives that did not communicate with the Ukrainian national institutions, that were partners in the survey, and that are not active users of social media, where the Questionnaire was distributed, is likely to be underrepresented.

1.3 Technical notes

- The quotes in the text are direct speech of the interviewees. For better understanding and economy of words, some of the quotes do not have certain wording, typical to oral speech, and some are presented with omissions of phrases or sentences. These omissions do not distort the meaning of the quotes and do not take them out of context. In cases when it is necessary to explain what the interviewee meant in the quote, the explanation is given in parentheses and is followed by the initials of the author of the report.
- In order to preserve the confidentiality of our informants, their names, titles of organizations, institutions or establishments are not mentioned in the report. If

such references are made in quotations, names and titles are replaced by “X” and “Y.”

- The document uses an underscore (“gender gap”) to indicate the generative (common masculine and feminine forms of words), which is intended to make the language more inclusive and denotes the multiplicity of gender identities. The underscore is placed after the part of the word stem that is common to the feminine and masculine.

2. Where and how Ukrainian bookshelves are created

2.1 General complex. Geography of initiatives in survey

We do not have reliable data about how many Ukrainian bookshelves abroad function and how many were created after February 24, 2022. Estimating the general complex is also complicated by the spontaneous, often local nature of their founding (private, volunteer initiatives) and the short duration of their existence (for example, at temporary accommodation facilities for displaced persons). Some shelves either existed or were created on the basis of state, municipal or communal establishments, facilities and institutions: at consulates and embassies of Ukraine in different countries, at educational and medical institutions, cultural institutions and libraries. Essential parts of existing shelves are initiated by Ukrainians abroad and Ukrainian communities that have a number of developed networks, organizations, unions, foundations, and public associations: political, cultural, educational, professional, for women, youth, etc.,. The shelves also appear and are created at places Ukrainians frequent : cafes, coffee shops, information centers, temporary settlements for refugees and displaced people, language courses and integration programs, as well as private enterprises and various social and cultural locations.

According to UNHCR, 17.6 million people have left Ukraine since February 24, 2022, and 9.5 million have entered Ukraine. As of January 17, 2023, more than 7.9 million displaced people are currently in Europe and 4.9 million refugees from Ukraine have registered in Europe for temporary protection or similar status. Among European countries where Ukrainians register most frequently are Poland (1.5 million), Germany (1.02), Czech Republic (480,000), Italy (167,000), Spain (161,000), the United Kingdom (155,000), and Bulgaria (150,000). Ukrainian bookshelves can be created in any center with a more or less long and crowded stay or residence of these people.

Describing the main characteristics, needs, and challenges Ukrainian bookshelf initiatives face, we will rely on the data from the poll conducted as part of our survey, but it is important to once again emphasize that the results are not socially representative, and should be accepted with the conditions outlined in the previous section.

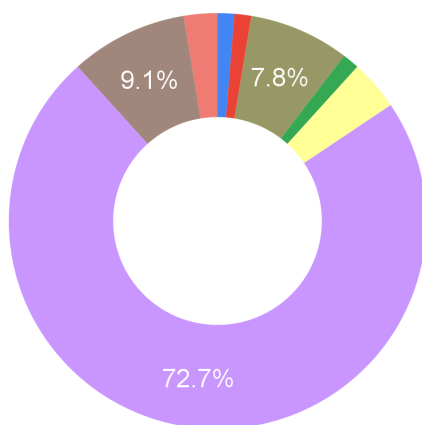
The survey, conducted as part of the **Ukrainian Bookshelves Worldwide** project between October 2022 and January 2023, involved **77 respondents** from 69 places in **22 countries** (Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Finland, France,

Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, the Netherlands, Poland, South Korea, Portugal, Spain, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, and the Republic of Cyprus).

The largest concentration of initiatives is based in the cities of the Netherlands (18.3%), Germany (16.5%), Lithuania (10.1%), Latvia (7.3%), and the Czech Republic (7.3%). Three of the surveyed shelves are located in Riga (Latvia) and Potsdam (Germany). Two shelves each are located in Berlin, Hamburg, Munich (Germany), Prague (Czech Republic), Amsterdam, Hoofddorp (the Netherlands) and Budapest (Hungary).

2.2 At which establishments they exist and for how long

The overwhelming majority of the Ukrainian bookshelves under the survey (70%) are located in **libraries**. Over 9% are located at public, charitable organizations, foundations, and unions. 7.8% are located in educational institutions and spaces. About 4% of shelves are located at information spaces, centers for refugees and displaced people. The remaining 6.5% are distributed among embassies, publishing houses, bookstores, and cultural institutions.

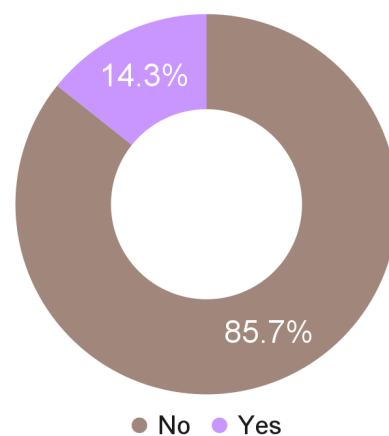


Question: "Please indicate in which type of establishment your Ukrainian bookshelf is located."

- Library (72.7%)
- Public, charitable organization (9.1%)
- Educational institution, space (7.8%)
- Information center for refugees (3.9%)
- Publishing house
- Embassy, diplomatic mission of Ukraine
- Cultural institution, art space
- Bookstore, coworking space

Question: "Did this bookshelf existed before 24 February 2022?"

About 85% of Ukrainian bookshelves under the survey were created **after February 24, 2022**. More than 14.3% existed before Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. About the same number of Ukrainian bookshelves that existed before February 24, 2022, were established at libraries (36%) and at public, charitable organizations, foundations, and unions (36%). Another 18% were established at educational institutions and spaces.



