

PLS meeting 4

The Collective

24-11-2021

Catching up, what are we working on, and the challenges we face

Simon

What I'm working on now

- Script — Library catalogue printing. W/ metadata created from Calibre.
- Problem: 1000s of PDFs not read and how to improve.

Working at the moment with [Calibrestekje](#) and [sqlite](#) to make printable card catalogues for Calibre libraries. I'm interested in how to deal with the problem of "book flood" (i.e. too many books and not enough time to read them), and this is a way to activate our libraries through printed matter. Reading a lot at the moment about the history of the catalogue card, especially in these two books: 1. [Paper Machines, by Markus Krajewski](#) 2. [The Card Catalog, by Carla Hayden](#)

Today's recipes:

[Embedding metadata] (https://pls.simonbrowne.biz/index.php?title=Create_portable_libraries_by_embedding_metadata_in_Calibre/) [Serving books locally with Calibre] (https://pls.simonbrowne.biz/index.php?title=Share_e-books_over_a_local_network_with_Calibre/)

The Calibre manual

<https://manual.calibre-ebook.com/>

Mateus

Biblioteca Rpi

a bit surprised at hesitance of group directors to facilitate physical *digital* library. There is already an open physical library within the space, from which books are free to be taken or the collection added to by any members of the community. a bit different to how the reading group¹ operates at [Two Queens](#) thinking about how the same setup could move around local spaces. - several mirrored devices which update asynchronously, as a librarian visits them

Wemos D1 Mini

Single book/document type local/offline sharing. - D1 Mini board - arduino program - starts server - serves html page - accessed over named wifi - page visited at IP

Annotated pages of a book

Print version of a text previously published online. The text is described as being a version, and receiving updates. The print version captured a single version, and applied new text on top, which was drawn using a simple sketching tool built in [p5.js](#)

Tools for Conviviality by Ivan Illich

The Dawn of Everything by David Graeber and David Wengrow *this status is updated on finger and can be found by typing* `finger`
`ghostglyph@happynetbox.com` *in your terminal.*

Kriston

a lot to take in the last few sessions

why shadow libraries?

context of living in the caribbean

- fellow writers/artists come across islands
- disconnect in terms of how to communicate/read
- access over paywalls
- papers behind paywalls
- having a consistent space remotely is of interest

RPi - limited access within physical space

- requires community-driven presence
- readers coming to a space shows engagement
- not the bottomless pit of the internet
- creating boundaries in the space

bookshelf has been an interesting thing to look at

- art space located in culturally rich area
- low resource/technological literacy rates
- art space has a residency, so ppl pass through
- parallel worlds that co-exist within that structure
- books as being one type of library service, on the shelf
- another library service within the building, which links to other art spaces
- infrastructure built with relationship to community on different levels
- more analog, tactile vs digital, through cloud
- interest in printing unbound books/text to circulate within space

The introduction of a working library in the sea/cloud, that is administered by various art space librarians, but serves local artists and students, and communities in proximity to physical space. Globally connected, regionally curated, but locally accessed.

references: [Alice Yard](#)

sylvie:

Dear Navigator

Radioshow based in rotterdam, connecting past and present of the city. Recording, archiving and excavating political dimensions of the city constantly in motion

collaborative archive

Aim is to set out and make an archive of the city, collectively,- things happening now in a digital environment Archive would contain the radioshow themselves as well as the material that has been studied, used to generate the shows / relate to them. In this sense creating a database. A repository.

what is the collaborative aspect?

radio show - trying to find meeting points with ppl situated in a different context/ country/experience Generating conversations about more global trends. Highlighting commonalities as well as differences. Collaborations through written / visual / oral responses to the episodes + own initiative have it open to collaboration, different layers of connection/interpretation

In what form?

wiki vs etherpad Etherpad less stable and functional for adding images. But very good for synchronised writing Wiki very robust but does have a very clear structure which might intimidate and form a hurdle to collaboration and participation Wiki is nice for asynchronous editing, also you can extend its functionality easily, e.g. adding the [Semantic Mediawiki extension](#), which allows you to give more human-friendly/readable classification terms, and then query them

Thought about bibliotheca, to access some of the material specifically connected to a location, through being on site This could add an interesting dimension {simoon: Yes! especially when thinking about site-specificity}

britt:

don't have much to add, just came out of a few intense weeks of courses: * [python](#), * [SQL](#), * data science, * [nlp](#). in a very explorative phase now want to try to apply python and SQL knowledge to the workshops

Ah, yes, I forgot: started reading interesting book: [Cataloging the World. Paul Otlet and the Birth of the Information Age](#), by Alex Wright.

flip:

- not working on something specific
 - just following things put on the table
 - what are the possibilities
 - a little worried about the technical aspects
 - what if something goes wrong etc
- lozana's presentation of DAAP website was interesting
 - would be great to use that for KIOSK
- making wooden boxes that are shelves right now
 - thinking of making a library - readable in the space

- online catalogue for books in an analog space
- trying to get a scanner now
- interesting to make this local server where ppl can download pdfs from shop
- would also love to make archive of the poortgebouw - 40 years of squat history

a public library is:

- *free access to book for every member of the society*
- *library catalog*
- *librarian*
- *with books ready to be shared, meticulously cataloged, everyone is a librarian*
- *when everyone is librarian, library is everywhere*

References

Cybernetics Library - online catalogue, physical library setup

<https://cybernetics.social/>

Project Gutenberg; a “legitimate” shadow library (all of its collection is within the public domain)

<https://www.gutenberg.org/>

Simon’s Calibre Library collection over a local network

<http://192.168.1.136:8080/>

A docx file made by the developers of Calibre as an example for document conversions

<http://calibre-ebook.com/downloads/demos/demo.docx>

Installing homebrew (package manager for Mac)

<https://brew.sh/>

After installing homebrew, you can then install other software in a terminal with:

```
brew install exiftool
```

For Linux, you can use apt or yum instead of homebrew

```
apt install exiftool
```

PDF is locked - it stores metadata in raw XML headers, difficult to convert from with faithful results. Uses postscript to make the layout. You can inspect metadata with [ExifTool](#) and pdfinfo, part of [Poppler-utils](#). PDF is made for print, so it has the notion of a “page”, with specific format and size. EPUB is open standard - stores metadata in a file, text is reflowable across different screen widths, dimensions. Essentially an EPUB is a package of HTML files (and metadata), like a website in a file.

<https://relata.mit.edu/> <https://logicmag.io/care/informatics-of-the-oppressed/> https://monoskop.org/Paul_Otlet <https://fermatlibrary.com/> <https://arxiv.org/>

<https://12ft.io>

<https://we.lurk.org/mailman3/lists/hbsc.we.lurk.org/>

1. Quarterly reading group often organised in relation to the current exhibition. Texts are usually shared before via email or facebook group.↵