



what the 1% don't want you to see.

About the *OccuLibrary*:

Most Occupy camps maintained a library tent. Shortly before the nationwide demonstrations planned for 2011-11-17, police in cities across the U.S. evicted the camps, and the libraries were largely demolished. In New York City alone, over 3,000 books were destroyed. (Massive demonstrations took place nonetheless.)

The OccuLibrary project proposed to reincarnate one or more aesthetically-informed versions of the Occupy camp libraries.

The project mission:

- to disseminate reliable information, especially info that can empower the 99% to act effectively in our own interests;
- to lure awareness toward such truth using aesthetically-informed, seductive means;
- to foster critical, cultural awareness in general;
- to build community among like-minded artists and other citizens; and
- to have fun.

The OccuLibrary has been a collaborative, ongoing project shaped by those who desire to co-create it using means that are not only nonviolent but engaging, even alluring.

Using aesthetically-informed strategies to lure awareness toward info that empowers the 99%.

Background:

An educated citizenry is a vital requisite for our survival as a free people.

– Thomas Jefferson, *Papers of Thomas Jefferson: Digital Edition* (1760-1799?).

Knowledge is power.

– Sir Francis Bacon, [*Religious Meditations, Of Heresies*](#) (1597).

A balance of power requires a balance of knowledge.



A modern economic system demands mass production of students who are not educated and have been rendered incapable of thinking.

– U.N.E.F. Strasbourg, [On the Poverty of Student Life](#) (1966).

Hatred never ceases by hatred;

But by love alone is healed.

This is an ancient and eternal law.

– "Dhammapada," Ch. 1, the Twin Verses 5, as quoted
by Maha Ghosananda

There is no responsibility without freedom;

No freedom, without power;

No power, without knowledge;

No knowledge, without love.

Through the ages, the powerful have sought to limit public access to important knowledge by gaining control of the media and education and by defunding or otherwise attacking sources they can't control. In our time, the internet has become a vital "public square" for free expression, but as [Lawrence Lessig observed](#) as long ago as 2001, "[t]he innovation commons of the Internet threatens important and powerful pre-Internet interests. During the past five years, those interests have mobilized to launch a counterrevolution that is now having a global impact."

An infowar is not a war against or for any particular nation or party. Rather, it's a struggle triggered by the development of new means of distributing information, over who will control those means. In such times, the dissemination of diverse points of view becomes a subversive act.

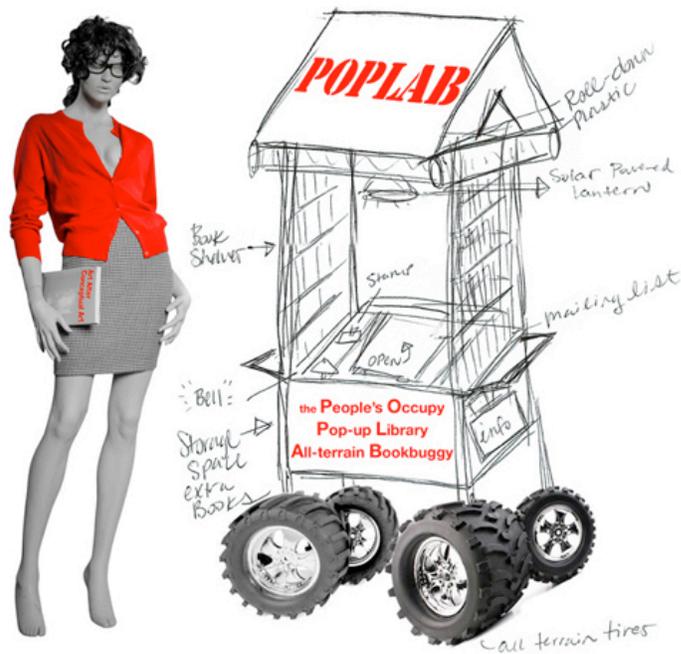
And as [Julian Assange suggested](#) at the New Media Days 2009 conference, Denmark, "[Wikileaks] can't do it alone . . . We spend our efforts getting [the information] to you and allow you to publish it. But you've got to turn it into a story and make it moving to the population."

While info can serve as a weapon in the infowar, it's not the only one. P.r. can obscure and distort; data doesn't inevitably empower. Sometimes it takes art to create personal, actionable insight; or, as artist William Powhida put it in *What Has The Art World Taught Me?* (2012):



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OccuLibrary History and Incarnations:

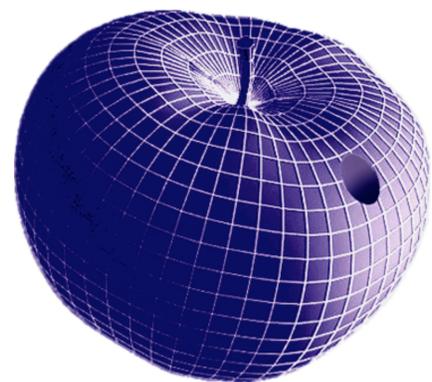


The OccuLibrary was conceived by Carolyn Sortor in 2011, who soon found a collaborator in Lizzy Wetzel. The two developed ideas for various possible incarnations of the project and sketched a proposed, ambulatory, pop-up library with a “sexy librarian.” They then recruited various additional collaborators.