● No ● Yes

2.3 How and why bookshelves are created

We asked the respondents how their Ukrainian bookshelves were created. The largest share of respondents (**32%**) founded their shelves with the initiative, assistance, or on behalf of the **Ukrainian embassies** in their countries of residence:

“... when the newly appointed Ambassador of Ukraine to Korea, Dmytro Ponomarenko, started his work, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine agreed to receive a list of free books and arranged for their delivery to Korea. After receiving some of the books, the opening of the shelf was organized. Recently, we received an additional batch of books. After agreement with the library, they will be transferred to the Seoul Library. We are also considering opening a shelf in the National Library of Korea.” (South Korea-C-01)”

“Ukrainian books can be found in the library for the needs of Ukrainian refugees. We received books as a gift from the Ukrainian Embassy.” (Czech Republic-L-08)

“in cooperation with the Ambassador of Ukraine to Austria.” (Austria-G-01)”

“... at the initiative of the Embassy and with the financial support of sponsors to transport to Cyprus the books received free of charge within the framework of the project “Ukrainian Children — Ukrainian Books!” (Cyprus-N-01)”

“The initiative came from the Embassy of Ukraine in the Netherlands.” (Netherlands-G-01)

About a quarter (**25%**) of Ukrainian bookshelves were created **on the initiative of organizations**, information and community centers, publishing houses and educational institutions in response to requests and needs of Ukrainian refugees:

“It was July. Our information center and the humanitarian aid center “OPORA” had already been operating for a couple of months, and Ukrainian Saturday schools were open. We had been waiting for a long time for the Greek NGO we cooperate with to buy books for us, but everything was delayed because of bureaucracy. Parents and children asked for Ukrainian books, and it was difficult to bring them from Ukraine. So we came up with an idea to finally collect the books independently” (Greece-A-01)

“We monitored the needs of refugees and noticed that they independently created book clubs and engaged themselves in book crossing. Also, our center was often asked for information on where to get Ukrainian books” (Spain-B-01)

“André Störr, co-owner of the Jena-based publishing house Friedrich Mauke, launched an initiative to support Ukrainian publishers in March 2022. With the help of KIBADU, Ukrainian children's books are purchased from publishers in Ukraine at full retail price. Then the books are delivered to public libraries in Germany. So far, more than 3,000 books have been delivered to Germany. Having this in mind, we are helping to set up Ukrainian bookshelves. In

addition, 2,400 books were printed at our own expense within the framework of the “Books Without Borders” initiative” (Germany-E-01).

“When many refugees started attending the Ukrainian Saturday School, the Ukrainian Association Unity decided to organize a bookshelf that started working as a library with some Ukrainian books collected from members of the organization. The Real School of Budapest kindly offered a place for it inside their school. This amateur library is growing larger every day!” (Hungary-B-02)

“When Russia’s military aggression in Ukraine started, we were thinking about how to help Ukrainian people find Ukrainian books. First of all we bought books for children. Later, we bought literature of other genres, as more and more families come to our library looking for Ukrainian books.” (Lithuania-M-01)

“Because of the number of Ukrainians who come to our city seeking refuge from the war.” (Canada-O-01)

More than **17%** of the initiatives that filled out our questionnaire are Ukrainian bookshelves that were created on a private initiative.

“This is my personal initiative for people from Ukraine who temporarily reside in Belgium. The possibility for them to read in their native language. An important initiative to help children not to forget their native language.” (Belgium-Ba-01)

“We organized an event to exchange books among ourselves, among friends. But over some time, other people joined us, because there is a great deficiency in Ukrainian books. Later, we created a “library on wheels”, that is we organize and bring books to each other.” (Hungary-B-01)

“On February 24, two former employees of the Ukrainian Free University (Olha Halytska, a marketing specialist, and Nadiya Khomanchuk, a librarian) decided to establish a library for children where they could borrow books in Ukrainian. We added some fiction for adults later on.” (Germany-M-01)

“On February 18, my daughter and I moved to Lisbon, and we received a lot of help here: housing, clothes, and basically everything we needed. The only thing we really missed were books. This is something you cannot find or buy here for all the money in the world. So we asked our friends to take our home library and send the books to us. That’s how we got 120 kilograms of literature in our native language, both for children and adults. Then we receive help from the son of Anastasia Volkhovska, a writer, who lives in Lisbon. He sold his books and used the money to buy books in Ukrainian and donated them to our library. Sasha Boychenko also brought us books from the “Black Sheep” publishing house. Now we have all of them in the children’s center for displaced people, and everyone can borrow them for reading.” (Portugal-L-01)

“... with my 6-year-old daughter I found temporary shelter in Aix-en-Provence. We fled from the war, and I initiated a volunteer project with the support of the

local Ukrainian association “We are Ukraine”. Kateryna Shypko was especially helpful in communicating with the local library, Les Mejanes, and in organizing events. In fact, this association purchased most of the Ukrainian books. In addition, I asked people on social media to make donations, and I also emailed the Old Lion Publishing House, Nasha Idea Publishing House and Yurii Marchenko, a representative of the Ukrainian Book Institute. As a result of our efforts, we added at least 150 books in Ukrainian to the collection of the library. Now I organize regular readings and art events for Ukrainian and French children.” (France-E-01)

About **20%** of the initiatives — libraries for the most part — since the start of the full-scale invasion and in response to high demand have increased focus on Ukrainian literature in their collections.

“Due to growth of Ukrainian community in Klaipeda, the library administration has taken measures to ensure that departments have shelves with Ukrainian books” (Lithuania-KI-01)

“We started buying Ukrainian books before the war to meet the needs and expectations of our Ukrainian readers who came to us as economic migrants. After the war started, the number of readers increased significantly, and it was obvious that we should try to get more books in the Ukrainian language” (Poland-Vr-01)

“The library started thinking about supporting Ukraine and Ukrainian refugees immediately after the Russian invasion of Ukraine on February 24. Information about the services we can offer to refugees was quickly gathered, and a wide collection of books in Ukrainian was created in the Reference Information Center. Partially this collection is supplemented by books, received with the support of the Ukrainian Bookshelf initiative, patronized by the First Lady of Ukraine” (Latvia-R-03)

“Right after February 24, 2022, there was a high demand for Ukrainian books. In the very beginning mainly volunteers who worked with Ukrainian refugees asked for books in Ukrainian, but after a few weeks more and more refugees visited the library looking for Ukrainian books. Bücherhallen Hamburg hired a Ukrainian-speaking colleague and began to develop the Ukrainian collection, focusing at first on books for children and expanding the collection over the following months” (Germany-G-01)

“Our library collects books in different languages. Books in languages other than Latvian and Russian are often donated. Due to the beginning of the Russian war in Ukraine, our library started to pay much more attention to the collection of books in Ukrainian, most of them come as donations and/or originated from the Latvian National Library” (Latvia-E-01)

Most of the interviewed initiatives, institutions and organizations acted **reactively**, basing their decision to establish book shelves on the sudden increase of the Ukrainian population in their area, as well as in response to the requests and needs of Ukrainian refugees and displaced people.

