

## **The Pasts and Futures of the Library: A Call for Papers**

**Date:** March 11-12, 2022

**Location:** Pollak Library, California State University Fullerton

**Subject Fields:** Library Science, Information Science, Cultural History/Studies, World History/Studies, History of Technology, Sociology, Anthropology, Literature, Architectural/Art History

A library is a philosophical space and a physical place. Jorge Luis Borges imagined it as a universal logic in which all knowledge was recorded in a language of twenty-five orthographical symbols contained in books of identical length but unique symbolic permutation. For library historian Mostafa El-Abbadi, the ancient library of Alexandria was the inspiration for the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, whose striking design has now become a consequential place for Egyptian learning and culture. Chinese historian Xie Zhuo Hua saw the library as not only a symbol of cultural development but also the product of cultural practices that include collection, collation, and utilization. The little Free Libraries that dot neighborhoods in American cities are the material embodiment of community aspirations. Libraries are and have been all these things and more. Yet the future of the library has never looked more open. In this conference, we invite scholars from a wide range of fields including the humanities, social sciences, and information and library sciences, to explore the libraries of the past and to imagine the libraries of the future. How were and are libraries used? What do they provide access to and for whom? What have and should libraries contain, and who, if anyone, should own the rights to those materials? What is the relationship between the archive and the library? What kinds of practices do libraries enable and what kinds of practices maintain them? How does the spatial organization of the library shape its functions? And what kinds of technologies might it exploit in the future?

The conference is in-person, but will also include virtual presentations. Papers will be around 30 minutes in length including time for questions. Please send an abstract of not more than 250 words by 5pm PST November 29, 2021 to:

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