

Public Libraries: Silence or Noise, Reading or Creation, Individuality or Community?

by Felicidad Campal

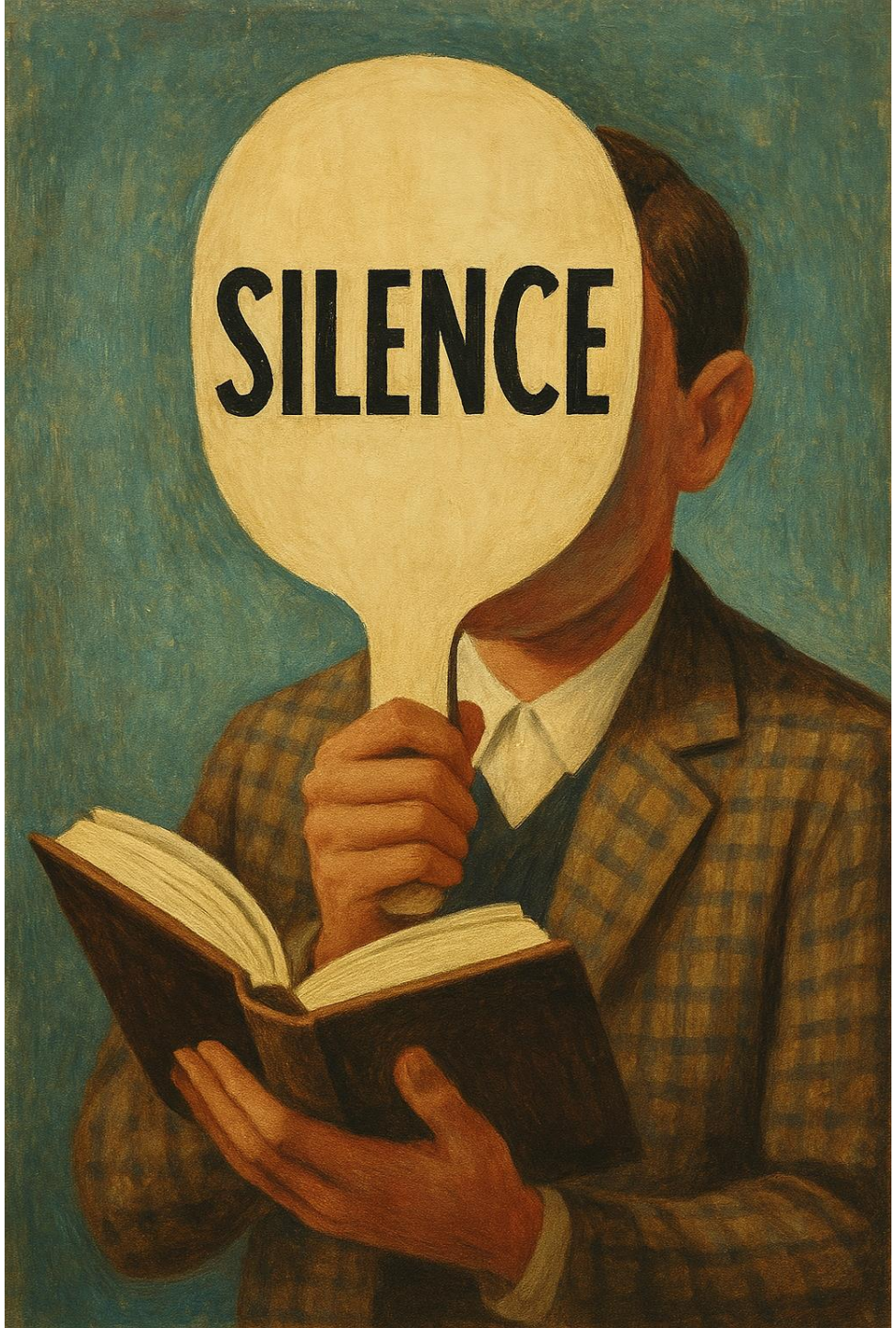
IG:felicidad.campal
X:fcampal

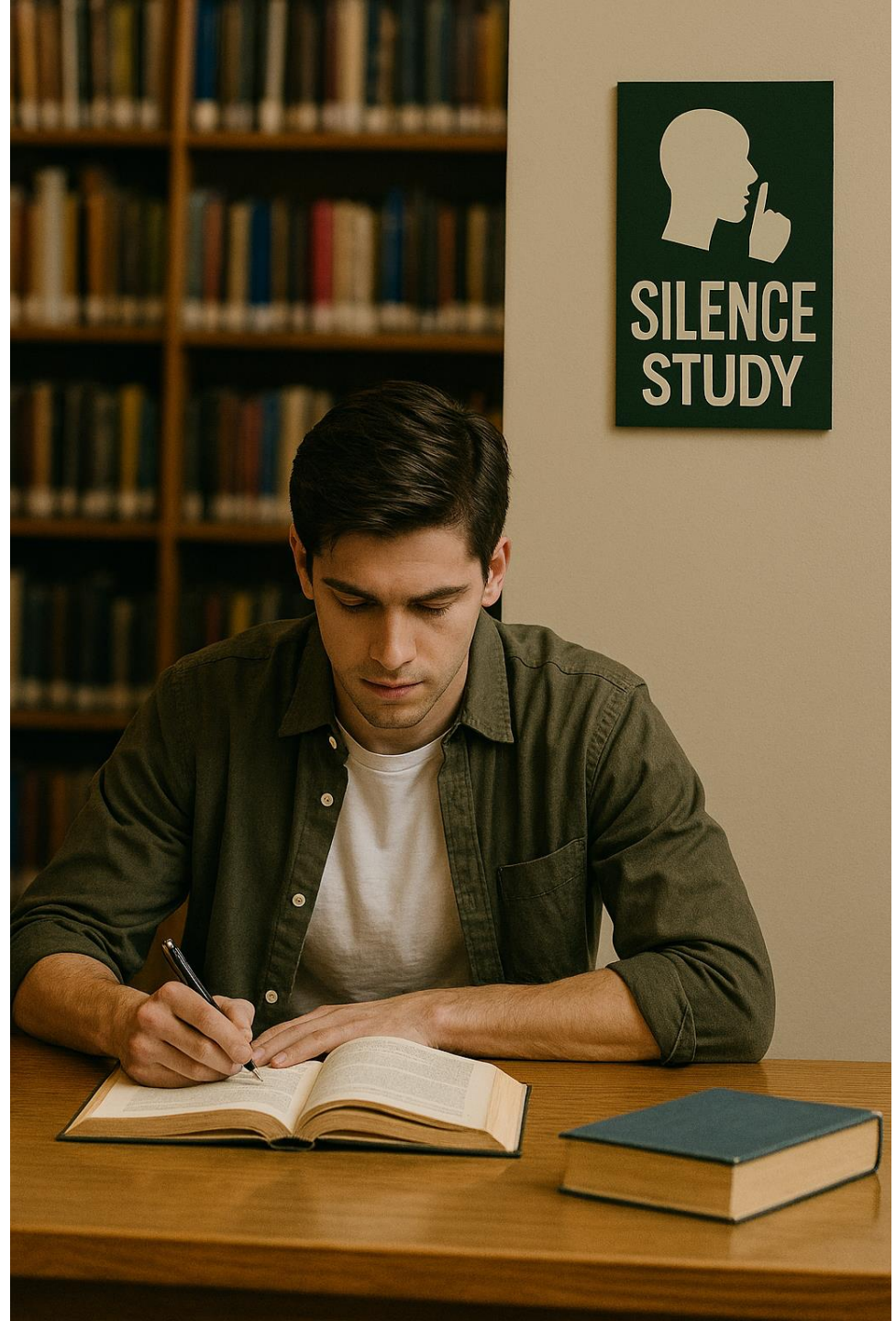
Εθνική Βιβλιοθήκη ΕΒΕ της Ελλάδος
National NLG Library of Greece

Athens, 1-2 December 2025

Let me start with a sort of game…

- If I say Library you say…


SILENCE


SILENCE
STUDY

Kurtis Fabela says…

- Libraries as a Public Place, Third Places
- The Library as a curator and Facilitator of Education
- The Library as a Free, Community and Public Space
- The Library's Role in Reflecting the Community and its Needs
- The Library and the Internet (AI)
- The Library's Relationship with the Community

- Beyond the Shelves: An Examination of Public Libraries - Unveiling Perceptions and Place Identity

And I say… Libraries as:

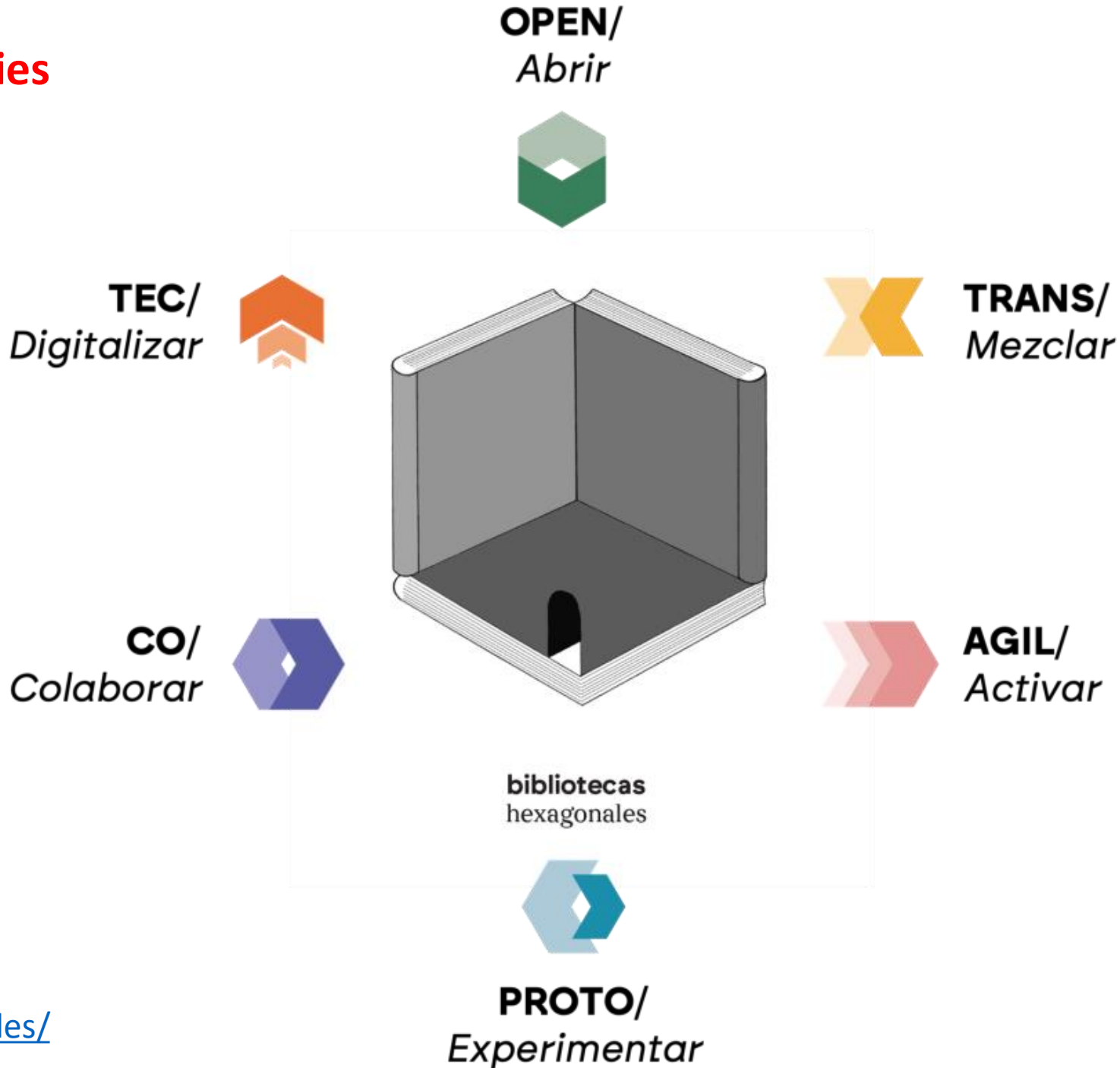
- Cultural Centers
- Information Centers
- Spaces of Inclusion and Equality
- Learning Spaces
- Meeting Points
- Spaces for Civic Participation
- Institutions that integrate the principles of environmental, social, and economic sustainability into their operations, services, and mission.

How is this vision put into practice?

