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Improbable Libraries: A Visual Journey To The World's Most Unusual Libraries



Synopsis

How do you use your local library? Does it arrive at your door on the back of an elephant? Can it float down the river to you? Or does it occupy a phone booth by the side of the road? Public libraries are a cornerstone of modern civilization, yet like the books in them, libraries face an uncertain future in an increasingly digital world. Undaunted, librarians around the globe are thinking up astonishing ways of reaching those in reading need, whether by bike in Chicago, boat in Laos, or donkey in Colombia. *Improbable Libraries* showcases a wide range of unforgettable, never-before-seen images and interviews with librarians who are overcoming geographic, economic, and political difficulties to bring the written word to an eager audience. Alex Johnson charts the changing face of library architecture, as temporary pop-ups rub shoulders with monumental brick-and-mortar structures, and many libraries expand their mission to function as true community centers. To take just one example: the open-air Garden Library in Tel Aviv, located in a park near the city's main bus station, supports asylum seekers and migrant workers with a stock of 3,500 volumes in sixteen different languages. Beautifully illustrated with two hundred and fifty color photographs, *Improbable Libraries* offers a breathtaking tour of the places that bring us together and provide education, entertainment, culture, and so much more. From the rise of the egalitarian Little Free Library movement to the growth in luxury hotel libraries, the communal book revolution means you'll never be far from the perfect next read.

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Customer Reviews

A sheer delight in reading and a captivating collection of photos of global libraries, reaching into the tiniest of spaces to a vast landscape covered in books. Each one a love story in the making, a desire to get more books into more hands is what ignites the soul for so many around the world. Author Alex Johnson takes us by the hand and shows us what he has discovered. It's a lovely adventure to embark on all from the comfort of a perfectly sized book.

A delightful small book with beautiful photos and stories of unlikely libraries world-wide. When someone has a will to provide a library, there is always a way. It is also a good reminder of what can be done on the honor system.

To read such a passionate look into 'improbable libraries' around the world makes this teacher/librarian's heart sore. A beautiful portrayal covering an International movement.

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