

# XPPL

(XPERIMENTAL POTENTIAL PIRATE LIBRARY)

XPUB, CONSTANT, HET NIEUWE INSTITUUT & LEESZAAL invite you for an evening of workshops and discussions in the context of shadow libraries, piratical text collections, and peer produced libraries.

LAUNCH >>> 14/06/18  
at LEESZAAL ROTTERDAM  
RIJNHOUTPLEIN 3, 3014 TZ  
WORKSHOP 15:00 - 17:00  
PRESENTATIONS 20:00

From April to June 2018, the practitioners of the Media Design Experimental Publishing Master course (XPUB) of the Piet Zwart Institute worked on XPPL: a project under the thematic module of INTERFACING THE LAW.

XPPL is a space for potential pirate librarianship aimed at people who are studying the field of media culture, or as we like to call them: knowledge comrades. This digital library gathers all the books and articles floating around on PZI shelves and our hard drives and memory sticks, so that they can be shared. Its web interface hosts a curated catalogue of books and articles, and its distributed architecture provides instances for uploading and downloading. It starts at XPUB, but can go anywhere we want it to.

With the gradual loss of public libraries and the rise of corporate academia, today media piracy goes hand in hand with the acts of researching, reading and studying. But the process is often fragmented, and splintered by way of legal and economic barriers. When we can, we recommend books in person, jot down reading lists on paper, then send unsteady links via email, share files on USB sticks, or download specific titles from a haystack of existing repositories. With XPPL, we aggregate and organize these resources into one database, and combine these practices into one platform.

What sets the XPPL apart is the presence of 'stacks': small selections of books that are connected by threads of thought, or follow a certain study path. Rather than a bookshelf in a library, where books are lined up and often forgotten, the stack on your table/nightstand/toilet floor consists of books prone to be opened and re-opened at any time. The stacks in XPPL are visible for others in the network to browse, download, annotate, update or shuffle.

XPPL offers various modes of reading and writing to the core collection. The search interface allows for serendipity, with playful bots which point to the invisible labour of librarianship. Gaps in the collection are made visible, which turns dormancy into potential. Through collective annotation, the library becomes a social space. Visualizations of the collection in 3D forms allows users to sense the materiality of their stacks.

The XPPL is a continuous work in progress. Through workshops, guides and discussions the library is open to future generations of students and researchers to augment, intervene and learn.

## INTERFACING THE LAW

How can the right to access to knowledge be held up against claims of copyright? How can we battle the terror of the mind produced by the current intellectual property regime? Interfacing the law is an attempt to build a series of platforms, both in the sense of online interfaces and of public discourse, that allow us to

experiment with, to openly discuss and to reflect while the next wave of court cases is waiting to happen. It is urgent that we find ways to make the public debate transcend the binary of illegal vs. legal, and claim political legitimacy for acting out the potential of digital publishing, and the possibility of sharing digital books.