- Balanced collections
- Spaces and activities
- Training and awareness
- Partnerships
- Accessibility
- Adaptation to the community needs

The HIP Model and Hexagonal Libraries

Raúl Oliván Cortés
Yolanda Puchades Asensi



https://edicionsedic.es/clip/article/view/151

https://labsbibliotecarios.es/bibliotecas-hexagonales/

The HIP Model and Hexagonal Libraries

- Hexagonal Libraries are an adaptation of the Public Innovation Hexagon HIP model to library environments. The six vectors applied to libraries are defined as follows:

- **OPEN:** The library's ability to generate conversation and communicate with its territory.
- **TRANS / mix:** The extent to which the library integrates diverse knowledge and experiences present in its community.
- **CO / collaborate:** The library's ability to connect different types of knowledge and experiences, contributing to theexperiences, contributing to the strengthening of its communities.
- **FAST / agil:** The library's ability to streamline its mangement and facilitate people's lives.
- **PROTO / experiment:** The extent to which the library serves as a space that fosters experimentation.
- **TEC / digitize:** The extent to which the library works with digital environments to enhance communication or simplify processes.

- https://labsbibliotecarios.es/bibliotecas-hexagonales/



Some inspiring examples and ideas…

Libraries as Cultural Centers and learning spaces

- "**BNEscolar**" from the National Library of Spain.
- BNEscolar is the National Library of Spain's initiative to encourage the integration and use of digital cultural heritage in educational settings.
- Promotes the presence and use of digital cultural heritage in school teaching and learning.
- https://bnescolar.bne.es/



Libraries as Cultural and Reading Centers

- **Summer Reading at the Manzanares Library** won Maria Moliner Prize 2023
- As part of the “Biblioverano” summer program, the Lope de Vega Municipal Public Library hosts various reading promotion workshops to encourage the habit among young children during the holidays.



https://www.cultura.gob.es/servicios-al-ciudadano/catalogo/general/20/202093/ficha/202093-2025.html

Libraries as Reading Centers

- "**Al aire libro**" is a reading and creativity program held in parks and green spaces across Salamanca, designed to encourage families to read together from early childhood.
- During the month of August, these activities moved to Jesuitas Park in order to reach different neighborhoods throughout the city.

https://www.menudaessalamanca.com/vuelve-al-aire-libro-a-los-parques-de-salamanca/



Libraries as Spaces of Inclusion and Equality

- **Marcel·lí Domingo Library of Tortosa (Tarragona),** and the project "Intergenerational Bonds: Our Grandparents encourage Us to Read."
- The Main goal is to foster a love of reading among young children and to highlight the role of grandparents in our society, while also recognizing the emotional and social aspects that arise from the creation of affectionate bonds between generations.

- The specific **objectives** to the library are:
  - Transform it into an agent that contributes to promoting social integration and participation in society
  - Support the achievement of the 2030 sustainable Development Goals
  - Promote reading as a tool for developing basic competencies among students
  - Work in coordination with the municipality's schools
  - Encourage active aging



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I9RIjVTMeco

https://www.ccbiblio.es/ganadores-y-finalistas-del-sello-ccb-2023/

Libraries as Spaces of Inclusion and Equality

- “We’re in Glory,” “More Rhymes, Less Drama,” “Feeling a Bit Lorca,” “Instead of WhatsApping, Start Rhyming,” and “Poetry, Joy for the Day” are some of the banners that, in march were prepared by the young people from ASPACE (Cerebral Palsy Association of Salamanca) and library users of all ages in Villamayor to take to the streets the poetry.
- On Poetry Day, the goal was to go out into the streets and hold a Poetry Demonstration as a way to celebrate the day and advocate for poetry.
- **The local library of Villamayor (Salamanca)** organized a protest-style event that saw strong participation from schools and library users.



https://www.facebook.com/bibliotecavillamayor/photos/manifestaci%C3%B3n-por-la-poes%C3%ADa-vega-y-ainara-son-hermanas-y-usuarias-de-la-bibliote/1042110817951958/

Spaces of Inclusion and Equality

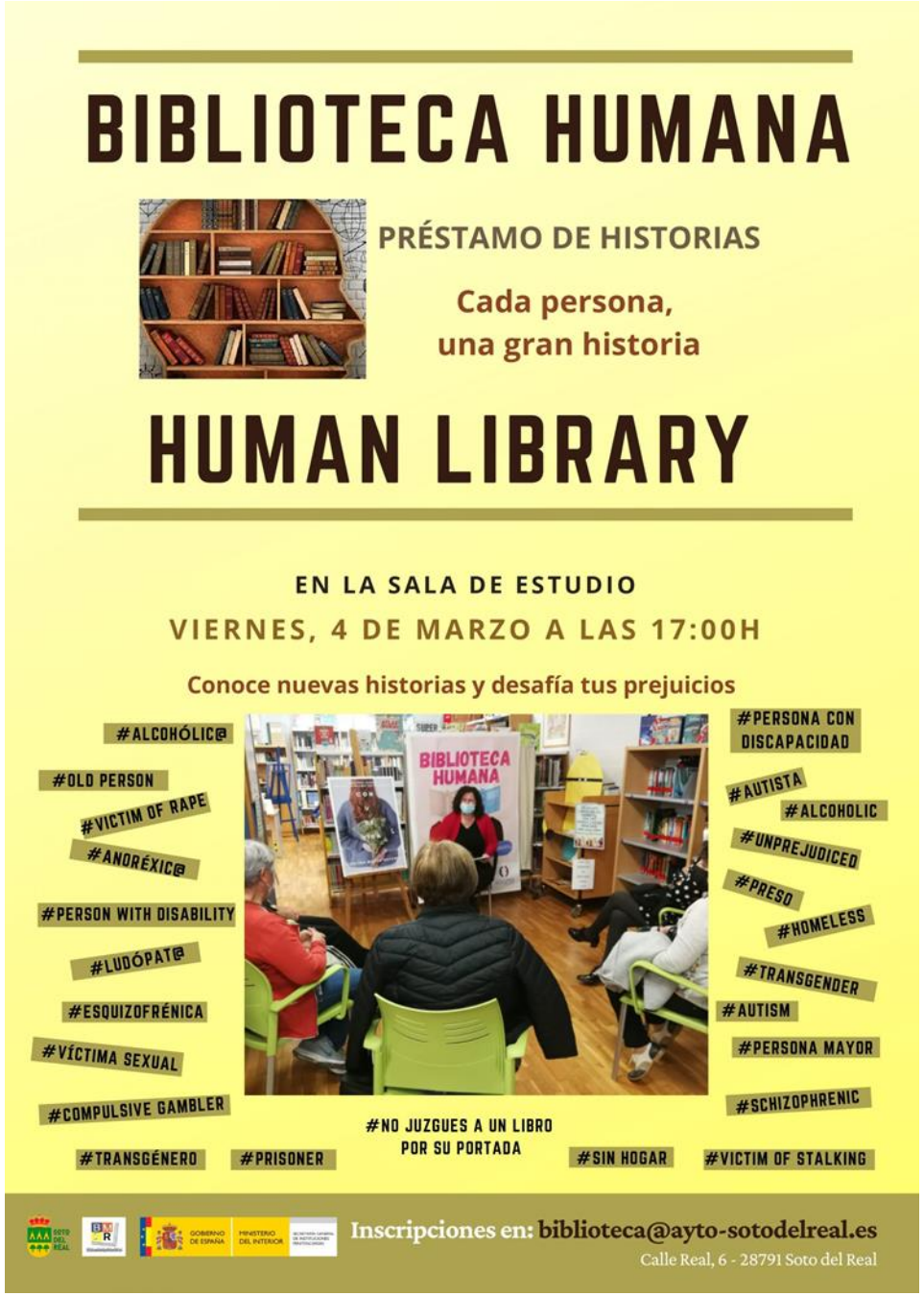
- **Municipal Public Library of Soto del Real** – Pedro de Lorenzo (Madrid), with its project "**Stories That weave Lives**," which includes numerous socially oriented and reading promotion initiatives.



