



## **2022 Small Federal Library or Information Center of the Year**

Spangdahlem Air Base Library  
Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany



## FEDLINK Library/Information Center of the Year Award

**Selection Criteria Statement (500 words or Less):** (covering achievements completed during Fiscal Year 2022; cite specific examples and any supporting quantifiable data.)

**1. Mission Support:** the extent to which the federal library or information center assisted in fulfilling its organization's mission during Fiscal Year 2022. (Include brief statements of both the agency and the library/information center missions, number and needs of library users, and an overview of how the library/information center has fulfilled mission-centered efforts.)

The mission of the 52d Fighter Wing in Spangdahlem, Germany is to deliver airpower options to deter and combat aggression with the pillars of Mission, Airmen, Community. Spangdahlem Library serves a base population of approximately 6,000 users that include active-duty military members, US civilians, Local national civilians, retirees, contractors, and their family members.

Department of Air Force (DAF) libraries provide the military community with social support that fosters military institutional values, culture, and heritage. DAF libraries also contribute to teambuilding, unit cohesion, trust, resiliency, and readiness of Airmen and Guardians. Finally, DAF libraries provide services and support to Airmen and Guardians pursuing professional military and voluntary education as well as to military families who choose to homeschool their children.

Spangdahlem Library supports the 52d FW mission and the DAF Libraries guidance through community-building, Airmen development, and continuous evaluation of program efficacy and efficiency. During FY2022, the Library served 26,276 patrons physically and 24,014 virtually. Library staff supported 14 office accounts, providing essential information and resources for mission support to Public Affairs, Engineering, the Fire Department, and several other base offices in the amount of \$16.6K.

The Library embraces the Air Force vision that "Our differences make us stronger. Our values make us one." through supporting events like Diversity Day, as well as ensuring the Library collection meets the needs of everyone in the community. The Supervisory Librarian served on the committee for Diversity Day, which is a base-wide event organized by the Spangdahlem Multicultural Awareness Council. The Library staff designed and executed the Kid's Corner during the event, offering children an opportunity to learn about cultures around the world, as well as celebrate the diversity of our community.

The Library prioritized outreach to increase awareness of services as well as expand offerings. Through programming, the Library has partnered with Educational and Developmental Intervention Services (EDIS), Red Cross, Health Promotions, Teen Center, School Age Care, Dental Clinic, African American Heritage Committee, Hispanic Heritage Committee, Fire Department, Base Wildlife Manager, and the Base Falconer during this FY. The Library partnered with Military Family Readiness Center to host the first annual Summer Bash, providing a kick off to the Summer Reading Program and celebration of the end of the school year. These collaborations help to build relationships with key organizations, introduce Library services to new patrons, as well as connect current Library users to on-base resources that may improve their quality of life.

Spangdahlem Library staff are committed to advancing the Library profession and developing Library staff. The Supervisory Librarian was selected to present at the Air Force Libraries Workshop on "How to Build a Makerspace with no Space, no Makers, and no Money." The Library hosted a Masters Library and Information Science (MLIS) student intern from University of Arizona, who worked on the transition of the Juvenile nonfiction classification system. Overall, the small Library staff completed over 360 hours of Library-related training during the fiscal year.



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**2. Creativity/Innovation:** the extent the federal library/information center demonstrated creativity or innovation to meet the agency mission by developing and/or enhancing existing service(s) in Fiscal Year 2022. (Please define the program challenge, describe the resolution, and explain the impact.)

Through careful analysis and consideration, the Library added new programs targeted at teens and adults during this FY, including the very popular Spice Club, Craft Café, After Closing Dungeons & Dragons Club, and a Seed Library, reaching new users in the 16-24 age demographic, which have traditionally been under-served in military libraries.

One specific example was in the re-branding of our Adult Crafting program this year. The program attendance was consistently at about 50% capacity, so the Library staff moved the program to the weekend, expanded the age range to 13 and up, and introduced coffee to the event. Since this re-branding, the event has consistently reached maximum capacity.

One of the jewels of the Spangdahlem Library is the ever-growing Makerspace program. FY2022 saw great strides in this program to include the addition of Introduction to 3D Printing, Cricut, and Sewing classes. The Library's Makerspace equipment has been funded almost exclusively through Squadron Innovation Funds. This year, the Library was awarded \$6.8K to add Cricut mug making supplies, a high-end digital camera with lenses and accessories, touchscreen monitor for programs, and a portable PA system. The goal of the Makerspace program is to give patrons free access to new technologies in order to expand their skill sets, build critical thinking and design skills, and provide the opportunity to innovate.

