

Bridging Cultures: Albania and Hungary through Knowledge and History

SHARED HERITAGE – FROM
SKANDERBEG AND JÁNOS HUNYADI
TO TODAY'S LIBRARIES



Skanderbeg and Hunyadi



Future of our Profession with New Roles – Education and Lifelong Learning

The Case of the “Thimi Mitko” Public Library in Korçë

- Public Library “Thimi Mitko”
- Korçë, Albania
- Jorida Tollkuçi Library Director
- 4th China–CEEC Curators’ Forum of the Libraries Union
- Budapest, October 2025



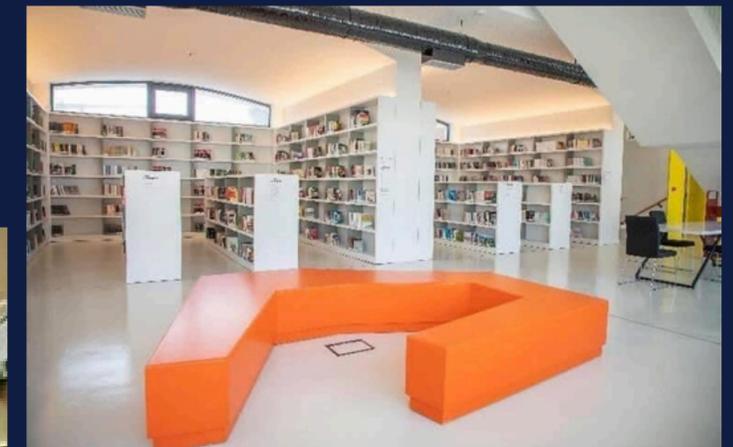


Changing Times, Changing Libraries

- Rapid digital, social, and technological change
- Libraries: from knowledge keepers → learning facilitators
- Thimi Mitko Library as a case study



“Libraries are evolving fast. Thimi Mitko Library demonstrates how public libraries can adapt and lead in their communities.”



About the Thimi Mitko Library



- Founded 1921, 104-year history
- Named after Thimi Mitko, Albanian National Awakening figure
- Rich collections: rare books, local archives, cultural heritage

Narrativa: “The library preserves local heritage while offering modern services. It is a bridge between past and present.”



Slide 4 – Mission and Vision

- Mission: Promote knowledge, lifelong learning, cultural participation
- Vision: Hub for digital innovation and inclusive education



Narrativa:

“Our goal is to make knowledge accessible for all ages and to inspire creativity in the community.”

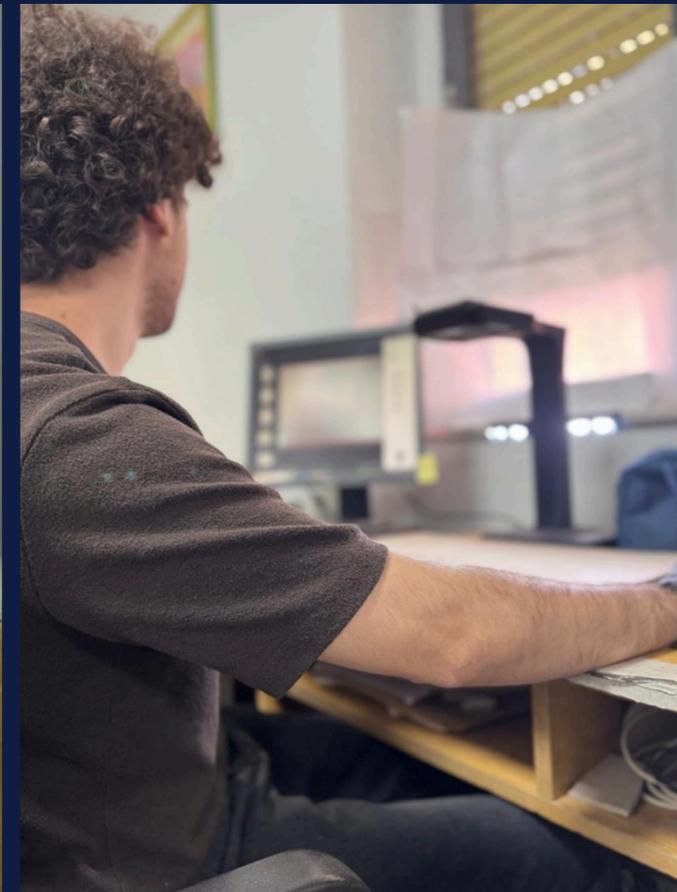


Digitization & Cultural Heritage

- Digitization of archives, newspapers, rare collections
- Collaboration with National and International partners
- Online access for researchers and citizens

Narrativa:

“We digitized 221 titles of periodicals and rare works, ensuring preservation and broad access.”



Lifelong Learning Programs

- Workshops: digital literacy, media education, creative writing
- Programs for children, youth, adults, seniors
- Support self-learning and open access resources

Narrativa:

“Our library fosters learning at every age, providing practical and creative opportunities.”



Inclusive & Community Services

- October: Literature Month
- Thematic Exhibitions, Rare Collections
- International Festival: “Korçë Poetry Nights”
- Podcasts with Authors and Public Figures
- Interinstitutional Collaborations
- Educational Programs for Children and Youth
- Reading clubs for all ages
- Accessible spaces for people with disabilities

Narrativa:

“Inclusion and participation are central. Everyone is welcome and empowered to learn.”



