



OCCUPY LIBRARY Concludes with Resounding Success

Milan, 2024 June 3th – Associazione Biblioteche oggi and Progress Foundation are pleased to announce the successful conclusion of Occupy Library 2024, which took place on May 29th at the Castello Sforzesco. The conference brought together over 80 participants from public libraries and academic libraries, foundations and industry to discuss the latest advancements in “Libraries as spaces for digital transformation and community wellbeing”.

This year's conference featured high-level interventions including 2 keynote speeches, 4 panel discussions with 15 presentations from all over the world and a direct live connection with the Dutch Annual Library. The conference has covered a wide range of topics such as *Adapting Libraries to Changing Technological and Societal Trends*, *Enhancing Access and Inclusivity through Digital Initiatives*, *Libraries as safe spaces for Community Empowerment and Education*, *Engagement, Lifelong Learning and Soft Skills Development*. Distinguished speakers from renowned institutions and companies, including Jill Bourne - Director of the San Jose Public Libraries, and Valeria Abdal - Co-Founder of “Children of Heroes” Charity Fund, shared their insights and research findings with an engaged audience.

Highlights of the Conference

- Keynote Presentations: inspiring talks by leading experts in the field, including the evolving values of libraries and investing in the future of Ukraine's war-impacted children.
- Panel Discussions: lively and informative discussions on critical issues such as technological change, lifelong learning, community wellbeing and libraries as safe spaces for community empowerment and education.
- Workshop: an interactive session to explore the future of libraries with leading experts in the field.
- Speeches by the contributors: BBF has talked about bespoke library environments and DM Cultura about his role in fostering the digital transition across european cultural institutes.

Participants praised the conference for its well-organized schedule, high-quality presentations, and the opportunity to network with peers and leaders in the field. Occupy Library 2024 provided an exceptional platform for exchanging ideas and fostering collaborations. The quality of the presentations and the diversity of topics covered were truly impressive.

In addition to the formal sessions, attendees had the opportunity to engage in various networking events, including a welcome dinner and a guided tour in the city which facilitated the exchange of ideas in a more informal setting.

Looking Forward

Building on the success of this year's event, Associazione Biblioteche oggi and Progress Foundation are already planning the 2026 edition of Occupy Library, which promises to be even more impactful and inclusive. Details regarding the dates and location of the next conference will be announced in the coming months.





About Occupy Library 2024

Occupy Library is an event set out by the Progress Foundation and the Associazione Biblioteche oggi in partnership with Next Library, the important international meeting of library professionals that takes place every two years at the Aarhus Public Libraries in Denmark.

Occupy Library is dedicated to advancing an international network – in the Southern Europe, Eastern Europe and Mediterranean area – of library professionals, innovators and decision makers through high-quality conferences, publications, and professional development opportunities. For more information about our upcoming events and initiatives, please visit our [website](#).

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