Artificial Intelligence in Libraries

GOETHE-INSTITUT ATHEN

Monday 2 December 2024

09:00 - 09:45: *Registration*

10:00 - 10:15: *Welcome addresses*
   Bettina Wenzel, Head of Information Region South East Europe
   Nikos Bakounakis, Emeritus Professor at Panteion University, writer and president of the Board of the Hellenic Foundation for Book and Culture

10:15 - 11:30: *Session 1*. Moderator: **Nikoletta Stathopoulou**, Head of Information & Library, Goethe-Institut Athen

10:15 - 10:45: **Frank Seeliger**, Wildauer University Library
   AI and Libraries - Falling Behind, Stumbling, or Leading the Way?

10:45 - 11:30: **Mia Ridge**, The British Library
   AI at the British Library: lessons from a decade of digital scholarship

11:30 - 12:00: *Coffee Break*

12:00 - 13:30: *Session 2*. Moderator: **Georgia Angelaki**, National Documentation Centre

12:00 - 12:45: **William Jensen Mangerøy**, University of Bergen Library
   The Artificial Librarian: Possibilities and Attitudes Towards AI-based Cataloguing Work

12:45 - 13:30: **George Giannakopoulos**, researcher at Demokritos and CEO of SciFY
   Artificial intelligence and libraries: a virtuous cycle

13:30 - 14:15: *Lunch Break*

14:15 - 16:30: *Session 3*. Moderator: **Vasilis Tsiboukis**, Public Engagement Specialist, American Spaces Programs, Public Affairs, U.S. Embassy, Athens

14:15 - 15:00: **Eleni Xanthopoulou**, Press & Media Assistant at the Public Diplomacy Section, U.S. Embassy in Athens
Empowering Libraries with AI: Practical Applications for Media and Information Management

15:00 - 15:45: **Angeliki Kosmopoulou,** Story strategist and philanthropy advisor
Libraries at an Intersection: AI and the Future of Narrative

15:45 - 16:30: **Cecilio Angulo**, Professor from the Polytechnic University of Catalonia
AI supporting readers in libraries

16:30 - 17:00: *Break*

17:00 - 18:00: Round table discussion with speakers. Moderator: **Maria Kamilaki**, Deputy Head of the Directorate General for Electronic Administration, Library & Publications of the Hellenic Parliament

18:00: *Conference concludes*

The language of the conference will be English.

Artificial Intelligence in Libraries

GOETHE-INSTITUT ATHEN

Monday 2 December 2024

Abstracts and Speakers

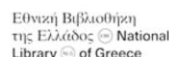| Speaker	Frank Seeliger
Title	**AI and Libraries – Falling Behind, Stumbling, or Leading the Way?**
Bio	Frank Seeliger was born and raised in the former GDR, where he also learned the profession of electrician. After the fall of the Berlin Wall, he first studied electrical engineering in Leipzig and then worked as an electrician at the German-Sorbian Volkstheater in Bautzen. After studying ethnology and geography in Bonn, he completed his doctorate in Ulm on a region in the western Himalayas. Since 2006, he has been head of the Wildauer University Library, which was also named Library of the Year in Germany in 2012. Since 2015, the part-time master's degree program in library informatics has been offered in Wildau, which a Greek woman has already tried her hand at! For several years he was involved in the committee work of the Goethe-Institut. He is currently the chairman of the board of trustees of one of the six library networks that exist in Germany for the Berlin and Brandenburg region.
Abstract	Libraries worldwide are striving to keep up with the latest developments related to artificial intelligence technologies and to find their own paths. Formulating strategic goals has not yet been successful, but many pragmatic approaches offer good examples. The lecture will focus on how German libraries are dealing with this challenge, while also daring to look beyond the horizon.

Speaker	Mia Ridge
Title	**AI at the British Library: lessons from a decade of digital scholarship**
Bio	Dr Mia Ridge is the British Library's Digital Curator for Western Heritage Collections. As part of the Library's Digital Scholarship team, she helps enable innovative research based on the British Library's digital collections, offering support, training and

	guidance on applying computational research methods to historical collections.
Abstract	Mia will describe experiments with big data, machine learning and data science at the British Library over the past decade, culminating in the Living with Machines project, a collaboration with the Alan Turing Institute and partner universities developing data science methods for historical research at scale. Her talk will position this work within the wider context of collections and data-driven research in digital scholarship at the British Library, and will discuss how the British Library ensures staff have the skills to support research projects that integrate digital methods, including emerging machine learning and AI tools.