3. Shelf content and sources of literature acquiring

3.1 The quantity of books on Ukrainian bookshelves

We asked our respondents to provide information on the approximate number of books on their Ukrainian bookshelves. The total number of books in the 77 initiatives under survey is **24,287**. The largest number of books (11,503) is kept on the shelves of libraries. The second largest number of books (6,780) is collected on the shelves of public, charitable organizations and foundations. The minimum number of books — **8** — is kept on a shelf in an educational institution, at one of the foreign schools (Latvia-M-01). The largest number — **5,000** books — is collected at one of the Ukrainian national associations in Canada.

Question: “How many books does your Ukrainian bookshelf approximately contain?”

Type of establishment where bookshelf functions / Quantity of books	Total	Min	Max	Midpoint
Library	11503	13	1700	100
Public, charitable organization, foundation, union	6780	40	120	250
Information space, center for refugees and displaced people	3370	20	5000	300
Educational institution, space	2300	39	39	262.5
Publishing house	160	70	3000	80
Embassy, official mission of Ukraine in a country	100	35	35	100
Cultural institution, art space, museum, gallery	39	8	1217	39
Bookstore, coworking space	35	100	100	35

The Midpoint number of books on Ukrainian bookshelves ranges from **50 to 200** items per shelf, depending on the origin of the institution where the initiative was created.

3.2 Types of literature on shelves. Cataloging

Literature for children (30%) prevails in the collections and holdings of 77 initiatives under the survey and is significantly ahead in terms of volume. **Fiction** (17%) and **literature for teenagers** (14%) are also significantly represented. The smallest share of the types of literature on the shelves belongs to **poetry** (2%).

Question: “What kind of literature is mostly found on your bookshelf?”

Type of literature / Quantity	% of total number
Literature for children	30.42%
Fiction	17.08%
Literature for teenagers	14.17%
Dictionaries, encyclopedia	7.92%
Popular-science literature	7.92%

Educational literature	6.25%
Visual book	5.00%
Scientific literature	3.33%
Reference literature	3.33%
Religious literature	2.92%
Poetry	1.67%
Total	100.00%

The widest selection of literature is presented on Ukrainian shelves in **libraries**. A wide range of literature by type is also available on Ukrainian bookshelves established at **educational institutions** and spaces, as well as at public and charitable foundations and organizations.

Type of establishment, where bookshelf functions / Source of literature	Lit. for children	Fiction	Lit. for teenagers	Popular-science lit.	Dictionaries, encyclopedias	Educational lit.	Visual book	Scientific literature	Reference literature	Religious literature	Poetry
Library	54	30	21	13	13	9	7	5	4	5	1
Educational establishment, space	6	5	4	3	4	1	2	2	1	1	1
Public, charitable organization, foundation, union	6	3	5	1	1	3	2		3	1	2
Information space, center for refugees	3	2	3	2	1	2					

About **70% of respondents**, even if they are not libraries and do not have the necessary programs and skills, are making **attempts to catalog** their book holdings and collections.

Tools used by respondents for cataloging include both **widely available digital programs**, such as Excel, PDF catalogs, Google spreadsheets, online lists, visitor logs, and registers with age-based categorization of literature. As well as more specialized **library tools**. In particular, the respondents mentioned the Marc 21 system (Poland-B-01), the National Library Catalog (Latvia-B-01), the free Live Lib website (Finland-G-01), and the Libraruka cataloging resource (Netherlands-A-02). Cataloging by ISBN and the use of the Ukrainian virtual keyboard for filling literature into the catalog are also mentioned.

Among the **biggest needs** that appear when cataloging literature, respondents mention the need to seek help from native Ukrainian speakers (because they “can read books written in Cyrillic”). They also talk about the need for a unified transliteration of Ukrainian books into the Latin alphabet.

3.3 Sources of literature acquiring

The most frequently mentioned sources of literature for Ukrainian bookshelves are **Ukrainian state institutions** (21%). The respondents mentioned a number of programs aimed at supplying literature to book initiatives abroad. In particular, the project “Ukrainian Children — Ukrainian Books!” launched by the State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting together with the Office of the President of Ukraine and the ICIP of Ukraine, as well as the project “Books Without Borders” implemented under the patronage of the First Lady Olena Zelenska together with the ICIP and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Receiving books from **private persons** (20.6%) and **institutions/organizations in the countries** where the shelf is located (20.6%) is mentioned a little less often.

Question: “Where do you mainly get literature to fill your shelf?”

Source of literature admission / Frequency of mention	% of total number
Ukrainian state institutions	21.33%
Private persons	20.67%
Institutions, organizations in your home country	20.67%
Initiative groups	13.33%
Ukrainian publishers	12.67%
Ukrainian organizations	11.33%
Total	100.00%

Almost all types of institutions with shelves receive books from **private persons** and **Ukrainian publishers**. **Libraries, public and charitable organizations, and educational institutions/spaces** have the biggest list of sources of literature acquisition.

Type of establishment where bookshelf functions / Source of literature	Ukrainian state institutions	Institutions in your home country	Private persons	Initiative groups	Ukrainian publishers	Ukrainian organizations
Library	26	25	17	13	11	9
Public, charitable organization	3	3	6	3	3	5
Educational facility, space	1	2	4	3	1	2
Information center for refugees	2	1	2		2	1
Publishing house				1	1	

Cultural institution, art space, museum, gallery			1			
Embassy, official mission of Ukraine			1			
Bookstore, coworking					1	
Total	32	31	31	20	19	17

3.4 Main obstacles to obtaining Ukrainian books

One of the hypotheses of our survey was that initiatives that create Ukrainian bookshelves often face obstacles in obtaining Ukrainian books. We asked the initiatives how often they encountered such obstacles. **The overwhelming majority** of respondents (**41.5%**) have never encountered obstacles in obtaining a Ukrainian book. 16.8% of respondents have **often** encountered them. And the smallest number, 3.9% of respondents, say they **always** face obstacles while trying to obtain Ukrainian books.

Question: “How often have you encountered obstacles in obtaining a Ukrainian book?”

<i>Never</i>	<i>Rarely</i>	<i>Sometimes</i>	<i>Often</i>	<i>Always</i>
41.56%	11.69%	25.97%	16.88%	3.90%

Local **publishing houses** and **libraries** that have established channels of interaction with foreign book markets are the least likely to face obstacles in obtaining Ukrainian books for their shelves.

