

When everyone is librarian
library is everywhere



When everyone is librarian, library is everywhere.

Along with Tomislav Medak, Dubravka Sekulic, and dozens of other amateur librarians, Marcell Mars runs a Zagreb-based organization called Memory of the World / Public Library. Reacting to funding cuts for public libraries, the group—consisting of hackers, architects, artists, and critical theorists—builds free, globally accessible shadow libraries. Patterning themselves on the thinking of hacktivist Aaron Swartz (1986–2013), they focus on academic publishing, in particular academic journals and repositories. Swartz's *"Guerilla Open Access Manifesto"* (2008) provides the foundation for many of their activities: *"Those with access to these resources—students, librarians, scientists you have been given a privilege. You get to feed at this banquet of knowledge while the rest of the world is locked out. But you need not—indeed, morally, you cannot—keep this privilege for yourselves. You have a duty to share it with the world. And you have: trading passwords with colleagues, filling download requests for friends."* The Public Librarians take Swartz's manifesto as a challenge—if you have access, you have a responsibility to share with those who do not: *"With enough of us, around the world, we'll not just send a strong message opposing the privatization of knowledge—we'll make it a thing of the past. Will you join us?"*

Memory of the World / Public Library emerged from the rubble of the former Yugoslavia in the 1990s. Mars, a self-taught hacker who along with a few other people opened Zagreb's first cybercafé in 1996, was part of an effort in 1999 to build a cultural center called *Multimedia Institute/MaMa* in a tumbledown former leather shop in a Zagreb alley. The center quickly became a meeting spot for minorities and dissenting political groups (ecological, LGBTQ, ethnic, feminist) that were being pushed to the fringes of society by the right-wing government. A vibrant place where political activists collided with cyber activists, MaMa was one of the only three independent cultural spaces in Zagreb, a city of more than a million, that provided a physical site for political resistance in the wake of the Yugoslavian civil war. As the tide of nationalism subsided in the 2000s, MaMa shifted its focus to address issues of capitalist globalization by creating independent media channels and staging public programs and workshops. MaMa continues to this day, presenting a vast array of cultural programs, including film festivals, lectures, hackathons, reading groups, concerts, exhibitions, literary salons, and digitizing workshops—all free of charge and open to the general public.

The Public Library's online wing is Memory of the World, a website founded in 2016 and dedicated to the dissemination of free books. It is a *"public library"* in the truest sense of the word. Its manifesto states:

A public library is:

- free access to books for every member of society
- library catalog
- librarian

With books ready to be shared, meticulously cataloged, everyone is a librarian. When everyone is librarian, library is everywhere

Text from : *DUCHAMP IS MY LAWYER*, Kenneth Goldsmith

人人都是图书管理员, 图书馆无处不在

Marcell Mars 与 Tomislav Medak、Dubravka Sekulic 以及其他数十名业余图书馆员一起, 在萨格勒布经营着一个名为 "Memory of the World / Public Library"(世界记忆 / 公共图书馆) 的组织。该组织由黑客、建筑师、艺术家和批判理论家组成, 旨在应对公共图书馆经费削减的问题, 建立免费的、全球通用的影子图书馆。他们以黑客活动家 Aaron Swartz (1986–2013) 的思想为蓝本, 重点关注学术出版, 尤其是学术期刊和资料库。Swartz 的 " 开放存取游击宣言 "(2008) 为 他们的许多活动奠定了基础: " 那些可以访问这些资源的人 -- 学生、图书馆员、科学家, 你们被赋予了一种特权。你们可 以享用这场知识盛宴, 而其他入却被拒之门外。但是, 你们不必 -- 事实上, 从道义上讲, 你们不能 -- 将这种特权据为己有。 你们有责任与世界分享。你们已经这样做了: 与同事交换密码, 为朋友填写下载请求 "。公共图书馆员将 Swartz 的宣言视为 一种挑战 -- 如果你有访问权, 你就有责任与那些没有访问权的人分享: " 只要我们有足够多的人, 在全世界范围内, 我们 就不仅能发出反对知识私有化的强烈信息, 还能让它成为过去。你愿意加入我们吗 ?"