Speaker	William Jensen Mangerøy
Title	**The Artificial Librarian: Possibilities and Attitudes Towards AI-based Cataloguing Work**
Bio	William Jensen Mangerøy is a Senior Executive Officer and Head of Acquisitions at the University of Bergen Library, responsible for managing acquisitions to the library's physical and electronic collections. Originally educated as a historian with a master's degree in of modern Sudanese political history, chance employment at the University Library led to a strong interest, and further education, in metadata and cataloging, and a curiosity as to how new technologies be utilized to make the library collections more accessible. He has been co-responsible for establishing the project "The Artificial Librarian: Possibilities and Attitudes Towards AI-based Cataloguing Work", which received funding from the National Library of Norway.
Abstract	In 2023 and 2024, the University of Bergen Library undertook a project titled "The Artificial Librarian: Possibilities and Attitudes Towards AI-based Cataloguing Work." This initiative explored the current landscape of AI-driven cataloguing and identified and explored several tools based on AI and automatization with potential for further use in Norwegian academic libraries. The project also conducted a nationwide survey among Norwegian cataloguing librarians, which aimed to assess their AI literacy and personal attitudes towards automatization and artificial intelligence in cataloguing tasks. This presentation will provide an overview of the Norwegian library sector and share some key findings from the project. It will include a brief description of relevant international projects and a summary of the national survey results. In addition, the presentation will also cover some of our experiences and takeaways from the project.

COMMITTEE FOR THE SUPPORT OF LIBRARIES
International Partnership and Regional Networks

Εθνική Βιβλιοθήκη της Ελλάδος National Library of Greece

Δημοτική Βιβλιοθήκη Νέας Φιλαδέλφειας Νέας Χαλκηδόνας

διαβάζοντας μεγαλώνω

GOETHE INSTITUT

EUGENIDES FOUNDATION

Instituto Cervantes ATHENS

THE NORDIC LIBRARY AT ATHENS

BRITISH SCHOOL at ATHENS

ΒΟΥΛΗ ΤΩΝ ΕΛΛΗΝΩΝ

U.S. EMBASSY ATHENS

EKT ΕΘΝΙΚΟ ΚΕΝΤΡΟ ΤΕΚΜΗΡΙΩΣΗΣ & ΗΛΕΚΤΡΟΝΙΚΟΥ ΠΕΡΙΕΧΟΜΕΝΟΥ

MUSIC LIBRARY OF GRE THE FRIENDS OF MUSIC SOCIETY

Speaker	**Angeliki Kosmopoulou**
Title	**Libraries at an Intersection: AI and the Future of Narrative**
Bio	Angeliki is a seasoned story strategist and philanthropy advisor with a diverse academic background and extensive expertise in non-profit management, communications and storytelling. Her professional experience spans cultural management, strategic communications, and non-profit leadership. She is the founder of Storymentor, a non-profit organization that leverages storytelling to raise awareness about social and environmental issues, fostering advocacy and driving meaningful change. As the Executive Director of the Athanasios C. Laskaridis Charitable Foundation (2015-2024), she spearheaded initiatives focused on marine conservation and reducing plastic pollution and had a leading role in advancing Greece's national ban on single-use plastics. She has published 2 books and several articles. She is a frequent contributor to Greek media and a podcaster, while she serves as a mentor for women in entrepreneurship and public life. Angeliki holds leadership positions as a Board Member of the Hellenic Impact Investing Network, an Advisory Board member at the think-tank DIANEOSIS, a Scientific Board member at Cycladic Identity (Museum of Cycladic Art), a member of the BMW Foundation Responsible Leaders Network as well as a member of the Leading Change Network, a global community that develops leadership across borders and generations to build people power. She has previously served as Vice President of the Greek National Tourism Organization (GNTO) and The People's Trust.
Abstract	As technology intersects with every aspect of our lives, the role of libraries as guardians of stories is undergoing a profound transformation. This talk will explore how libraries can use technology to amplify human stories and preserve the richness of cultural heritage, while nurturing new forms of storytelling. By embracing AI, libraries can serve as bridges between past and future narratives, ensuring that authenticity and human connection remain at the center.

