

**Location**

Austria, Germany

Users

Michael Clegg, Martin Guttman, citizens of Graz, Hamburg, Mainz, and Firmini

Maintained by

Michael Clegg and Martin Guttman

Duration

1991 - 1993

Category

pedagogical, economy

Nr. and Title

U 081

The Open Public Library

Initiator(s)

Michael Clegg and Martin Guttman

Description

Michael Clegg and Martin Guttman installed The Open Public Library by placing weatherproofed, unlocked bookcases in three different neighbourhoods of Graz, Austria. The artists established direct contact with the community through collecting donated books door-to-door. Each bookcase held those books donated by the community. Neighbours could borrow the books for a few days and then return them to the cabinet. Neither registration nor a library card was needed.

Goals

To provide a representation of the neighbourhood, to stimulate social imagination and collective responsibility.

Beneficial outcomes

Access to public and shared resources without any restriction or administrative requirement.

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