



Michael Clegg and Martin Guttmann

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The Open Public Library

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Arte Útil archive nr:
167

Initiator:
Michael Clegg and Martin Guttmann

Location:
Austria, Germany

Category:
pedagogical, economy

Users:
Michael Clegg, Martin Guttmann,
citizens of Graz, Hamburg, Mainz,
and Firmini

Maintained by:
Michael Clegg and Martin Guttmann

Duration:
1991 - 1993

Description:

Michael Clegg and Martin Guttmann 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.

Images:

