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The purpose of this paper is to examine how Covid19 has affected Finnish public libraries and how libraries conceive their role in sustainability. The pandemic was a total change factor but also unexpected – nobody has got time to reflect what all has changed. We must wait for some robust studies to come. In general, the new situation effected library management, working routines and how libraries were used but there is also a sustainability aspect involved. This aspect may be more remarkable than expected.

Lockdown and other restrictions in society and library services had a great effect to library use. However, the breakdown was not as total as one might have expected since people learnt to use e-library where they could renew their loans and borrow e-books and other material.

The pandemic was a challenge to library management since services had to be reorganized. Another challenge was the explosive increase of information: regulations were changing fast. Also working routines in libraries changed. Remote works was a new recommendation, and all the meetings were held virtually.

The new situation had also an effect on sustainability. The lockdown had a great impact on traffic emissions but also on consumption. However, it also showed how important public libraries are for social sustainability. Hence, UN Sustainable Development Goals had new content and importance. The challenge may help public libraries to take the next steps in their sustainability work.

Parole-chiave / Keywords: 1) Public libraries; 2) Covid19; 3) Sustainability.