Type of facility where bookshelf functions / How often do they encounter obstacles	<i>Never</i>	<i>Rarely</i>	<i>Sometimes</i>	<i>Often</i>	<i>Always</i>
Library	48.21%	8.93%	26.79%	14.29%	1.79%
Publishing house	50.00%	50.00%			
Embassy, official mission of Ukraine		100.00%			
Information center for refugees	33.33%		33.33%	33.33%	
Educational facility, space	33.33%		33.33%	33.33%	
Public, charitable organization	14.29%	28.57%	28.57%	14.29%	14.29%
Bookstore, coworking				100.00%	
Cultural institution, art space					100.00%
Total	41.56%	11.69%	25.97%	16.88%	3.90%

The main obstacles to obtaining Ukrainian books are “**lack of funds**” (21%), “**lack of people**” on the team who could focus on enriching the shelf (20%), and “**logistical obstacles**” (18% of respondents). The least frequently mentioned obstacle is the lack of information as to where one can get the literature.

Question: "In your experience, what are the main obstacles to obtaining a Ukrainian book?"

Types of obstacles / Frequency of mention	% of total number
Lack of money	21.37%
Lack of people to be engaged in this issue	20.61%
Logistics obstacles	18.32%
Lack of needed books at market or publishers	14.50%
Lack of time to work this issue through	13.74%
Lack of information as to where to take books	11.45%
Total	100.00%

"**Lack of funds**" is most often perceived as an obstacle to obtaining books by initiatives that were created at **information centers for refugees** and displaced people. Libraries — the least. The latter find the "**lack of people**", who would deal with obtaining literature, the biggest obstacle.

Type of establishment where bookshelf functions / Types of obstacles	Lack of funds	Lack of people	Logistics	Lack of the needed books at the market	Lack of time	Lack of information where to take books
Information center for refugees	100.00%					
Educational institution, space	37.50%	12.50%	12.50%		25.00%	12.50%
Public, charitable organization	33.33%		33.33%		33.33%	
Cultural institution, art space	33.33%	33.33%			33.33%	
Bookstore, coworking	26.67%	6.67%	20.00%	13.33%	13.33%	20.00%
Embassy, official mission of Ukraine	21.43%	21.43%	21.43%	7.14%	21.43%	7.14%
Library	18.07%	25.30%	16.87%	19.28%	9.64%	10.84%
Publishing house			50.00%			50.00%
Total	21.71%	20.93%	17.83%	14.73%	13.18%	11.63%

4. Financing and resource capacities

4.1 Sources of funding

The most frequent **source of funding** for Ukrainian bookshelves under the survey (39%) is **investment of the organization’s money**, institution, or establishment in the initiative. The second most frequently mentioned source of funding is financial support of **Ukrainian state programs** (26%). The least frequently mentioned source of funding is international grant programs.

Question: “Where does funding of your initiative come from?”

Source of financing / Frequency of mention	% of total number
Your organization/institution/library/establishment/initiative invests into the initiative	38.94%
Ukrainian state programs	25.66%
Private investment of person or a group	19.47%
Volunteer fundraising	10.62%
World grant programs	5.31%
Total	100.00%

Embassies and bookstores listed “own investments” as the only source of funding for their shelves. That is also the largest source of funding for shelves of the **libraries** in the survey.

Type of establishment where the bookshelf functions / Source of financing	Your organization	Ukrainian state programs	Private investment	Volunteer fundraising	World grants
Embassy, official mission of Ukraine	100.00%				
Bookstore, coworking	100.00%				
Educational establishment, space	50.00%	12.50%	37.50%		
Publishing house	50.00%		50.00%		
Public, charitable organization	46.67%	13.33%	20.00%	20.00%	
Library	37.50%	30.00%	15.00%	11.25%	6.25%
Information center for refugees		40.00%	40.00%		20.00%
Cultural institution, art space			100.00%		
Total	38.94%	25.66%	19.47%	10.62%	5.31%

The biggest list of sources of funding for initiatives to create Ukrainian bookshelves is presented by the **libraries** and **public, charitable organizations** and foundations in the survey. The surveyed initiatives at embassies and bookstores only had one

source of funding (self-funded), which was also true for cultural institutions and art spaces, which received all the funding from private investments.

4.2 Ability to purchase Ukrainian books independently

The vast **majority (62%) can purchase books** for their shelves **independently**. Initiatives established by private businesses (publishing houses, bookstores) and cultural and art spaces also indicate they have the same ability (100%). However, initiatives at embassies and information centers for refugees say that independent book purchases are not possible for them.

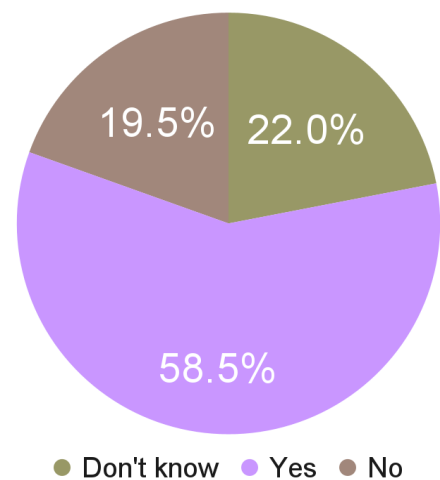
Question: “Do you have the opportunity to purchase Ukrainian books for your shelves independently?”

Type of establishment where bookshelf functions / Possibility to buy books independently	Yes	No
Publishing house	100.00%	
Bookstore, coworking	100.00%	
Cultural institution, art space	100.00%	
Public, charitable organization, foundation, union	71.43%	28.57%
Library	66.07%	33.93%
Educational facility, space	33.33%	66.67%
Information center for refugees and displaced people		100.00%
Embassy, official mission of Ukraine in the country		100.00%
Total	62.34%	37.66%

4.3 Planning of budget to enrich book assortment of the shelf

More than a half of the surveyed initiatives (58%) **have already been planning** their budget to purchase books to replenish the shelf’s assortment for 2023. 22% say that they are not able to or do not plan the 2023 budget. 19.5% of the surveyed initiatives do not know yet (context, circumstances, no decision) whether there will be a budget for 2023.

100% of surveyed **public, charitable organizations** and foundations, as well as the majority of surveyed educational institutions/spaces (60%) and libraries (58%) **are planning** their budgets for 2023. 100% of the surveyed initiatives at embassies do not plan a budget for replenishing Ukrainian bookshelves.



