

Books are no longer seen merely as carriers of text, but as complex objects that mean much more. Initially, for many people, a book was simply something to be read. But the more one delves into the materiality, history, and function of books, the clearer it becomes that a book always consists of several layers: its form, its production, its social significance, and its effect on our thinking. Today, we understand that books not only convey content, but also dictate structures for how we perceive that content. The way a book is structured, from the page to the cover to the arrangement of the text, influences how we think and organize information. Even the page itself is not a given, but the result of a long development in which new forms of thinking and reading have emerged.

At the same time, we realize that books do not exist in isolation. They have a kind of life cycle: they are produced, sold, distributed, read, commented on, and archived. This process leaves many traces that show how closely books are linked to social, political, and cultural conditions. A book is therefore not just an object, but part of a larger communication system. Another important aspect is the vulnerability and significance of books as physical objects. They can be destroyed, but their ideas often survive in other forms. Today, in the digital age, information tends to disappear unnoticed from archives and storage devices. This makes it clear that both material and digital forms are vulnerable, but in different ways.

Particularly significant is the question of why books continue to have such a strong emotional and cultural impact despite digital alternatives. Many people love books as objects: for their aesthetics, their smell, their weight, or as a sign of education and identity. Books have become symbols that say something about us, even when we don't read them. This form of appreciation means that books today survive less because of their practical function and more because of their cultural power. Engaging with artistic works that physically alter or reassemble books also shows that the book as an object can even be criticized. When a book is torn apart or reshaped, it raises the question of what constitutes a book in the first place. Is it the material? The form? The content? Or what we culturally make of it?

Nowadays, we see books as multi-layered objects that are simultaneously material, cultural, historical, and symbolic. "Books as Objects" therefore means viewing books not only as texts, but as things that influence the way we think, feel, and understand knowledge. They are not just objects, but tools, signs, and memories. And perhaps their true significance lies precisely in the fact that they are never just one thing.