Spangdahlem Library has shown innovation and creativity through the collections as well. With the help of the MLIS intern noted above, the Library transitioned the Juvenile nonfiction collection from the Dewey Decimal System to a word-based classification system termed by Air Force Libraries as "Modern Bookstore Layout" or MBL. MBL is a user-centered system that allows for easier access and greater browsing capabilities for patrons. Since transitioning, the J Nonfiction collection has seen a 50% increase in circulation over the same period last year.

The Library added new collections this year to expand early literacy and support STEM initiatives. Tonieboxes are an audio-player that is activated by a character containing music and stories. Very young children can listen and play stories on their own, which fosters speech, language, and early literacy skills. STEAM-to-go kits allow families to take home an interactive kit centered around a science, technology, engineering, art or technology concept.

The Library conducted a customer usage survey during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of FY2022, analyzing patron visits to determine Library hours of operation. This survey resulted in expanded hours for the community, with the Library opening earlier three days during the week and closing later one day.

The Library has also made improvements to in-house technology, improving patron experiences and offering expanded services. The Library has historically had very slow commercial internet with download speeds as low as 0.16 Mbps. Through research and analysis, the Supervisory Librarian was able to switch internet service providers, improving speeds to around 60 Mbps without a budget increase. Scanning technology was also upgraded in the Library, along with the addition of a free faxing service.



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**Selection Criteria Statements (500 words or Less):** (covering achievements completed during Fiscal Year 2022; include impact statements and/or quantifiable data such as statistics, testimonials, cost savings to the institution, program changes, projects completed, etc.)

**3. Demonstrated Outcomes:** the extent to which the federal library or information center served the needs of its defined user group(s) in Fiscal Year 2022. (Include impact statements and/or quantifiable data such as statistics, testimonials, cost savings to the institution, program changes, projects completed, etc.).

Through increased programming, creative marketing and outreach, the Library has thrived in FY2022. In-person visits have increased by 54%, programs offered increased by 75%. The 2022 Summer Reading Program broke all previous records with minutes read up 32% from 2021 with 535 registered participants reading 540,584 minutes. The Library has connected with 830 patrons at outreach events. Library secured \$23.5K in external funding through Commercial Sponsorship, Air Force Services NAF funding, and Squadron Innovation funds, allowing the Library to offer programs and equipment that would otherwise not have been in the local budget.

Unsolicited feedback from FY2022

"I'm constantly telling everyone about how amazing our library and its staff is but realized I've never told them. All of the staff is constantly going above and beyond to make sure everyone who enters the doors find what they need. This week my five-year-old accidentally left his stuffy behind during our visit. I called and asked if they could find it and hold it until we could return. They definitely did that, but they also sat him behind the desk with a cute hat, paper, and pencil staging him as drawing a picture while he waited for his ride home. My son was so happy and this gave him so much joy. Again, the staff is always so friendly and helpful and I just thought they deserved some recognition for the wonderful services they provide our community."

"The staff was very helpful in helping me learn how to sew so I could make my own clothes. I would like to thank Ute, Laura, Lindsay, and most importantly Anna for their help and expertise. They were patient with all my questions that I would ask them and they were very kind."

"The Spice Club is such a fun idea and the kick off event in January was so well done! Amazing effort and care put into providing a wonderful service for our Spangdahlem community! Bravo!"

"The library is absolutely the best part of Spangdahlem! I love it, there's always so much to do and every personnel there is so sweet and genuinely cares!!!! Two weeks ago my child got to learn all the equipment then today he learned to sew! On top of getting his favorite books for him and his brother and even games to play! The library definitely doesn't get the recognition it deserves!!! Thank you guys so much!!!!"

"I just wanted to let you guys know how amazing our library and its staff are!! I didn't know until a few weeks ago! It's really a hidden treasure!! They are so helpful, and there's always SO MUCH to do there. And SO MUCH more than just books! I cannot remember her name, but she taught my son how to sew today! Then, two weeks ago, they made advent calendars, wooden ornaments, and 3D printed Harry Potter cookie cutters!! And it's all FREE!! They have a 3D printer, wood engraver, Cricut, sewing machine and so much you can use!!!!"