Innovation & New Roles of Librarians

- Librarians as digital mediators, learning coaches, cultural facilitators
- Collaboration with schools, NGOs, cultural institutions

Narrativa:

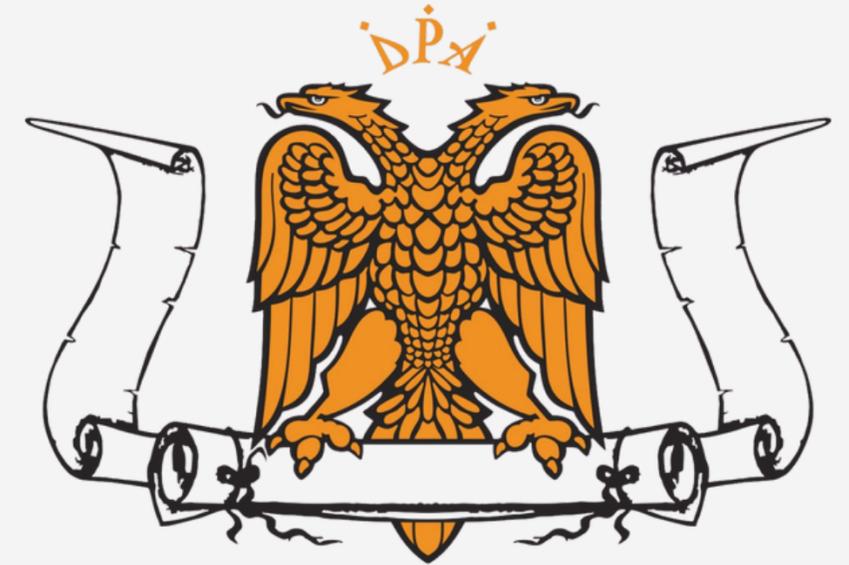
“Librarians today guide users through vast information, teach digital skills, and foster creativity.”



NEW ROLES OF LIBRARIANS



Partnerships Beyond Borders



Narrativa:

“The Thimi Mitko Library actively collaborates with international networks such as EIFL, UNICEF, COBISS, National Library of Albania, Central State Archive of Albania and public libraries across Albania and Europe.

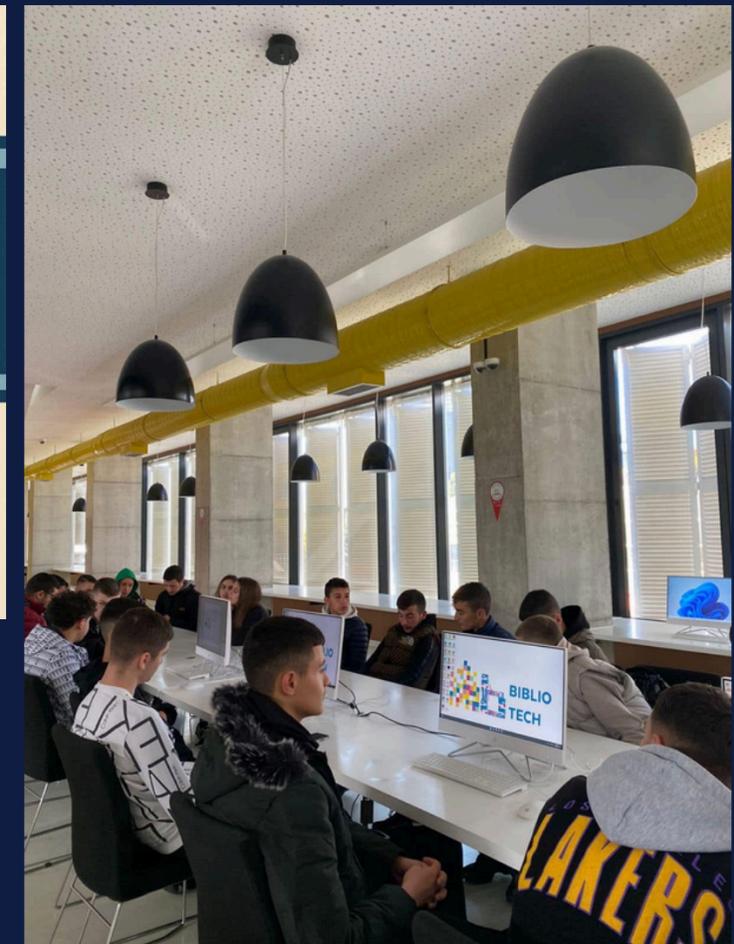
Through exchanges, digital projects, and capacity building, we aim to strengthen not only our services but also our shared European cultural space.”





Digital Services, Biblio-Tech&ICT Club

- Online lending, digital membership cards
- COBISS and OPAC catalogs
- Digital library, audiobooks, podcasts
- Biblio-Tech project with UNICEF: digital learning, innovation spaces, safe internet
- ICT Club is an educational program organized by Korça Innovation Hub



Narrativa:

“Through technology, we extend our reach and offer new ways to engage with knowledge.”



Impact & Future

- Growing community engagement
- Expanded digital collections and online access
- Future plans: Virtual Museum & mobile app for library resource
- Bridging tradition with innovation
- Participation in the 4th China–CEEC Curators' Forum of the Libraries Union



Thank You / Contact

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“Libraries are not buildings; they are bridges between minds.”