

Biblioteca Vasconcelos,  
Mexico City.

# Libraries through the lens

**TORONTO-based librarian Thomas Guignard combines his passions for travel, photography and architecture by snapping pictures of libraries from around the world.**

He posts the results on his Instagram feed – @concretelibraries – and has now agreed to share some of his favourites with *Information Professional* readers. Working with Thomas, we will bring you some of the best examples of library design, both old and new, from around the world.

Thomas recently completed a Masters in Management of Library and Information Services through Aberystwyth University's distance learning programme. In the first of the series, Thomas has chosen the Biblioteca Vasconcelos in Mexico City – the largest public library in the country, designed by Mexican architect Alberto Kalach. Officially inaugurated in 2006, it did not open to the public until 2008.

Thomas said: "I think the first time I became aware of this building was in 2010, and I remember wondering if the images I was seeing were renderings rather than actual photographs, so unreal did it look. The stacks piled high on either side of the vertiginous central atrium look designed for a world no longer constrained by the forces of gravity, where readers are able to float freely up, down and across the seven levels of shelves! I finally got a chance to visit it this spring and I can attest that it is indeed a real place, and that it is every bit as wonderful as I imagined it to be."

The library hosts around 2,000 events each year, including book clubs, concerts, classes and workshops. Thomas adds: "If you ever find yourself in Mexico City, do not miss the opportunity to visit the Vasconcelos (but don't forget your anti-gravity device)!"

● [www.instagram.com/concretelibraries/](http://www.instagram.com/concretelibraries/)