Type of establishment where bookshelf functions / Do they plan budget for 2023	Yes	Don't know	No
Public, charitable organization, foundation	100.00%		
Educational facility, space	60.00%	20.00%	20.00%
Library	57.69%	23.08%	19.23%
Information center for refugees	50.00%		50.00%
Bookstore, coworking space		100.00%	
Cultural institution, art space		100.00%	
Embassy, official mission of Ukraine			100.00%
Total	58.54%	21.95%	19.51%

22% of respondents have also shared information about the approximate budget for replenishing the book assortment of the shelf in 2023. About 60% of those who provided this information are library-based initiatives.

Question: "Do you plan a budget for purchasing books to replenish the assortment of the shelf for 2023? If so, what is the approximate sum of money?"

Type of establishment where bookshelf functions/Budget 2023 in €	Total	Min	Max	Average	Midpoint
Library	42,400	200	20,000	3,854.5	2,000
Public, charitable organization, foundation	31,750	200	20,000	5291.6	650
Information space, center for refugees	3,500	1,500	2,000	1,750	1,750
Educational facility, space	1,600	600	1,000	800	800

Library-based initiatives had the highest midpoint figure for budgets allocated to replenish the assortment of books available in the shelves, at 2,000 euros. Public, charitable organizations and foundations had the lowest budget allocated for book replenishment, at 650 euros. These same types of institutions also had the widest range of planned budget amounts: from 200 euros (the lowest of all the figures provided) to 20,000 euros (the highest of all the figures provided).

5. Working with the audience

5.1 Audiences for which initiatives under the survey work

The majority of the surveyed initiatives (45%) indicate that their bookshelves were meant for **children**. The smallest share of shelves (12%) was aimed at elderly people.

Question: "For which audience does your bookshelf primarily work for?"

Type of audience / Frequency of mention	% of total number
Children	44.81%
Adults	27.27%
Teenagers	16.23%
Elderly people	11.69%
Total	100.00%

Information centers for refugees, libraries, as well as public or charitable foundations and organizations, indicate that their bookshelves were aimed at all of the above mentioned types of audiences: children, adults, teenagers, and elderly people.

Type of establishment where bookshelf functions / Type of audience	Children	Adults	Teenagers	Elderly people
Publishing house	100.00%			
Cultural institution, art space	100.00%			
Bookstore, coworking space	50.00%		50.00%	
Information center for refugees	42.86%	14.29%	28.57%	14.29%
Literature	45.37%	27.78%	13.89%	12.96%
Educational institution, space	42.86%	28.57%	28.57%	
Public, charitable organization	36.84%	31.58%	15.79%	15.79%
Embassy, official mission of Ukraine		100.00%		
Total	44.81%	27.27%	16.23%	11.69%

The surveyed initiatives located at publishing houses, cultural institutions, and art spaces focus exclusively on **children** (100%). The bookshelves of the surveyed initiatives based at embassies and official missions of Ukraine (100%) are designed for the **adult audience**.

5.2 Informing the audience about the availability of Ukrainian books

Replies of our respondents to the question "How do you inform Ukrainians that your organization/library/center has Ukrainian books?" can be divided into three sections:

1. Description of the partners with whose help and cooperation the respondents convey the necessary information to the audience;
2. Description of the tools used (both online and offline);

3. Indication of need to have special people in a team with appropriate qualifications.

Partnership and cooperation

35% of respondents, speaking about informing the audience, provided lists of partners who helped convey information to the Ukrainian audience. Among them were:

- government organizations;
- embassies and official mission offices of Ukraine in the country;
- Ukrainian organizations and cultural centers;
- information centers and centers for refugees;
- local organizations working with displaced people;
- Ukrainian organizations and institutions that work with displaced people;
- places where Ukrainian cultural events are held;
- educational institutions and initiatives.

26% of those who mention the usefulness of partnership emphasize the efficiency of cooperation with educational institutions and initiatives: Saturday and foreign schools, language and integration courses.

Tools for informing

About 90% of respondents say they use online or offline tools and channels for communication.

The most commonly mentioned **online channels** and tools are: informing on **social media** (Facebook, Instagram, Telegram), as well as posting information about the shelf on the **websites** of relevant organizations, embassies and libraries.

Among the most frequently mentioned **offline tools** are: **personal communication** (transferring information with the help of personal acquaintances, during registration, at events, etc.), as well as **printed materials** (posters, banners, handouts, leaflets, and lists of references).

Online tool, channel / Frequency of mention	<i>% of total number</i>	Offline tool, channel / Frequency of mention	<i>% of total number</i>
Social network	45.95%	Personal communication	60.61%
Webpage	44.59%	Printed materials	18.18%
Electronic catalog	2.70%	Events	6.06%
Monthly newsletter	1.35%	Noticeable design	3.03%
Chat for Ukrainians	1.35%	Ads at places	3.03%
Online group	1.35%	Well-thought choice of place	3.03%
Webpage blog	1.35%	Local newspaper	3.03%
email	1.35%	Notice boards	3.03%
Total	100.00%	Total	100.00%

Note: a separate set of tips on Communication and Work with the audience provided by the respondents can be found in the Handbook prepared within the framework of the Ukrainian Bookshelves Worldwide Project.

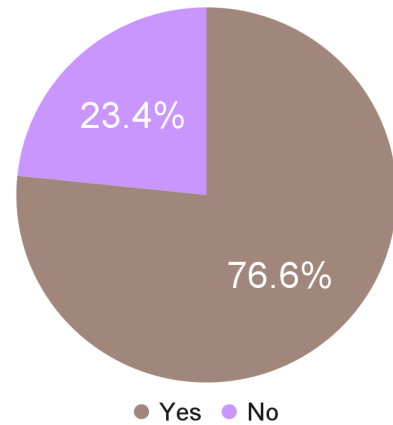
Expertise in the team

Three of the respondents specifically mentioned the need to have a person or a communication department in the team who will be professionally engaged in informing the audience. The need of a person who speaks Ukrainian was also mentioned.

5.3 Events for Ukrainian refugees and displaced persons

77% of respondents gave a positive reply to the Question: *“Do you have events focused on Ukrainian refugees and displaced people?”*

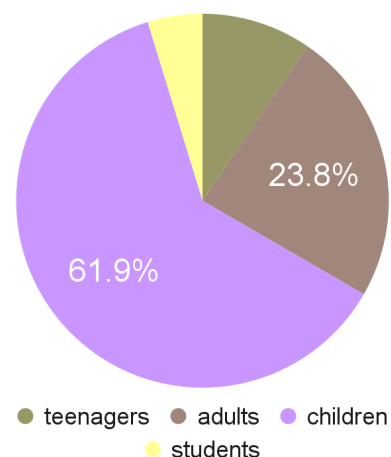
100% of the surveyed initiatives that were established at Ukrainian embassies and official missions in the country **do not conduct** such events. The majority of other organizations, institutions and initiatives state they organize events that are focused on refugees and displaced people.