- **1. Healing Reads:** A project carried out in collaboration with the local health center. The library has installed bookshelves at the center, and healthcare professionals will prescribe books and conduct a bibliotherapy research project.
- **2. Bibliotherapy for Seniors**: A program aimed at elderly residents living in care homes, since 2013.
- 3**. Stories by Phone**: An adaptation of the previous project during the pandemic, in which library volunteers read stories over the phone to residents and elderly individuals living alone in their homes.



- https://www.ccbiblio.es/wp-content/uploads/1734_Bpub_hasta10000_BibliotecaMunicipalSotodelReal.pdf



4. Books That break Walls: A project created in collaboration with the Madrid V penitentiary center. It includes various activities: a mixed reading club for inmates and library users, literary workshops, and a "**human library**" initiative.

5. Stories That weave Lives: This initiative involves recording videos of inmates reading stories to their children. After editing, the videos are sent to the families along with the book that was read. It is designed for inmates who have no contact with their families and aims to create emotional bonds through the tread of storytelling.

6. Glass Poems: This project transforms shop windows throughout the municipality into pages for writing poems.



https://www.ccbiblio.es/wp-content/uploads/1734_Bpub_hasta10000_BibliotecaMunicipalSotodelReal.pdf

Libraries as Spaces of Inclusion and Equality

- **A mobile library (Bibliobús) provides service to the Penitentiary Center of León.**
- The UNESCO Manifesto on the Public Library (2022**)** does not overlook the prison population as recipients of library services. In Spain, by law, prisons are not only required to have a library, but they also receive services from external public libraries.
- Examples include the **Municipal Public Library of Dueñas (Palencia)**, which runs reading clubs at the Moraleja Penitentiary Center, and the **Municipal Public Library of Soto del Real (Madrid)**, which offers a Human Library program at the Madrid V Penitentiary Center.
- https://www.biblogtecarios.es/robertosoto/un-bibliobus-da-servicio-al-centro-penitenciario-de-leon/



Physically Accessible Libraries

- The **Municipal Library of O Porriño** (Pontevedra) has set up a street-level parking area to facilitate quick errands for its users.



Libraries as Learning spaces

- **“Connected Seniors” at the Ángel González Municipal Public Library in Madrid.**
- The library has dedicated a significant portion of its resources to supporting its older residents, aiming to **alleviate their concerns about the digital divide as much as possible and fulfill the public library’s social function**.
- In terms of specific objectives aligned with the 2030 Agenda, include:
  - Integrating older adults into the digital world, improving their use of basic technology.
  - Ensuring access to information, education, healthcare, and communication at any age.
  - Addressing social needs and demands to access increasingly digitalized services: healthcare, interactions with public and private entities, and communication with others.
  - Promoting social, economic, and political inclusion for all individuals, regardless of age, by providing autonomy in daily activities and helping them remain active participants in their life choices.



https://www.rebiun.org/noticias/2023/fallo-del-v-premio-rebiun

Libraries as Meeting & Cultural Points

The **Gabriel García Márquez Public Library** in Barcelona was inaugurated on May 28, 2022. In 2023, this new cultural icon of the city was awarded with the international prize for Best New Public Library by IFLA.



https://www.gabarcelona.com/es/blog/biblioteca-gabriel-garcia-marquez/

https://youtu.be/Qcl7fS4ORP4

Libraries as Spaces for Civic Participation



- **The San Fermín Library (Madrid)** was born out of a participatory design process in which local residents and community organizations collaborated to shape its structure.
- More broadly, “participatory budgeting” refers to a democratic mechanism through which citizens decide how public resources are invested—a model applied in many places that can include projects for libraries or any other type of public infrastructure.





