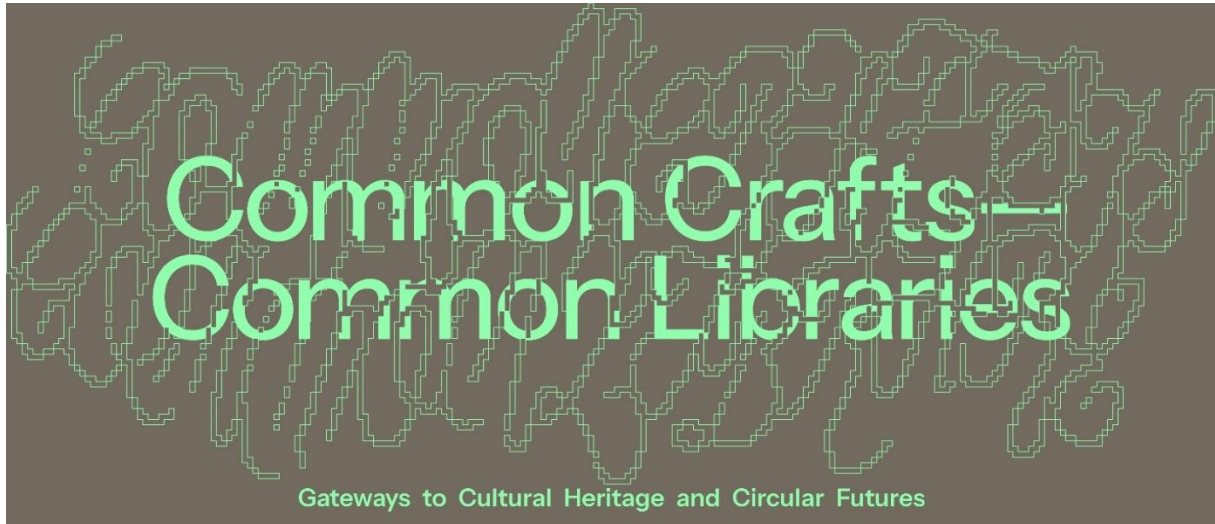


## COMMON CRAFTS – COMMON LIBRARIES

### Gateways to Cultural Heritage and Circular Futures

**November 3–4, 2025**

**Goethe-Institut Athen**



#### **DAY 0 – WELCOME DINNER**

**Sunday, November 2, 2025**

**Location:** Rozalia Restaurant (Valtetsiou 59, 10681 Athens)

**19:00** Welcome dinner

#### **DAY 1 – CLOSED SESSIONS + PUBLIC PANEL**

**Monday, November 3, 2025**

**Location** Goethe-Institut Athen

**09:30–10:00** Arrival and coffee

**10:00–10:15** Welcome – Bettina Wenzel, Goethe-Institut Athen

**10:15–10:40** Introduction to the meeting – Ivana Borovnjak, Oaza

**10:45–12:00** **Session 1: Living Archives for Craft Futures**

10:45–11:15 Libraries Change Lives – Anja Flicker

11:15–11:45 From Preservation to Participation: New Roles for Libraries and Museums – Jelena Popović & Selman Trtovac

11:45–12:00 Q&A

**12:00–13:00** **Lunch Break**

<b>13:00–16:00</b>	<b>Session 2: Crafts and Technology</b>
13:00–14:00	Hybrid Time Travelers: Historical Artefacts, Re-enactment and Glitching – Fabian Hesse & Mitra Wakil
14:00–14:15	Break
14:15–15:15	Common Loops: Crafting Knowledge through Play – Serdar Aydın
15:15–15:30	Break
15:30–16:30	Knowledge Sharing 2100 – Lucia Dubačová
<b>16:30–19:00</b>	<b>Break and Snack</b>
<b>19:00–20:30</b>	<b>Public Panel: “Common Crafts - Common Libraries”</b>
	Moderator: Ivana Borovnjak
	Participants: Serdar Aydın, Lucia Dubačová, Fabian Hesse and Mitra Wakil, Anja Flicker, Jelena Popović, Eva Vaslamatzi
	Format: Short statements (5') followed by moderated discussion, Q&A
<b>20:30</b>	<b>Reception and Networking</b>

## DAY 2 – GUIDED TOUR + CLOSED SESSION

**Tuesday, November 4, 2025**

<b>Location:</b>	Start in hotel, return to Goethe-Institut
<b>09:00–10:30</b>	<b>Guided Walking Tour</b> , Eva Vaslamatzi
<b>10:30–11:00</b>	<b>Coffee Break and Transition to Goethe-Institut</b>
<b>11:00–13:00</b>	<b>Envisioning Projects for 2026: Libraries We Make</b>
11:00–12:00	Group dialogues between librarians and experts
12:00–13:00	Cross-feedback & collective mapping
<b>13:00–14:00</b>	<b>Lunch and Departure</b>

