



(XPERIMENTAL POTENTIAL PIRATE LIBRARY)

XPPL is the Xperimental Potential Pirate Library, the Xperimental Private-Public Liaison, the Xperimental Pretentious Performative Labor, the Xperimental Platform for Potential Legality, the Xperimental Post-Public Library... Join us for a workshop and discussion in the context of peer-produced libraries and piratical text collections.

**LAUNCH >>> 14/06/18**  
**at LEESZAAL ROTTERDAM**  
**WORKSHOP 15:00 – 17:00**  
**RSVP: [alice.strt@gmail.com](mailto:alice.strt@gmail.com)**  
**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 special issue INTERFACING THE LAW, an ongoing collaborative research between XPUB and CONSTANT about extra-legal libraries, software and legal interfaces, intellectual property and network catalogues.

XPPL is a project 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 items, and its distributed architecture provides instances for uploading and downloading. It starts at XPUB, but can go anywhere we want it to.

Today, the gradual loss of public libraries, the rise of corporate academia, and the systemic use of digital rights management, make access to knowledge increasingly difficult. As a result, and despite significant efforts from free culture supporters and open access initiatives, media piracy has become an unspoken practice that cannot be decoupled from the acts of researching, reading and studying. However, this practice is often fragmented, and splintered by way of legal and economic barriers. We recommend books in person, jot down reading lists on paper, then send unsteady links via email or download already known items from the haystack of existing repositories.

Most importantly, under such circumstance, such practice is reduced to the act of file sharing, and fails to highlight the discursive nature of these exchanges, their ability to form new resources, to nurture collective and aggregative forms of learning and the nurturing of an active research culture. In response, XPPL is a platform and network that offers a new way to think about, aggregate and organize these resources. In XPPL, librarians add and modify small selections of books that are connected by threads of thought, or follow a certain thematic, topic, or syllabus. We call these selections stacks. Rather than a bookshelf in a library, where books are often forgotten, the stacks on your table/nightstand/toilet floor consist of books prone to be opened and reopened at any time. The stacks in XPPL are visible for others in the network to browse, annotate, update or shuffle.

Next to the stacks, XPPL exists essentially as a distributed bibliographical database upon which various modes of reading and writing interfaces can be created. In its current version, the XPPL search interface allows for serendipity, while playful bots point to the invisible labour of librarianship; gaps in the collection are made visible; collective annotations turn the digital library into a social space; and visualizations of the collection in 3D forms allow 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, peers, 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.