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SCHOLARS — IN THE SQUARE —



Matthew Huculak
University of Victoria

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12:00pm-1:00pm
CLE B017



The Idea of a Library: Religious Origins, Uncertain Futures

Birthered 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. By virtue of its role in organizing and naming elements of society, the library often functions to legitimize 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, does the library's temple-genealogy limit 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 and Literature.



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