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Matt Huculak



The Idea of a Library: Religious Origins, Uncertain Futures

Birthing out of temple archives in ancient Mesopotamia, the modern academic library has a genealogy that can be traced through centuries of temples, scriptoria, and madrasas. The “library” has been an organizing and “naming” institution in legitimizing power and its structures. This talk traces the sacred origins of organized knowledge and asks what these origins reveal about the academic library today. As multiple forces reshape the information landscape and the academic library, does the library’s temple-genealogy impede potential futures?

J. Matthew Huculak is Director of the Kula: Library Futures Academy at the UVic Libraries. He is a 2024 Library Journal “Mover and Shaker” award winner and holds a PhD in English Language & Literature.

May 6, 2026
12:00–1:00pm
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