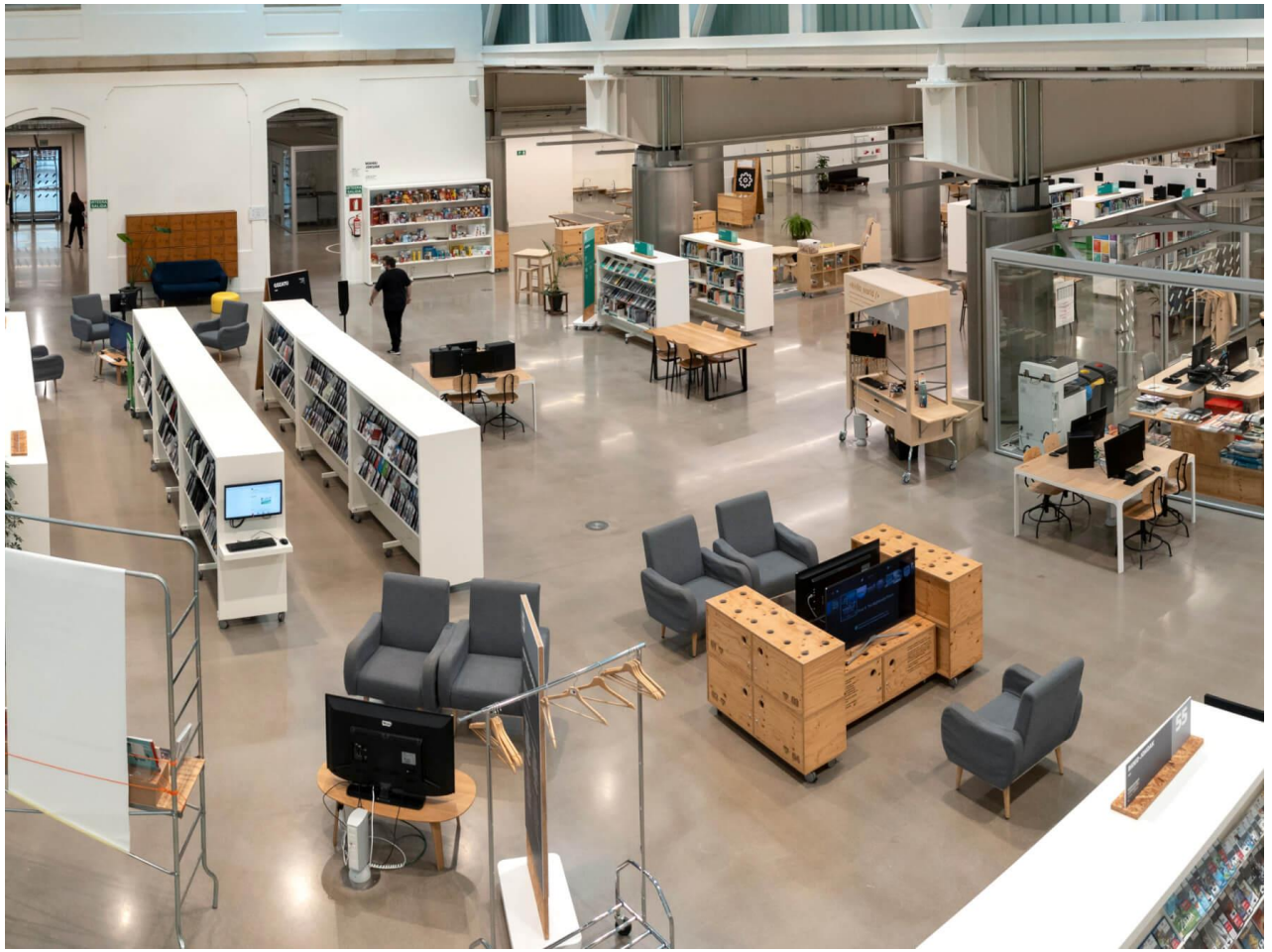




https://www.fesabid.org/wp-content/uploads/repositorio/biblioteca_san_fermin.pdf

Libraries as Spaces for Civic Participation & Creation

- **MEDIALAB (San Sebastian**), is an open space for citizen creation and experimentation.
- Medialab provides knowledge, technology, and spaces to facilitate learning processes, generate knowledge, experiment, and develop projects. It fosters and nurtures communities and local networks as key elements in social transformation.
- Through **Inclusive Medialab**, they aim to place artistic, cultural, and creative resources in the hands of people of all ages, backgrounds, and statuses, building community relationships based on respect and equality through art and creation.
- It was a finalist in the 4th edition of the "Public Library and Social Commitment" Award in 2017.



https://www.tabakalera.eus/es/medialab

Libraries as Spaces for Civic Participation

- **Library Labs (LABBBs)** is a project promoted by the Directorate General for Books, Comics, and Reading through the Subdirectorate General for Library General for Library Coordination (Ministry of Culture, Spain).
- It was launched in 2017 in collaboration with Medialab Prado, with the aim of strengthening the idea of the library as a space for citizens to come together and develop shared projects.
- https://labsbibliotecarios.es/



Sustaniable libraries

- **The Palma Can Sales Public Library and its project "Bibliotherapy– Mental Health**"!, a collaboration between the Palma Public Library and the Psychiatry Unit of the Son Llàtzer Day Hospital.
- Its goal is to promote reading as a therapeutic activity for the emotional well-being of patients.



https://bibliotecas-sostenibles.org/

Sustaniable libraries

- The **Municipal Public Library of Cenizate (Albacete, Castilla La Mancha) and its “Biblio-bike” Project!. The “Biblio-bike**” service, launched in 2015, in 2015, offers home delivery and lending of library materials, designed especially for residents who face difficulties in visiting the library—whether due to limited mobility, scheduling conflicts, or other reasons.

