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| Speaker  | <p><b>Alison Nolan</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Title    | <b>Unlocking Potential – The Transformative Power of Scotland’s Libraries</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Bio      | <p>Alison Nolan MSocSc HDLIS ALAI is Chief Executive of the Scottish Library and Information Council (SLIC), bringing over 25 years of leadership in library, cultural, and learning services across Ireland and Scotland. At SLIC, she champions national initiatives that enhance library services and enrich Scotland’s cultural, educational, and economic life. A passionate advocate for libraries, Alison served as Vice Chair of the Association of Public Libraries in Scotland (2022–23), promoting key strategies such as Forward: Scotland’s Public Library Strategy 2021–2025 and aligning libraries with the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Internationally recognised for highlighting libraries’ roles in the circular economy, she was named CILIPS Scottish Library and Information Professional of the Year 2024 for advancing community wellbeing through strategic programming.</p> |
| Abstract | <p>In an era of rapid digital change, widening inequality, and evolving public expectations, Scotland’s libraries are not merely keeping pace—they are driving meaningful change across education, health, the economy, and climate action. With over 14.5 million visits last year and a demonstrated return of £6.95 for every £1 invested, libraries stand as vital public infrastructure. This presentation explores how libraries are delivering high-impact, data-informed services through cross-sector collaboration and staff innovation. Reimagined as inclusive community anchors, libraries now support wellbeing, culture, economic opportunity, and sustainability—while remaining rooted in their core values of access, equity, and inclusion. This evolving role makes them indispensable to national strategies aimed at building a fairer, more resilient Scotland.</p>                  |



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| <b>Title</b>    | <b>From Addis Ababa to Tashkent – Concepts and Spaces of Goethe-Institut Libraries</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Bio</b>      | Kerstin Wesendorf has been working for the Goethe-Institut for 30 years. She has headed libraries in Minsk, Beijing, and Warsaw, and has been based at the Goethe-Institut's headquarters in Munich for the past 12 years. There, she advises on the redesign and development of libraries, organizes professional training programs, facilitates exchange formats with colleagues worldwide, and represents the interests of the Goethe-Institut libraries in various internal and external projects.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Abstract</b> | The Goethe-Institut is the cultural institute of the Federal Republic of Germany, active worldwide. It promotes knowledge of the German language abroad, fosters international cultural cooperation, and conveys a comprehensive image of Germany. Given this mission, one might assume that the institutes—and their libraries—look quite similar across the global network, with comparable local priorities. But in reality, there are striking differences. Each library is developed with a user-centered approach, tailored to local conditions and needs. What are the spatial design priorities in Caracas or Beijing? How does a Franco-German creative lab in Nancy influence the library there? And why is there a multimedia studio in Addis Ababa? Join me on a journey through Goethe-Institut libraries across continents—and prepare to be surprised. <b>Speaker</b> |

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| Speaker  | <div>Kimmo Tuominen</div> <div></div>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Title    | Past, present and beyond: the role of the National Library of Finland in an evolving information ecosystem                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Bio      | Kimmo Tuominen was appointed as the National Librarian at the National Library of Finland from the 1st of June 2022. He has previously served as University Librarian at Helsinki University Library, director of the Jyväskylä University Library, head of reference and archival services at the Library of Parliament, director of the Faculty of Arts Library, and acting professor of communication (with an emphasis on information science) at the Department of Communication, University of Helsinki. He also holds a number of elected positions in Finland and abroad.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Abstract | An information ecosystem is the interconnected network of people, organizations, technologies, and resources involved in the creation, management, sharing, and preservation of information. In the context of the National Library of Finland (the NLF), the information ecosystem includes libraries, archives, museums, and their users—all collaborating and relying on shared services, standards, and digital platforms. This ecosystem thrives on cooperation, open data, and innovative tools, enabling each participant to fulfill their mission and ensuring that information and cultural heritage are accessible, reliable, and sustainable. The presentation highlights the evolving role of the NLF in supporting the Finnish information ecosystem. The focus is on the collaborative services, such as Finna and Melinda, which are made possible through funding, customer steering and strategic partnerships. Furthermore, the presentation explores how openness and open-source infrastructures help libraries to fulfill their missions more effectively. Looking ahead, the NLF aims to develop AI-driven metadata creation, permanent identifiers, and interoperability, among other things. |



