



Miriam Intrator

Books Across Borders

UNESCO and the Politics of Postwar Cultural Reconstruction, 1945–1951

Series: New Directions in Book History

- Highlights the history of the postwar reconstruction of libraries via UNESCO
- Provides insight into the impact of WWII on access to books, translations, and libraries
- Frames the shaping of the idea of cultural rights

Books Across Borders: UNESCO and the Politics of Postwar Cultural Reconstruction, 1945-1951 is a history of the emotional, ideological, informational, and technical power and meaning of books and libraries in the aftermath of World War II, examined through the cultural reconstruction activities undertaken by the Libraries Section of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The book focuses on the key actors and on-the-ground work of the Libraries Section in four central areas: empowering libraries around the world to acquire the books they wanted and needed; facilitating expanded global production of quality translations and affordable books; participating in debates over the contested fate of confiscated books and displaced libraries; and formulating notions of cultural rights as human rights. Through examples from France, Poland, and surviving Jewish Europe, this book provides new insight into the complexities and specificities of UNESCO's role in the realm of books, libraries, and networks of information exchange during the early postwar, post-Holocaust, Cold War years.

1st ed. 2019, XV, 280 p. 8 illus.

Printed book

Hardcover

69,99 € | £59.99 | \$84.99

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