## ABOUT THE SESSIONS

**Monday, November 3, 2025**

10:45-11:15 – **Libraries Change Lives, Anja Flicker**

Should libraries be concerned with preserving craft skills? Or should museums, NGOs, chambers of commerce, or someone else take care of this? I believe that this is not a question of either/or, but Should libraries be concerned with preserving craft skills, or should this be left to museums, NGOs, or chambers of commerce? This is not an either/or question but a shared responsibility. Libraries, like museums and other institutions, play a vital role in safeguarding and transmitting knowledge. Traditionally dedicated to preservation, accessibility, and learning, libraries have evolved into catalysts for innovation, supporting digitization, lifelong education, and the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. Open to all and trusted by their communities, they reach diverse audiences and foster participation and collaboration

Through the talk, these questions will be explored in relation to the broader role of libraries today. As open, trusted, and accessible spaces that reach diverse audiences, libraries are uniquely positioned to act as partners in the social and ecological transformation of society. Using Simon Sinek's *Golden Circle*—the why, how, and what—the talk will connect the preservation of craft traditions with the wider, future-oriented mission of libraries: to foster knowledge, participation, and care for the common good.

11:15-11:45 – **From Preservation to Participation: New Roles for Libraries and Museums, Jelena Popović & Selman Trtovac**

In collaboration, the Goethe-Institut Library and the Museum of Applied Art in Belgrade develop formats that connect knowledge sharing with hands-on practice. The talk reflects on curatorial strategies that reimagine museum roles and expand the potential of libraries as spaces of encounter, making, and transformation. Drawing on experiences at the intersection of heritage, craft, and creative collaboration, it considers how these institutions can act as living laboratories for circular knowledge and shared cultural futures.

13:00-14:00 – **Hybrid Time Travelers: Historical Artefacts, Re-enactment and Glitching, Fabian Hesse & Mitra Wakil**

In their presentation, the artist duo Hesse Wakil share insights from their public art project—a figurative installation honoring a historic smelter. Merging 3D scans of mining uniforms with AI-generated figures inspired by Georgius Agricola's *De re metallica* (1556), their work forges connections between mining heritage and contemporary debates on automation and the displacement of human labor. The project highlights how the extraction and transformation of the earth's resources have continually shaped both technological progress and social change.

**14:00-15:00 – Common Loops: Crafting Knowledge through Play, Serdar Aydin**

In this participatory workshop, the meeting table becomes a site of play, dialogue and mapping. To construct *loops of knowledge*, participants use a set of cut-out pieces which will represent communities, crafts, libraries and processes in particular. Arrows and relations will grow between elements as a collective map of how making, learning and sharing intersect. The session will include a short introduction of digital heritage research carried by Serdar Aydin and his team in Mardin, exploring how computational tools can support collective memory and cultural continuity. The workshop shows how games can make the invisible systems of cultural heritage tangible and how play itself can be a tool of care, memory and circularity. By the end of the session, participants collectively understand that GLAMs are not passive storage systems but active mediators between craft knowledge and new forms of authorship; the visual network transforms curatorial practice into a commons practice where exhibitions become nodes within longer material cycles rather than endpoints; the exercise provides a low-tech model for representing complex cultural data.

**15:00-16:00 – Knowledge Sharing 2100, Lucia Dubačová**

*Knowledge Sharing 2100* will explore scenarios of possible futures in which libraries will exist. The workshop will provide an overview of trends in the information and knowledge space as well as innovative case studies. In the practical part we will use imagination and speculative storytelling to orchestrate scenarios illustrating specifics of information and knowledge sharing in the next 100 years.

**19:00-20:30 – Public Panel: “Common Crafts - Common Libraries”**

How can we preserve cultural heritage while responding to the demands of a rapidly changing world? The public panel discussion brings together librarians and experts from various fields to explore how libraries can help preserve traditional craftsmanship by integrating sustainable methods and emerging technologies, recognizing the role of libraries as spaces for learning, community engagement, and cultural continuity.

**Tuesday, November 4, 2025**

**09:00-10:30 – Guided Walking Tour, Eva Vaslamatzi**

The sound piece “*Awaiting*” will guide us through the city center toward a specific destination: an old sewing-supply store. Nestled in a small corner of the city’s commercial district, the Angelopoulos haberdashery was founded a century ago, supplying craftsmen with materials sourced from factories across major European centers. Today, surrounded by cafés, hotels, and AirBnbs, the store stands as a testament to the city center’s former commercial life. Its interior—untouched by the passing of time—invites reflection on the “limbo” state of its products: items left behind in an era when both the factories that produced them and the clients who once purchased them no longer exist.

## **Common Crafts – Common Libraries**

**Public Panel | November 3 | 7 pm – 8.30 pm**

**Goethe-Institut Athens**

The public panel gathers experts from across Europe – Serdar Aydin, Lucia Dubačová, Fabian Hesse & Mitra Wakil, Anja Flicker, Jelena Popović, and Eva Vaslamatzi – who bring diverse perspectives on contemporary crafts and on the library as a space of learning, making, and exchange.