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| Speaker  | <div>Felicidad Campal</div> <div></div>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Title    | Public Libraries: Silence or Noise, Reading or Creation, Individuality or Community?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Bio      | <p>I have a degree in Documentation Studies from the University of Salamanca. I began working at the Germán Sánchez Ruipérez Foundation and the University Library of Pamplona. Since 1995, I have worked in the Library Assistant Corps of the Regional Government of Castilla y León, as Library Assistant at the State Public Library in Salamanca, where I have been over 30 years. I also have lectured and published several articles on user training and information literacy (ALFIN), and I was Associate Professor at the University of Salamanca (2000–2011). From 2007 to 2018, I coordinated the Working Group on Information Literacy of the Spanish Library Cooperation Council (CCB) of the Ministry of Culture of Spain. Currently I co-direct Biblogtecarios, a cooperative blog and I am a board member of SEDIC. I believe in the educational, social, integrative, and equalizing power of libraries, and I’m an eternal learner and in a beta phase of constant renewal.</p> |
| Abstract | <p>Public libraries are no longer solely quiet spaces for reading—they are transforming into vibrant community hubs. Today, they promote inclusion, creativity, and collaborative learning, while preserving their essence as places of respect, reflection, and free access to knowledge. They offer accessible services for all, foster diversity, incorporate technology and creative workshops to spark innovation, maintain quiet zones for reading and study, and serve as gathering points for cultural and educational activities. Libraries no longer ask for silence—they ask for action and participation. Will you join in?</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

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| <b>Speaker</b>  | <p><b>Cecilia Cognigni</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Title</b>    | <b>The new vision and organization of Public Libraries in Turin. A process inspired by the design of the new Central Library.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Bio</b>      | <p>Cecilia Cognigni is the director of the Library Service of the City of Turin. With a degree in philosophy and specialist training in libraries and archives, she has developed specific expertise in cultural planning for libraries. For the City of Turin, she is overseeing the reorganization of the Urban Library System and the design of the new Central Library. She was coordinator of the National Public Libraries Commission of the Italian Library Association. She is the author of the publications “La Biblioteca raccontata a una ragazza venuta da lontano” (The Library explained to a girl from far away, Bibliografica, 2012), “L’azione culturale della biblioteca” (The cultural action of the Library, Bibliografica, 2014), “Come progettare le attività culturali della biblioteca” (How to plan cultural activities for the Library, Bibliografica, 2016), “La biblioteca pubblica come progetto” (The Public Library as a project, Bibliografica, 2023) and, with the National Commission for Public Libraries, the volume “Biblioteche per tutti. Servizi per lettori in difficoltà” (Libraries for everyone. Services for readers in difficulty", AIB, 2007). She was president of the Piedmont Section of the Italian Library Association.</p> |
| <b>Abstract</b> | <p>The project of the new Central Library in Valentino Park in a symbolic Building - Torino Esposizioni -, one of the most important city architecture of the 20th century, was a driver also for the strategic reorganization of the network of the Public and Special Libraries and for the new vision of services and activities. The City of Turin has recognized a central function for its strategic Plan Public Libraries, to improve the '15 minute city' Model, together with other European cities. The process was based on the Valorisation of the Role of Public Libraries in promoting urban Regeneration and Wellbeing.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

## Workshops

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| <b>Presenters</b> | <b>Kerstin Wesendorf &amp; Nikoletta Stathopoulou</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Title</b>      | <b>Shaping the Future Together – A Workshop for the Strategic Development of Libraries</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Abstract</b>   | This workshop offers an inspiring and participatory format designed to foster open dialogue around the future of library spaces. At its core are five guiding questions—referred to as “waves”—that encourage reflection on key dimensions of library development: collaboration, audience interaction, program formats, innovation, and spatial design. Through targeted prompts and interactive discussion, participants are invited to critically examine existing concepts and collaboratively envision new possibilities. The format creates space for dialogue, self-reflection, and constructive critique, with particular value emerging from the exchange between long-standing and new library staff. Their diverse perspectives enrich the conversation and help shape forward-looking ideas. The five “waves” serve as an initial impulse and orientation, guiding the workshop toward meaningful exploration and strategic thinking about the evolving role of libraries. |

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| <b>Presenter</b> | <b>Felicidad Campal</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Title</b>     | <b>Engaging Communities: Co-Creating Library Services with and for Citizens</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Abstract</b>  | <p>Ideal for librarians looking to rethink their role as facilitators, connectors, and co-creators of public value. Public libraries today are more than places for books—they are platforms for community connection, learning, and participation. This workshop is designed to help librarians develop services and activities that are not only aimed “at” the public but are created “with” the public. Participants will explore principles of co-creation, participatory design, and community engagement. Through practical tools, group exercises, and inspiring case studies from other libraries, attendees will learn how to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Identify community needs and priorities using inclusive and participatory methods.</li> <li>- Build partnerships with local organizations, groups, and individuals.</li> <li>- Design services that reflect the diversity, interests, and voices of the community.</li> <li>- Foster a sense of ownership and shared responsibility among citizens.</li> <li>- Create low-cost, high-impact programs that strengthen trust and social cohesion.</li> </ul> <p>The workshop emphasizes equity, dialogue, and collaboration, aiming to position the library as a civic space that evolves with—and through—its community.</p> |