Memory of the World / Public Library (世界记忆 / 公共图书馆) 是在 20 世纪 90 年代前南斯拉夫的废墟上诞生的。 Mars 是一名自学成才的黑客, 1996 年他和其他几个人一起开办了萨格勒布的第一家网吧。1999 年, 他参与了在萨格勒布一 条小巷里一家破旧的皮革店里建立一个名为 " 多媒体研究所 / MaMa " 的文化中心的工作。该中心很快成为被右翼政府推向社 会边缘的少数民族和持不同政见团体 (生态、LGBTQ、种族、女权) 的聚集地。作为政治活动家与网络活动家碰撞的活跃场所, MaMa 是萨格勒布这座拥有 100 多万人口的城市中仅有的三个独立文化空间之一, 在南斯拉夫内战之后为政治反抗提供了一个实体场所。2000 年代, 随着民族主义浪潮的消退, MaMa 通过创建独立媒体渠道、举办公共项目和研讨会, 将工作重点转 移到解决资本主义全球化问题上。时至今日, MaMa 仍在继续举办各种文化活动, 包括电影节、讲座、黑客马拉松、读书会、 音乐会、展览、文学沙龙和数字化工作坊 -- 所有活动均免费向公众开放。

" 公共图书馆 "(Public Library) 的在线部门是 " 世界记忆 "(Memory of the World), 这是一个成立于 2016 年的网站, 致力于传播免费书籍。这是一个真正意义上的 " 公共图书馆 "。其宣言指出:

公共图书馆是:

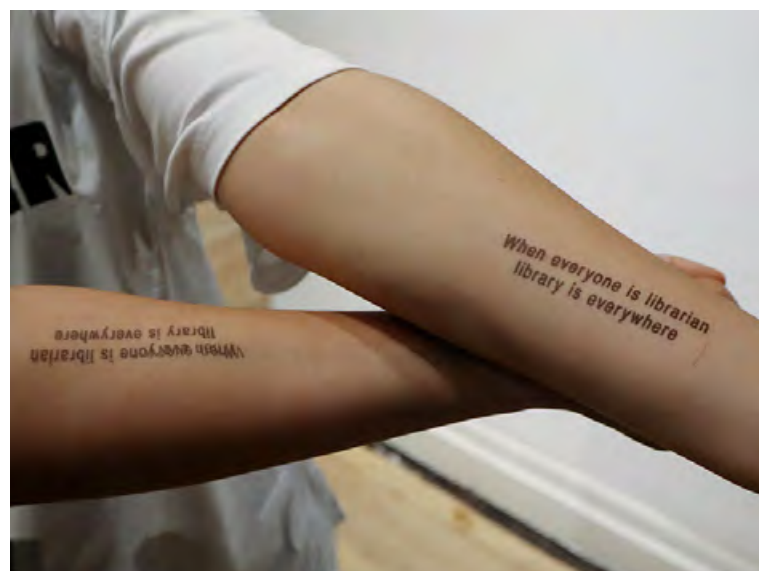
- 每个社会成员都能免费获得图书
- 图书馆目录
- 图书馆员 当书籍准备好分享, 精心编排目录, 每个人都是图书管理员。

人人都是图书管理员, 图书馆无处不在

(When everyone is librarian, library is everywhere)


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Everyone is librarian
stamp, 7x2x10cm





When everyone is librarian
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Library is Everywhere
Wall painting, 100x75cm

Guerilla Open Access Manifesto

Information is power. But like all power, there are those who want to keep it for themselves. The world's entire scientific and cultural heritage, published over centuries in books and journals, is increasingly being digitized and locked up by a handful of private corporations. Want to read the papers featuring the most famous results of the sciences? You'll need to send enormous amounts to publishers like Reed Elsevier.