Speaker	**Eleni Xanthopoulou**
Title	**Empowering Libraries with AI: Practical Applications for Media and Information Management"**
Bio	Eleni Xanthopoulou serves as the Press & Media Assistant at the Public Diplomacy Section of the U.S. Embassy in Athens. With a strong background in public relations, she manages media relations, monitors press coverage, and provides strategic insights into media trends. She also coordinates press logistics for

COMMITTEE FOR THE SUPPORT OF LIBRARIES
International Partnership and Regional Networks

Εθνική Βιβλιοθήκη
της Ελλάδος · National
Library · of Greece

Δημοτική Βιβλιοθήκη
Νέας Φιλαδέλφειας·
Νέας Χαλκηδόνος

διαβάζοντας
μεγαλώνω

GOETHE
INSTITUT

ΙΔΡΥΜΑ ΕΥΓΕΝΙΔΟΥ
1954
EUGENIDES FOUNDATION

Instituto
Cervantes
A·T·H·E·N·S

THE NORDIC
LIBRARY
AT ATHENS

BRITISH
SCHOOL
at
ATHENS

ΒΟΥΛΗ ΤΩΝ ΕΛΛΗΝΩΝ

U.S. EMBASSY
ATHENS

EKT ΕΘΝΙΚΟ ΚΕΝΤΡΟ
ΤΕΚΜΗΡΙΩΣΗΣ &
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΟΝΙΚΟΥ
ΠΕΡΙΕΧΟΜΕΝΟΥ

MUSIC
LIBRARY
OF GRE
ECE
THE FRIENDS OF
MUSIC SOCIETY

	high-level visits, responds to journalists' inquiries, and supports media aspects during crisis situations. Eleni contributes to the Embassy's Integrated Strategy and Implementation Plan, cultivating relationships with key media outlets. Previously, she held roles in Public Relations and communications with Ogilvy Greece and Antenna Group. She is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Communications and Journalism at the Open University of Cyprus.
Abstract	This session in aiming to demonstrate how the Public Diplomacy section of the U.S. Embassy in Athens is implementing AI on its daily work. It will include demonstration of the use of generative AI in creating media summaries, press releases, and other products, saving valuable time, while improving the quality of the outcome. This presentation will explore practical AI applications that can enhance the professional development of librarians, researchers, and archivists, demonstrating how AI can be a valuable tool in modern information management.

Speaker	**George Giannakopoulos**
Title	**Artificial intelligence and libraries: a virtuous cycle**
Bio	George Giannakopoulos, PhD, is an Artificial Intelligence (AI) researcher at NCSR Demokritos (Greece), as well as co-founder, and CEO of SciFY, a multiply awarded not-for-profit Company on applying Artificial Intelligence to everyday life for the common good. He has 20 years of AI-related experience on international and national research and innovation, but also numerous industrial projects. He has more than 25 years of IT consulting and software engineering expertise in domains such as AI, Machine Learning and Natural Language Processing, Bio-medical and chemical informatics, the Semantic Web and others. He has also co-authored more than 100 scientific publications. He is a member of the Hellenic Artificial Intelligence Society (EETN)] and a member of the European Chapter of the Association of Computational Linguistics (ACL). He has also contributed at a national policy-making level through the Sectorial Scientific Council on Data Policy and A.I. of the National Council for Research, Technology and Innovation. He has offered tens of presentations and tutorials related to AI and its application, to varying audiences across disciplines. These dissemination actions have been complemented by the Greek book "AI: A subtle demystification" (Greek title: "Τεχνητή νοημοσύνη - Μια διακριτική απομυθοποίηση"), published in 2021 by Ropi Publications.

Abstract	Artificial intelligence has been communicated as a panacea and a curse. This talk aims to realistically introduce what AI is and what it is not, forming a common understanding of the related opportunities and risks. We will also highlight how AI can be applied in libraries to support various everyday workflows of this cultural and working environment. We also aim to introduce how libraries and the related stakeholders, from the curator and the librarian to the reader and the user, can co-create a more humane, ethical AI, starting today.

Speaker	**Cecilio Angulo**
Title	**AI supporting readers in libraries**
Bio	Cecilio Angulo is a full professor of AI and Robotics at the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya in Barcelona, Spain. He serves as the president of the Catalan Association for AI, the director of the AI Chair on Sustainable Energy, and is the founder of the Intelligent Data Science and Artificial Intelligence Research Centre. His research interests include AI literacy and responsible AI.
Abstract	Why do people visit and stay in libraries? Library visitors come for various reasons—many seek to uncover fresh insights, discover new books, explore recommendations, or dive into thought-provoking lectures. How can AI assist users in their quest for knowledge within the library? How can new stories captivate and surprise readers in ways they didn't expect?