

SPECTRUM WORLD BOOK & COPYRIGHT DAY

# Lost in stacks: Journey through a library



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**EACH BOOK IS  
A PORTAL TO  
ANOTHER WORLD,  
WAITING TO BE  
EXPLORED**

In the 21st century at a time when technology has revolutionised the way we consume information, books remain an indispensable part of our lives. They serve as a source of inspiration, knowledge, and entertainment, and they continue to be the foundation upon which our intellectual and cultural heritage rests. They provide a medium for storytelling that is unique in its ability to convey the complexities of human experience in a way that transcends time and space. The literary world considers 23 April to be a significant date since it commemorates the deaths of famous authors Inca Garcilaso de la Vega and William Shakespeare. The decision to recognise books and authors globally on this day and to encourage people to value books by reading and accessing them was made by the UNESCO General Conference in 1995, which was held in Paris Proclamation of 23 April as World Book and Copyright Day.

In a world where the acquisition and dissemination of information was of paramount importance, a citadel of knowledge was

erected, known as the library. The building was a lavish edifice with shelves brimming with books of occult and esoteric knowledge that were guarded by an arrogant staff of librarians who served as the gatekeepers of the written word. Libraries are places of wonder, where knowledge is stored in shelves upon shelves of books, waiting to be discovered. They are places of solitude, where one can escape the noise of the world and get lost in the pages of a good book. But libraries are also places of mystery, where the stacks hold secrets waiting to be uncovered. This is a story of one such journey through the library, a journey of discovery and adventure.

The journey begins with a sense of excitement, as one enters the library. The smell of old books, the sound of footsteps echoing through the halls, and the sight of endless shelves, all combine to create a sense of awe and wonder. The first step is to find a book, and with so many to choose from, the task can seem daunting. But this is where the journey really begins, as one explores the stacks and finds treas-

ures hidden within. The stacks are filled with books of all kinds, from ancient tomes bound in leather, to modern bestsellers with bright covers. Some are filled with the wisdom of the ages, while others are filled with tales of adventure and excitement. Each book is a portal to another world, waiting to be explored. As one wanders through the stacks, they may come across books that they never knew existed, books that they never would have found if they had not taken this journey.

Along the way, there are also challenges to be faced. Some books are difficult to find, hidden away on high shelves or lost in the labyrinthine maze of stacks. Some books are old and fragile, requiring special care and attention. And some books are simply too big or too heavy to be easily handled, testing the limits of the reader's strength and determination. But the rewards are great, as one discovers the secrets of the library. They may find books that are long out of print, or books that have been hidden away for years. They may find books that are rare and valu-

able, or books that are simply priceless because of their sentimental value. And they may find books that hold the answers to questions they never even knew they had.

The journey through the library is a journey of discovery, where one learns about the world and oneself. It is a journey of adventure, where one faces challenges and overcomes obstacles. And it is a journey of wonder, where one finds magic and mystery in stacks.

A journey through the library is a journey like no other. It is a journey of discovery, adventure, and wonder, where one can get lost in stacks and find treasures waiting to be uncovered. So grab a book, and start your journey today. It is a special occasion that commemorates the enduring worth that books impart to us. The World Book and Copyright Day is celebrated globally to highlight the significance of books as a crucial connection between our past and future, and as a means of fostering links between generations and cultures.

*The writer is a librarian and researcher.*