There are those struggling to change this. The Open Access Movement has fought valiantly to ensure that scientists do not sign their copyrights away but instead ensure their work is published on the Internet, under terms that allow anyone to access it. But even under the best scenarios, their work will only apply to things published in the future. Everything up until now will have been lost.

That is too high a price to pay. Forcing academics to pay money to read the work of their colleagues? Scanning entire libraries but only allowing the folks at Google to read them? Providing scientific articles to those at elite universities in the First World, but not to children in the Global South? It's outrageous and unacceptable.

"I agree," many say, "but what can we do? The companies hold the copyrights, they make enormous amounts of money by charging for access, and it's perfectly legal — there's nothing we can do to stop them." But there is something we can, something that's already being done: we can fight back.

Those with access to these resources — students, librarians, scientists — you have been given a privilege. You get to feed at this banquet of knowledge while the rest of the world is locked out. But you need not — indeed, morally, you cannot — keep this privilege for yourselves. You have a duty to share it with the world. And you have: trading passwords with colleagues, filling download requests for friends.

Meanwhile, those who have been locked out are not standing idly by. You have been sneaking through holes and climbing over fences, liberating the information locked up by the publishers and sharing them with your friends.

But all of this action goes on in the dark, hidden underground. It's called stealing or piracy, as if sharing a wealth of knowledge were the moral equivalent of plundering a ship and murdering its crew. But sharing isn't immoral — it's a moral imperative. Only those blinded by greed would refuse to let a friend make a copy.

Large corporations, of course, are blinded by greed. The laws under which they operate require it — their shareholders would revolt at anything less. And the politicians they have bought off back them, passing laws giving them the exclusive power to decide who can make copies.

There is no justice in following unjust laws. It's time to come into the light and, in the grand tradition of civil disobedience, declare our opposition to this private theft of public culture.

We need to take information, wherever it is stored, make our copies and share them with the world. We need to take stuff that's out of copyright and add it to the archive. We need to buy secret databases and put them on the Web. We need to download scientific journals and upload them to file sharing networks. We need to fight for Guerilla Open Access.

With enough of us, around the world, we'll not just send a strong message opposing the privatization of knowledge — we'll make it a thing of the past. Will you join us?

Aaron Swartz

July 2008, Eremo, Italy

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Around
Publishing
2024:
Reading Room,
Kitchen,
Garden
阅读室: 推荐阅读

艾森 XinAi: 中国 命理与算法
白梓辰: XPLORE (Global Coffee Trip)
不一 BUYI: 食物解 (副记 Food Anatomy)
陈川端: 世界在巨蛇的腹中 Belly of The Giant Serp
陈观铃: 公园植物系系列
陈观铃: 妈
吃的 ReallyWant: 吃的 ReallyWant
吃豆人 Lucy Hu: In Search of Meanwhile Gar
Cité du Design / CSAUSE / 王嘉婧: Revue AZIM
第 57 期

傅晓: Bodysing
傅晓: 1840/How do you see the ash on the gla
郭淳/pleaseandpeace: 甜园 sweet garden
郭淳/pleaseandpeace: sucai magazine
issue 2 - insomnia

郭昊: 室内瀑布群
何玉蓓: 万物有灵 Animism

姜佳鑫: 美国连环画百科全书
紧急散步 emergency walk: Daily Objects
紧急散步 emergency walk: BACKS
李瑞妮: It's all about cows
刘澜瑄 Florencel.anxuanLiu: Two Chairs & A Lad
鲁钰: 青花椒
路湘 Song Lu: 工作中的女性 Working Women
屁头兔: 田野记事 / 版纳小憩 / 碎片备忘录 / 宅家日记

Around
Publishing
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Reading Room,
Kitchen,
Garden
特别参展方

香格纳画廊: 香格纳十年
Design360: Design360 x Around Publishi



An event project by B09K
Ruidan Zou, Mengyu Sun, Yue Yuan

Special thanks to Around Publishing for the invitation