Type of establishment where bookshelf functions / Do they have events for refugees	Yes	No
Public, charitable organization, foundation, union	100.00%	
Cultural institution, art space, museum, gallery	100.00%	
Information center for refugees and displaced people	100.00%	
Bookstore, coworking space	100.00%	
Educational facility, space	83.33%	16.67%
Library	73.21%	26.79%
Publishing house	50.00%	50.00%
Embassy, official mission of Ukraine		100.00%
Total	76.62%	23.38%

The respondents had the opportunity to provide a list of events and activities they organize for refugees and displaced people. **62%** of these activities are aimed at **children**.

The most frequently (27%) initiatives mention organization of language learning courses (English, Dutch, Czech, Romanian, Italian, Lithuanian, German). Other similar activities with educational purposes include language cafes, conversation clubs, and conversation groups.



The activities, mentioned by our respondents, can be divided into **four categories**:

1. Cultural and artistic events and initiatives;
2. Leisure activities;
3. Educational initiatives (“Art Education”, “Language and other disciplines”);
4. Assistance and volunteer initiatives.

Cultural and artistic events and initiatives

- readings;
- book presentations;
- poetry evenings;
- meetings with authors;
- literary and musical evenings;
- book clubs;
- discussions;
- theater;
- movie shows in the Ukrainian language;
- exhibitions of fine arts;
- thematic photo exhibitions;
- concerts;
- singing carols and other songs;
- thematic evenings on culture and history;
- monthly library meetings for the Ukrainian community;
- stands with books in the Ukrainian language.

Leisure activities

- camps for children;
- events to mark the opening of the book shelves;
- guided tours of the library;
- city tours;
- women’s club;
- game afternoons;
- chess;
- football;
- playing children’s educational games;
- family games *Playful family event*;
- entertainment events for children;
- Ukrainian evenings;
- organization of holidays (Christmas, St. Nicholas Day, Family Day, etc.);
- intercultural club for children.

Educational initiatives

Art education

- masterclass (drawing, embroidery, collage making, rag dolls);
- workshops (drawing, crafts) for children and adults;
- music classes;
- acting courses;
- art courses for Ukrainian teenagers;
- lectures on art, music, and culture.

Language and other disciplines

- Saturday schools for children;
- language cafes;
- language learning courses;
- conversation clubs and groups;
- tutoring for school children;
- educational events for children and families.

Assistance and volunteer initiatives

- information sessions;
- information services;
- translation of information and educational materials;
- charity events for refugees;
- collection and transfer of books, textbooks and other educational materials;
- events in support of Ukraine;
- legal support;
- psychological support;
- psychological support groups;
- adaptation groups;
- art therapy.

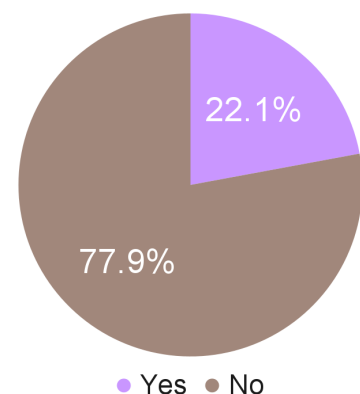
5.4 What Ukrainian authors would the initiatives like to invite?

To continue our conversation about organizing events, we asked: “Do you have a budget to invite Ukrainian authors to your events?”. **78%** of respondents replied they **did not have a budget** to do this.

At the same time we asked them to submit the names of Ukrainian authors they would like to invite if they had the opportunity to do so.

The most frequently mentioned names were: **Serhiy Zhadan** (15%), **Oksana Zabuzhko** (9%), and **Andriy Lyubka** (5%). These are the names that appear more than once: Yuriy Andrukhovych, Valeriy Ananiev, Oksana Bula, Kateryna Yegorushkina, and Andriy Kurkov.

Other mentioned names (in alphabetical order): Andrusyak Ivan, Andrukhovych Sofia, Aseev Stanislav, Babkina Kateryna, Bezkorovainyi Kyrylo, Belorusets Yevhenia, Viatrovych Volodymyr, Vzduhlska Valentyna, Vilar Symona, Herbish Nadiya, Dermanskyi Oleksandr, Dochynets Myroslav, Kalytyko Kateryna, Karpa Irena, Karpiuk Vasyl, Kachan Anatolii, Korotko Oleksandr, Kuzmenko Dmytro, Lushchevska Oksana, Malkovych Ivan, Mikhalitsyna Kateryna, Okopna Tetiana, Orlova Oleksandra, Popskyi Rostyslav, Prokhasko Taras, Semiankiv Andrii, Slyvynskyi Ostap, Slyvka Yuliia, Starchenko Natalia, Stus Tetiana, Suprun Ulyana, Tkachuk Halyna, Khoma Anna, Tsilyk Iryna, Chekmenev Oleksandr, Chapai Artem, Chekh Artem, Shcherba Nataliia.



6. Challenges and needs

6.1 The challenges Ukrainian bookshelves face

Describing the **challenges** faced by those who create and sustain Ukrainian bookshelves, respondents mentioned obstacles that can be divided into **seven categories**: Finance; logistics; assortment, content of shelves; audience, communication; team; location, equipment; library challenges.

Challenge category / Frequency of mention	% of total number
Finance	18 %
Logistics	18 %
Assortment/content of shelves	15,6 %
Audience, communication	14,3 %
Team	11,7 %
Location, equipment	8 %
Library challenges	6,5 %

The most frequently mentioned challenges for initiatives under the survey were **lack of funds** (18%) and difficulties related to **logistics** (18%) and delivery of Ukrainian literature. The least frequently mentioned challenges were **lack of time**, lack of **energy**, and the **war**.

Finance

18% of respondents mentioned limited financial resources:

- *“Lack of funding.” (Cyprus-H-01)*
- *“Lack of funds for bookshelves.” (Spain-B-01)*
- *“The need is growing and the money is limited, so we cannot buy more books.” (Germany-B-02)*
- *“It was not possible to pay the librarian’s salary.” (Spain-B-01)*
- *“Lack of funds for printing.” (Moldova-K-01)*
- *“We didn’t even have money for a taxi around the city, so we always asked our friends.” (Germany-M-02)*

Logistics

The same number (18%) of respondents mentioned challenges related to logistics, delivery and customs clearance of Ukrainian books for the shelf:

- *“The biggest challenges were logistics and customs.” (Germany-E-01)*
- *“There were many logistics problems.” (Germany-Ga-01)*
- *“The logistics of getting Ukrainian books to the island are difficult.” (Cyprus-N-01)*
- *“When buying books from Ukrainian publishers, we face problems with logistics and financial settlement.” (Lithuania-KI-01)*

Assortment, content of shelves

Among challenges associated with content of Ukrainian bookshelves, respondents mentioned:

- *“Lack of books.” (Lithuania-S-01)*

- *“Having enough good books.” (Czech Republic-P-02)*
- *“We had to quickly review the books we already had in our collections - we wanted to offer the best books for children.” (Lithuania-B-01)*
- *“We lack literature for teenagers.” (Czech Republic-U-01)*
- *“All the libraries in Europe were trying to replenish their library collections at the same time. It was difficult to have a wide selection of books for readers at the beginning.” (Czech Republic-U-01)*
- *“It is difficult to find books for the shelf.” (Spain-U-01)*

Audience, communication

A significant share (14.3%) of the respondents mentioned challenges related to communication and audience engagement:

- *“Communication, language barrier.” (Germany-L-01)*
- *“Lack of a large number of Ukrainians in the region.” (Lithuania-P-01)*
- *“Attracting the Ukrainian audience.” (Latvia-R-01)*
- *“Informing readers about available books.” (Lithuania-K-01)*
- *“Sometimes the problem is in communicating the availability of books. We want as many people as possible to know about it.” (Slovakia-B-01)*
- *“To convince the Ukrainian community that it will be useful for them to come to the Czech library”. (Czech Republic-Hrady-01)*

Team

Speaking about the challenges related to teamwork, respondents specify:

- *“Lack of human resources.” (Greece-A-01)*
- *“Not enough people to work with our institution on the project.” (Canada-M-01)*
- *“We did not have people who could read Ukrainian.” (Lithuania-B-01)*
- *“It is difficult for employees who do not know Ukrainian to register books.” (Lithuania-Y-01)*
- *“The main problem is human resources. Volunteers and embassy representatives quickly mobilized to create the library, but we need a person to support, develop, catalog and communicate with visitors, at least part-time.” (France-P-01)*
- *“Our initiative is done by volunteers. So sometimes it takes more time to catalog new books.” (Netherlands-A-02)*

Location and equipment

Another of the mentioned categories of challenges relates to finding a location for the bookshelf and equipping it:

- *“Finding a place for the library.” (Italy-M-01)*
- *“Finding a room.” (Portugal-L-01)*
- *“The biggest problem was that German libraries did not want to take books from us and still do not want to take them.” (Germany-B-02)*
- *“The main problem is to convince French institutions to have Ukrainian books and to give us a place and time for our meetings.” (France-A-01)*
- *“There were no bookshelves, no other furniture.” (Spain-B-01)*

Library challenges

About 7% of the respondents mentioned challenges related to the specifics of the work of organizing and recording books (expertise, tools, cataloging, etc.):

- *“Cataloging books” (Belgium-Br-01)*

- “The Cyrillic alphabet in books does not allow adding them to the library database.” (Belgium-Ba-01)
- “There is a problem with making bibliographic descriptions of books in Ukrainian.” (Latvia-M-01)
- “Very slow system of work in the library.” (Germany-Tr-01)
- “We are looking for a more performative and librarian digital tool.” (France-P-01)

6.2 The greatest needs of the initiatives

Another question we asked the respondents concerned the current needs of the initiatives that created Ukrainian bookshelves (Question: “What are your biggest needs now?”).

Need category / Frequency of mention	% of total number
Assortment, content of shelves	23,3 %
Finance	15,5 %
Audience, communication	8 %
Team	6,5 %
Source of books supply	5,1 %
Location. Equipment	5,1 %
Partnership	4 %
Initiatives, projects	4 %

We can divide replies into **eight categories**:

- Assortment, content of shelves
- Finance
- Audience, communication
- Team
- Sources of books supply
- Location. Equipment
- Partnerships
- Initiatives, projects.

The biggest part of respondents (23.3%) communicates about **the lack of literature**, the need for qualitative and quantitative shelf content. **The least mentioned** needs were the need for additional **time** (mentioned twice) and the need to **translate information for Ukrainians** into Ukrainian (mentioned once).

Assortment, content of shelves

Almost a quarter of our respondents, 23.3%, speak about the need for more books (by number, genre, language, relevance, and age):

- “It would be nice to have more adult literature on the shelves” (Greece-A-01)
- “New interesting books by Ukrainian authors.” (Austria-G-01)
- “We would like to replenish our small Ukrainian library.” (Hungary-B-01)

- “Getting the desired fiction for adults.” (Czech Republic-P-01)
- “More fiction” (Czech Republic-C-01)
- “More books in Ukrainian” (Latvia-M-01)
- “More Ukrainian books in English (for adults and children).” (South Korea-S-01)
- “We would like to periodically replenish our collection.” (Lithuania-L-01)

Finance

The second most frequently mentioned need by respondents (15.5%) is the need for financial resources:

- “Resources to pay salary to librarians.” (France-P-01)
- “Funding for our educational activities.” (Hungary-B-01)
- “To have stable investments to be able to buy more books.” (Lithuania-B-02)
- “Budget to purchase books.” (Germany-M-01)
- “Resources for replenishment and development of our collection.” (Canada-O-01)
- “Money. The budget of our small library does not allow us to take big initiatives.” (Latvia-B-01)

Audience, communication

Another category of needs, mentioned by respondents, relates to working with and engaging the audience:

- “Not many Ukrainians live here.” (Lithuania-P-01)
- “More visitors” (Latvia-R-01)
- “Involvement of the Ukrainian audience.” (Latvia-R-03)
- “People who want to read in the Ukrainian language.” (Latvia-L-01)
- “Attendance, visibility of the location.” (Italy-M-01)
- “We need help in promoting our activities for Ukrainians now.” (Czech Republic-L-01)

Team

Among the needs, as well as among the challenges mentioned by the respondents, there is a category related to expertise and lack of people in the team:

- “... Ukrainian translators for events, volunteers who speak Ukrainian.” (Lithuania-M-01)
- “responsible people” (Finland-G-01)
- “Lack of people. Actually, I am the only person who is really interested in promoting this idea, and I don’t have much time to do reading promotion, and do it professionally.” (France-A-01)
- “We need a colleague who can read what is written in Ukrainian Cyrillic.” (Czech Republic-P-01)