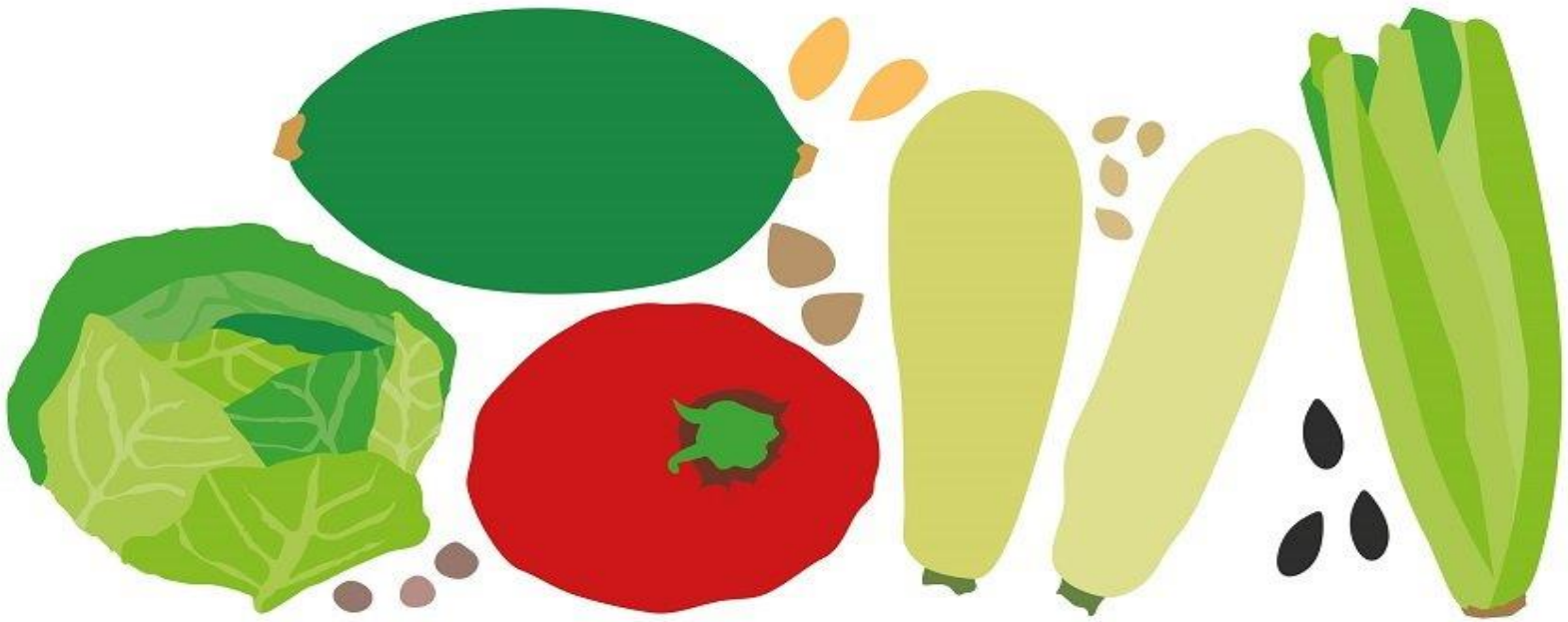
https://bibliotecas-sostenibles.org/



Sustaniable &Healthy Libraries

- “Libraries and Seeds. Liburutegiak eta haziak” is a project by the **Public Library Network of Navarra in collaboration with the Navarra Seed Network**.
- Its aim is to blend and enrich the culture associated with the urban, the intellectual, and the inanimate with the land, the rural, everyday and ancestral knowledge, and the living; to shake that imaginary jar and pause to observe the results.

Biblioteca de Semillas Hazien Liburutegia



https://www.culturanavarra.es/es/biblioteca-de-semillas

Healing Libraries

- **“Literary remedies for everyday ailments” is the motto of the” is the motto of the initiative launched by the Municipal Library of Peñaranda de Bracamonte (Salamanca)**
- The bibliotherapy project proposes prescribing books as a way to books as a way to address, initially, the most common issues affecting people. The central idea is to offer books as healing pills to combatto combat anxiety, insomnia, stress, insomnia, stress, and the rush of daily life.



https://www.biblogtecarios.es/firmasinvitadas/biblioterapia-remedios-literarios-para-males-ordinarios/

José Luis Sánchez, librarian of Municipal Library of Peñaranda de Bracamonte

Libraries full of colours

- The **Violet Bookshelf is an initiative by the Regional Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports of Castilla-La Mancha**, framed within the actions of the State Pact against gender-based violence and carried out through the **Public Libraries of Castilla-La Mancha**



https://reddebibliotecas.castillalamancha.es/proyectos/la-estanteria-violeta

Libraries full of colours



Across the entire network of **Municipal Public Libraries of the Madrid City Council,** we maintain an LGTBIQ+ collection.
They are committed to diversity and equality, with an LGTBIQ+ collection of more than 4,000 documents.
https://bibliotecas.madrid.es/portales/bibliotecas/es/Te-recomendamos/BibliOrgullo/?vgnextfmt=default&vgnextoid=38c9a71e6c8c4810VgnVCM2000001f4a900aRCRD&vgnextchannel=225a0b6eb5cb3510VgnVCM1000008a4a900aRCRD

The library as a business model…

- The library invests its budget in local businesses: bookstores, artists, theater and music companies, computer shops, supply stores, plumbers, builders...





Is all of this possible in a single library? Not everything, but some of it—yes.”





https://bibliotecas.jcyl.es/web/es/bibliotecasalamanca/biblioteca-publica-salamanca.html






TEATRO
NARRATIVA




37 EDUCACION








ENSAYO

Library is…



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=It8h3TTvK6I&t=3s



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=76ensIObpxk



https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=344070827320151

Library is for Reading…



8 Reading clubs



Asprodes El Arca, Spanish organization supporting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, visit the Salamanca Public Library, Casa de las Conchas, and discover that it is also #theirhome.

https://fb.watch/COf0--9CY8/



3 “Easy reading book clubs

A new group at the Salamanca Public Library, Casa de las Conchas. They are members of Alcer Salamanca, a semi-supervised or semi-autonomous club for people with organic disabilities (kidney transplant recipients).

https://www.facebook.com/reel/1811134916143947

Library is tales…



https://youtu.be/CNIYNuu8nC4



Library is literature



Escrituras de hoy

REALIDAD REMIX:
ENTRE LO ÍNTIMO Y LO SOCIAL

JUEVES, 24 DE ABRIL 19:30 h
FICCIÓN CRÓNICA CONVERSACIÓN CON
MERCEDES CEBRIÁN Y **GABRIELA WIENER**
MODERA: João de Sousa Guerreiro

VIERNES, 25 DE ABRIL 19:30 h
LENGUAJE PENSADO CONVERSACIÓN CON
VÍCTOR BERMÚDEZ Y **ANTONIO DÍAZ MOLA**
MODERA: João de Sousa Guerreiro

Coordinación **JOÃO DE SOUSA GUERREIRO**

BIBLIOTECA PUBLICA DE SALAMANCA "CASA DE LAS CONCHAS"
SALÓN DE ACTOS
24 Y **25** DE **ABRIL** DE **2025**

Abril 2025
Salamanca, Biblioteca Pública "Casa de las Conchas" C/Compañía, 2. 37002. SALAMANCA. www.bibliotecas.jcyl.es/salamanca

Library is for writing and speaking



3 writings workshops



Conversations in several languages



Conversations in spanish for strangers

Library is reading





Library is reading

DÍA DE LAS ESCRITORAS

1975: ¡Escribid, compañeras!



Lecturas en voz alta

MARTES
14 OCTUBRE
18:00 H

SALA DE INFORMACIÓN
BIBLIOTECA PÚBLICA DE SALAMANCA
CASA DE LAS CONCHAS

OCTUBRE 2025
www.bibliotecas.jcyl.es/salamanca

Coorganizan:



24/10/25
17:00 h
Salón de actos
Entrada libre

Fiesta de la lectura



Trae un **libro** y léelo durante 20 minutos.
Comparte con otro lector una **conversación** durante 15 minutos en los que comentaréis vuestras lecturas.

Repite el proceso todo lo que quieras.

