



(XPERIMENTAL POTENTIAL PIRATE LIBRARY)

XPUB & CONSTANT invite you the launch of Special Issue #06: an afternoon of workshops and discussions in the context of shadow libraries, piratical text collections, and peer produced libraries.

LAUNCH >>> 14/06/18
at LEESZAAL ROTTERDAM
WORKSHOP 15:00 - 17:00
RSVP: alice.strt@gmail.com
PRESENTATIONS 20:00

THE 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 reopened 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.

THIS PROJECT IS DEVELOPED IN THE CONTEXT OF THE THEMATIC MODULE INTERFACING THE LAW IN COLLABORATION WITH XPUB, CONSTANT, HET NIEUWE INSTITUUT, MEMORY OF THE WORLD & LEESZAAL.