Sources of books supply

Our respondents pointed out the need for more sources of supply and availability of good quality books on the market as one of the needs:

- “We are looking for a new source of books supply.” (Lithuania-K-01)
- “The possibility of purchasing books on the open market” (Germany-L-02)
- “Availability of good quality books from Ukrainian publishers on the market.” (Germany-B-02)
- “A bigger offer of Ukrainian books to choose from.” (Latvia-Y-01)

Location. Equipment

Initiatives that have already created bookshelves mention their limited space, plans for development, and the search for new locations:

- “New shelf/room/place” (Hungary-B-01)
- “We’re running out of space for storing new books.” (Netherlands-A-02)
- “Locations for opening bookshelves in other cities of Cyprus where a large number of Ukrainians live.” (Cyprus-H-01)

Partnerships

Respondents are looking for new collaborations and partnerships:

- “We are looking for more libraries to buy Ukrainian books for children for them.” (Germany-E-01)
- “I would like to do more than just to have a bookshelf. I hope that the cooperation will lead to new literary projects.” (Czech Republic-P-02)
- “It would be great to have a network of libraries in Canada so that we can share information, tools, and approaches instead of duplicating work.” (Canada-M-01)

Initiatives and projects

Respondents also mentioned the need to plan and expand the program content of Ukrainian bookshelves:

- “We want to invite authors to visit us.” (Hungary-B-01)
- “We want to be able to organize more Ukrainian literature-related events for children.” (Lithuania-B-01)
- “Plan a program of events for the year.” (Germany-Tr-01)

6.3 Information about Ukrainian books and the Ukrainian book market that is lacking

When asked “what information about Ukrainian books and the Ukrainian book market do you lack or need more?”, respondents mentioned the **need for information about**:

1. **Ratings and catalogs of popular Ukrainian books** (5 mentions):
 - “I need information about ratings of the most popular books.” (Spain-B-01)
 - “What books are highly appreciated or awarded in Ukraine, by different genres.” (Latvia-R-01)
 - “What has been published, and by which publishers.” (Moldova-K-01)
2. **Ukrainian publishing houses** (4 mentions):
 - “We need additional information about Ukrainian publishing houses.” (Lithuania-M-01)
 - “Information about reputable, reliable Ukrainian publishers that offer quality books both in content and form.” (Latvia-R-03)
 - “It would be great if we could get an official list of Ukrainian publishers that still can sell and send books.” (Latvia-B-01)

- *“which of them are willing to provide books (free of charge))” (Moldova-K-01)*
3. **Ukrainian authors** (4 mentions);
 - *“there is a lack of information about Ukrainian authors” (Slovakia-B-01)*
 - *“Information about authors” (Latvia-R-01)*
 - *“I would like to understand how to reach Ukrainian authors. Organize online meetings. Perhaps invite them to our city so that people have the opportunity to communicate. And not only with authors, but also with illustrators.” (Germany-Tr-01)*
 4. **State and grant programs and opportunities** (3 mentions)
 - *“Information about Ukrainian government programs and initiatives” (Finland-G-01)*
 - *“I have enough information about Ukrainian books. I would be grateful to learn more about the possibility to develop in this direction, and to receive state support.” (France-A-01)*
 - *“We have enough information about books, but we need more information about opportunities to fill the library — grants, other initiatives, etc.,.” (Switzerland-M-01)*

A lack of information on strategies for putting creative book ideas into practice was also mentioned occasionally, as well as which organizations are willing to host or create a Ukrainian bookshelf.

7. Conclusions

The objective of this survey was to identify the main challenges and factors that complicate the functioning of Ukrainian bookshelves around the world. Based on its results, the following conclusions can be drawn.

Ukrainian bookshelves were founded and function in different types of organizations, institutions, and initiatives, which means the **conditions of their function are not homogeneous**. The impact of internal and external challenges on the sustainability of a Ukrainian bookshelf varies, depending on whether the initiative has relevant established **connections with the book sector** in different countries, as well as on **financial and human resources** with the necessary expertise.

Thus, more institutionalized state and municipal institutions (such as libraries and embassies), as well as publishing houses that have well-developed professional connections in the book sphere, rarely or never face obstacles in obtaining Ukrainian literature for their shelves. At the same time, less institutionally developed initiatives are more likely to face such obstacles.

It is well worth mentioning that for most of the initiatives under the survey, regardless of the type of institution, the full-scale military invasion of Ukraine by Russia had a significant impact on the ability to obtain relevant Ukrainian literature. A number of

initiatives mentioned difficulties in logistics and **delivery of books** from Ukraine in the first months after February 24, 2022.

Another important issue mentioned by our respondents is the **financial capacity of the initiative** (to purchase literature, pay for professional work, print materials, etc.) An essential factor is the ability of an organization, institution, or initiative to invest its own resources in the project, or the skills of team members to raise funds for the Ukrainian bookshelf from other sources.

Another challenge mentioned is the availability of **qualified staff in the team**. The need for expertise for initiatives in different types of institutions is not the same. Libraries need people who speak Ukrainian for correct cataloging. At the same time, initiatives that do not have experience with books require “library” competencies and appropriate tools. Another example is the need of professional staff to work on audience engagement. Initiatives that exist at libraries note that they have appropriate departments for this work (public relations, communication department) or a qualified person working on communication with the local Ukrainian community. Less developed initiatives do not have such a resource.

The lack of information about Ukrainian books and the Ukrainian book market is also among the needs of the initiatives. When selecting literature for their shelves, respondents find ratings and catalogs of popular Ukrainian books quite helpful. There is a lack of information about “reliable” Ukrainian publishing houses and modern Ukrainian authors. The respondents also consider information about government and grant programs and opportunities that would help strengthen and develop the initiative.

Ukrainian bookshelves require stable investments, affordable Ukrainian literature, and team expertise to select books, catalog them, and work with the Ukrainian audience. Relevant state programs, the development of the Ukrainian book market and the initiatives themselves, as well as proper information about the Ukrainian literary sector can facilitate the activities and offset a number of challenges faced by such initiatives.

The survey was conducted within the framework of **Ukrainian Bookshelves Worldwide** Project, implemented by **Chytomo** (chytomo.com) in cooperation with **Ukrainian Literary Center** (lincentr.in.ua) with the support of Stabilization Fund for Culture and Education of the German Federal Foreign Office and Goethe-Institut.

Project partners: Ukrainian Book Institute, Ukrainian Library Association, The Association of German Librarians, Goethe-Institut in Ukraine, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine.