

Mexico City, April 23, 2024

World Book and Copyright Day 2024

April 23 is World Book and Copyright Day, a day set aside around the world to promote reading and recognize the value of books in fostering knowledge, culture, and imagination, and to underscore the importance of protecting the rights of creators.

The date was chosen in honor of William Shakespeare and Miguel de Cervantes, who died on the same day, April 23, 1616, although they did not actually die on the same day because England and Spain did not yet share the same calendar.

At the center of this celebration is Strasbourg, which has been honored as the World Book Capital for the year 2024. This designation is no coincidence, as Strasbourg is historically linked to the world of books and printing.

It was here that Gutenberg developed the typographic system that would revolutionize book production. His invention - the movable printing press - made possible the rapid, large-scale reproduction of texts and the mass dissemination of knowledge.

In an increasingly digital world, World Book and Copyright Day reminds us of the enduring value of books as repositories of history, culture and creativity. The move to digital has expanded the reach and accessibility of books, but it has also raised challenges to copyright protection and equitable access to information.

This celebration reminds us of the importance of honoring our literary roots as we look to the future with hope and optimism, but most importantly, with a vision of copyright protection.

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