Moderated by Ivana Borovnjak, the discussion will explore how we define crafts and libraries today, asking: *What is common to crafts and libraries?* From care and maintenance to community, knowledge, and shared resources, the conversation will open new ways of thinking about both.

Part of a regional network meeting organized by the Goethe-Institut Athens, the event brings together librarians and experts from art, design, architecture, and technology to explore how libraries can preserve cultural heritage while catalyzing innovation. The focus is on activating libraries as spaces of informal learning, community engagement, and circular practices.

### **Questions for participants in the public panel:**

Round 1 – Individual, topic-specific questions

Anja Flicker – *Libraries Change Lives*

You frame libraries as catalysts for social-ecological transformation. How do you see the craft of librarianship evolving – the day-to-day practice of care, mediation, and learning that turns these ambitions into lived change?

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Jelena Popović – *From Preservation to Participation: New Roles for Libraries and Museums*

Your talk highlights how libraries and museums can collaborate as “living laboratories” for circular knowledge. How do you see these institutions evolving together – what new forms of partnership or shared responsibility could emerge between them?

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Fabian Hesse & Mitra Wakil – *Hybrid Time Travelers: Historical Artefacts, Re-enactment and Glitching*

In your project, historical mining artefacts are re-materialized through digital tools, revealing the links between past labour and present technology. What can this process of translation – from matter to data, from hand to algorithm – teach libraries about how they preserve and transmit knowledge today?

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Serdar Aydin – *Common Loops: Crafting Knowledge through Play*

Your projects blend material experimentation with digital technologies. From your perspective, what would a *technologically literate* library look like – one that supports not only access to information but also active, creative making?

Lucia Dubacova – *Knowledge Sharing 2100*

You invite us to imagine how knowledge might be shared in the future. If we project ourselves to 2100, what do you think libraries will be *made of* – not just physically, but socially and ecologically?

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Eva Vaslamatzi – Guided City Walk (and Public Panel Participant)

Through your work with Athens' public spaces, you explore how cultural memory is embedded in the urban fabric. How do you imagine libraries could extend into the city – becoming part of this living archive of places and practices?

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Round 2 – Shared closing reflection (same question to all participants)

If we think of *libraries as workshops* and *librarians as craftspeople*, what might that mean for the future of libraries?

What practices of care, making, or repair would you like to see shaping these spaces in the years ahead?

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## **Workshop concept**

### **Envisioning projects for 2026**

**Time: November 4, 11:00–13:00**

Facilitators: Ivana Borovnjak & Bettina Wenzel

Format: Rotating group dialogues + Collective synthesis

### **11:00–12:00 – Group Dialogues**

Format: 4 tables, each hosted by one or two *experts* (fixed at the table)

Groups of *librarians* rotate every 15 minutes between tables

At each table, one key theme/question guides the conversation

Experts briefly introduce their perspective (1–2 minutes) and then invite dialogue

A note-taker or shared sheet at each table captures key ideas, needs, and possible project directions.

### **Table 1 – Bringing Crafts to Libraries**

Hosts: Eva Vaslamatzi, Jelena Popović

*Theme:* How can libraries become spaces for making, learning, and sharing through crafts?

What forms of craft-based activity could happen in a library context?

How can we bridge hands-on and knowledge-based learning?

What materials, skills, or collaborations would this require?

How can libraries make local craft traditions more visible?

What is *common* to crafts and libraries in their ways of caring for knowledge?

## **Table 2 – Libraries and Communities**

Hosts: Serdar Aydin, Myrto Provida

*Theme:* Libraries as places of encounter, inclusion, and intergenerational exchange.

How can craft-related activities strengthen community connections?

What groups or publics could libraries engage through making?

How can storytelling and shared practice foster belonging?

What partnerships would make this sustainable?

What local needs could community craft initiatives address?

## **Table 3 – Libraries as Commons**

Hosts: Lucia Dubacova, Mitra Wakil

*Theme:* Shared knowledge, resources, and care as foundations for both crafts and libraries.

How can libraries operate as common spaces for sharing tools, materials, and ideas?

What does “the commons” mean in your institutional or local context?

How can we encourage collective authorship and open access to craft knowledge?

What forms of governance or participation could support this?

How can we balance preservation with openness and experimentation?

## **Table 4 – Libraries of the Future**

Hosts: Anja Flicker, Fabian Hesse

*Theme:* Imagining future libraries as hybrid spaces that connect craft, digital innovation, and sustainability.

How might digital craftsmanship – 3D printing, open-source design, or digital archives – coexist with traditional craft practices in libraries?

What kinds of digital tools could empower communities to create, repair, and share knowledge?

How can libraries become laboratories for experimenting with material and digital making?

What would a “circular” or “post-digital” library look like in your context?

What’s one step your institution could take now to move toward that vision?

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## **12:00-13:15 – Cross-Feedback & Collective Synthesis**

Each table host shares a 5-10 minute summary of key insights and emerging ideas.

Followed by a 20-minute cross-feedback discussion connecting threads across groups.

Facilitators lead a collective mapping exercise, capturing keywords and directions under the shared title “*The Library We Make.*”