TEMPORARY LIBRARY OF PORTUGUESE MEDIA ART FOR XCOAX 2017

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Libraries are evaluated as superfluous and outdated entities by common sense, especially because 'everything' seems accessible from computer networks, and particularly the ones accessible through the small computers in our pockets that we still call (smart)phones. Despite that, they are still efficient systems for the preservation and the sharing of knowledge produced under high standards (Kurzweil, 2013), often just impossible to retrieve online, or not yet digitised anywhere. Beyond any fetishism for the books as an object, physical libraries are provided with space which facilitates the meeting of people and fellow experts, creating concrete opportunities to learn and improve knowledge.

On the other hand, the monumental character of the classic institutional library and its physical centrality, can be overcome by a contemporary, external, and qualified intervention, still coping with its traditional systems.

The *Temporary Library* project relies on the concept of metaphorically breaking the classic boundaries of libraries, creating a temporary social space based on a consistent selection of publications, and then a new free resource, still dynamically mobile. A *Temporary Library* is meant to bring publications in places where they're not necessarily known, finally expanding and redefining, in a contemporary sense, the public role of libraries. Co-curated with Luísa Ribas and Miguel Carvalhais, we created a Temporary Library of Portuguese Media Art print publications, which was available during the xCoAx International Conference in Lisbon. Publishers and individuals were asked to donate publications, and a specific space was dedicated to consult it. After xCoAx this special collec-

tion of publications was donated to the FBAUL library under the condition that if another event would require to lend it, the special collection would be open to negotiation, possibly leading to a lending, and having it back at the end.

The Temporary Library of Portuguese Media Art has gathered almost ninety different publications, generously donated, and it has been displayed through a modular, reconfigurable fab lab-produced shelves' system, conceived by master students in Communication Design and New Media Beatriz Ramos and Lucas Gómez, coordinated by Arquivo 237 (Sara Orsi and João Abreu Valente). Furthermore, they developed a website and a script using the library catalogue data to generate a different pdf each time it's produced, mixing the data order and design, and reflecting the same characteristics of the design. A new type of library space has been created, with two seemingly intertwined sides: the physical one within the FBAUL library for meeting and consultation, simultaneously stable and movable; and the virtual one facilitating awareness and acknowledgement, of the publications equally fixed and automatically reconfigurable.