BIBLIOTECA PÚBLICA DE SALAMANCA
CASA DE LAS CONCHAS
C/ Compañía, 2. 37002 Salamanca | 923269317 | bibliotecas.jcyl.es/salamanca

Library is for learning

(Des)información

TU BIBLIOTECA, A TU LADO



Verdad o Ficción

Aprende a detectar la desinformación

**¿Sabes distinguir una noticia real de una manipulada?
¿Te has preguntado cómo las redes sociales y la inteligencia artificial influyen en lo que creemos?
En este taller gratuito te daremos las respuestas.**

**1 taller, 2 sesiones, diferentes contenidos
| 21 y 28 de octubre | 10:00 a 12:00 h**

20 plazas | Inscripciones: formulario web

BIBLIOTECA PÚBLICA DE SALAMANCA
CASA DE LAS CONCHAS
C/ Compañía, 2. 37002 Salamanca | 923269317 | bibliotecas.jcyl.es/salamanca

Biblioteca Pública de Salamanca · Junta de Castilla y León

TECNOLOGÍAS PARA LA VIDA COTIDIANA

HERRAMIENTAS Y HABILIDADES — OCTUBRE 2025

SESIÓN ÚNICA DE DOS HORAS A ELEGIR HORARIO

JUEVES 2	**APP SACYL CONECTA** Gestionar citas médicas, acceder a informes, analíticas y añadir usuarios.	10:00 a 12:00 17:00 a 19:00
JUEVES 9	**SACA PARTIDO DE LA CÁMARA Y EL EDITOR DE FOTOS DE TU MÓVIL (Android)** Configurar la cámara. Herramientas del editor de fotos y vídeos.	10:00 a 12:00 17:00 a 19:00
JUEVES 16	**TU IDENTIDAD EN INTERNET Y NETIQUETA EN REDES SOCIALES** Qué es la identidad digital. Buen uso de la netiqueta en las redes sociales.	10:00 a 12:00 17:00 a 19:00
JUEVES 23	**NAVEGA CON SEGURIDAD EN INTERNET** Reconocer y evitar riesgos. Prevención de estafas y suplantación de identidad.	10:00 a 12:00 17:00 a 19:00
JUEVES 30	**NOVEDADES DE WHATSAPP** (Para quien ya domina un poco la APP) Tener dos cuentas. Enviar archivos, mensajes de vídeo y voz. Interacción con la IA.	10:00 a 12:00 17:00 a 19:00

INSCRIPCIONES:

Formulario web:

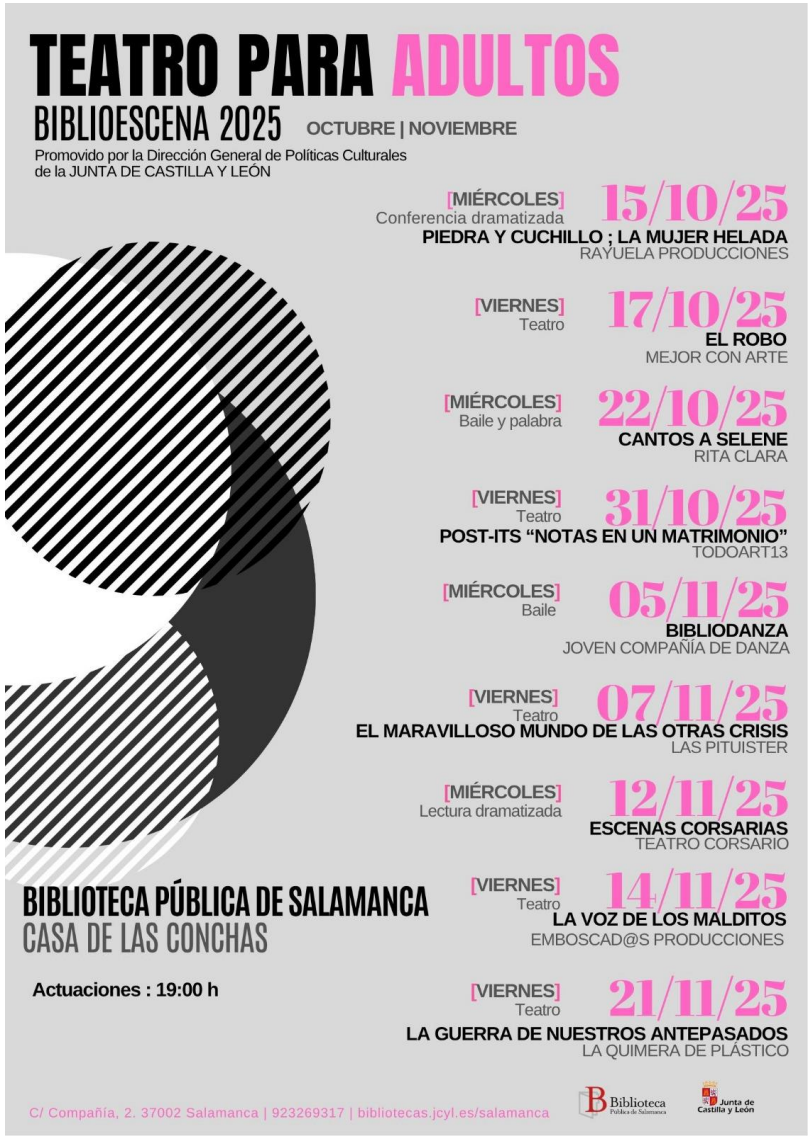
Grupos de 12 personas

Dudas y + información: Servicio de Información y por teléfono

BIBLIOTECA PÚBLICA DE SALAMANCA
CASA DE LAS CONCHAS
Octubre 2025
C/ Compañía, 2. 37002 Salamanca | 923269317 | bibliotecas.jcyl.es/salamanca

Biblioteca Pública de Salamanca · Junta de Castilla y León

Library is theatre & cine



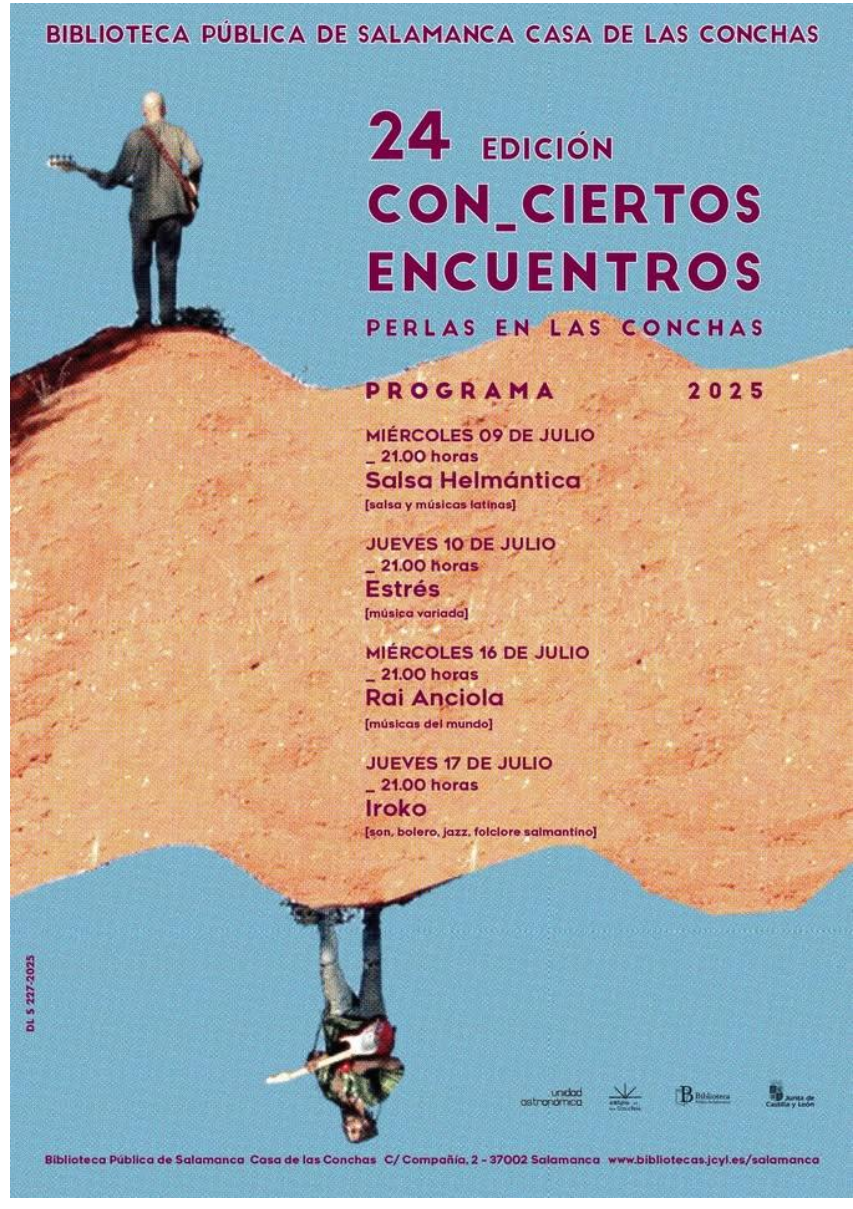




Library is music







Library is radio





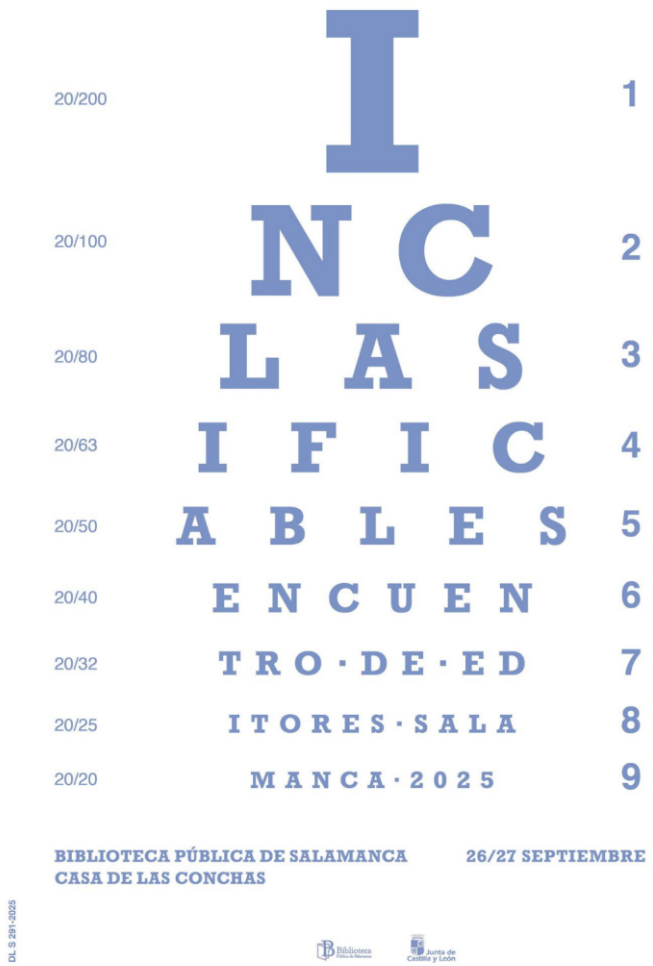
RADIO USAL EN LAS CONCHAS

radio USAL
casa de las conchas
caja de resonancia

https://radio.usal.es/programa/caja-de-resonancia/

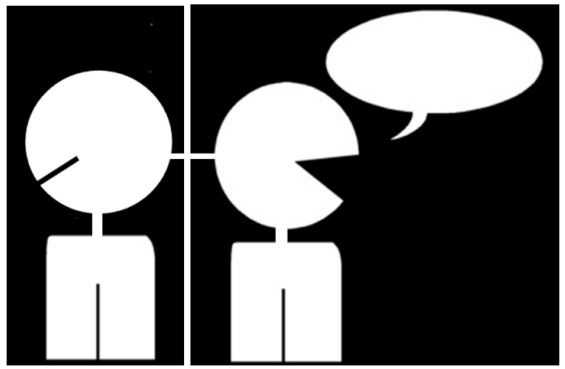
Library is debate & exchange





DEJARSE HABLAR

Debates públicos



Nunca la gente es tan inteligente, honrada y ocurrente, como en el momento en que rompe a hablar, o a callar, o a suspirar, o a reír, en medio de una reunión pública.

16 de octubre	*Malismo*
30 de octubre	*Yo viajo, vosotros hacéis turismo*
6 de noviembre	*¿Tenemos alma?*
4 de diciembre	*Los fuegos de la envidia*
18 de diciembre	*IA: ¿el mejor invento o el principio del fin?*

19:00 h | Salón de actos | Entrada libre hasta completar aforo

BIBLIOTECA PÚBLICA DE SALAMANCA
CASA DE LAS CONCHAS
C/ Compañía, 2. 37002 Salamanca | 923269317 | bibliotecas.jcyl.es/salamanca

Biblioteca Pública de Salamanca
Junta de Castilla y León

Library is community…







And your library is?

- Bad
- Good
- Great

- "Bad libraries build collections, good libraries build services, great libraries build communities." R. David Lankes


Thank
You!