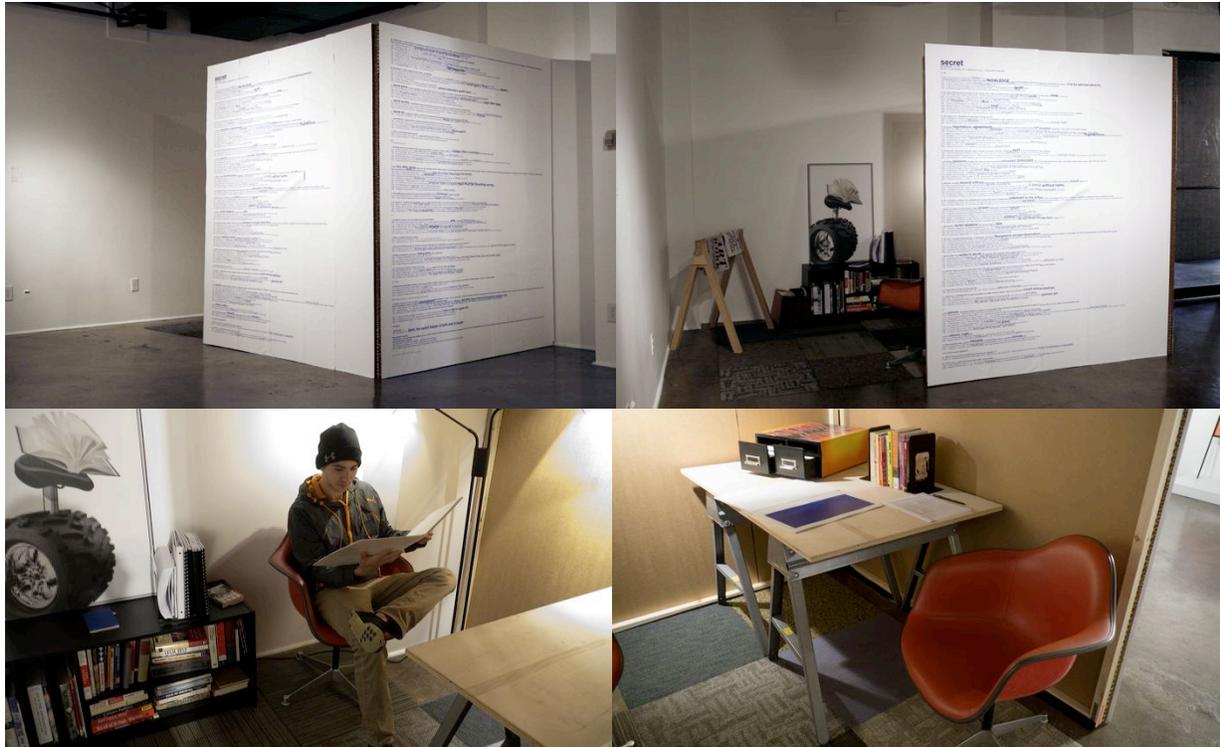
As of Jan. 1, 2014, OccuLibrary incarnations have included:

1. art as social wormhole

A reading group/“artificial MFA” course in classic and recent texts on aesthetic issues relating to art’s potential speak to or influence social or political realities; 2013-10-27 – ongoing. The group’s home base is Karen Weiner’s gallery, The Reading Room, Dallas, and the group also meets at other venues exhibiting art relevant to the readings. Organized by Carolyn Sortor; presented as part of *MAP 2013*.



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2. *Secret Sociality*

An installation of an intimate, partially-“hidden” library of books and other materials relevant to art and social issues, in the Eastfield College main gallery, 2013-10-12 – 12-06. Two gigs of “secret” info were also delivered to visitors who signed up for it. Created by Carolyn Sortor with Jeremy Massey for *MAP 2013*.

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3. *Co- Re-Creating Spaces*

An exhibition at CentralTrak, Dallas, 2012-11-17 – 2013-01-05, surveying how artists are questioning and subverting existing contexts or systems and contributing to their re-imagining and re-creation. With works by Morehshin Allahyari, Nadav Assor, Amy Balkin, Aram Bartholl, Zanny Begg, Oliver Ressler, Linda Bilda, Irina Botea, Martha Colburn, Michael Corris, Cassandra Emswiler, Kristen Cochran, Greg Metz, eteam, Cao Fei, Yevgeniy Fiks, Olga Kopenkina, Alexandra Lerman, Institute for Wishful Thinking, Martha Rosler, Dread Scott, the Yes Men & Steve Lambert, and Karen Weiner with Celia & Frank Eberle; co-curated by Carolyn Sortor & Michael A. Morris.



4. *Werkberg OccuLab*

A rolling sculpture housing the OccuLibrary library, with a slideshow projection inside showing various artists' photos of their work spaces. Created by Greg Metz, Cassandra Emswiler, & Kristen Cochran.

5. 451 degrees

A card catalogue created for the OccuLibrary by Karen Weiner with Celia & Frank Eberle. To make the cards, Karen rented an old, IBM Selectric typewriter, bought discarded library card catalogue cards on ebay, and on their backs typed info about the OccuLibrary books, including who donated them. Visuals of Occupy libraries in other cities and other images were interspersed among the cards.



6. Yankee Doodles Sing-a-Lot Sing-Along

An afternoon of art and songs with a revolutionary theme for young artists, presented on various dates 2012 – 2013 at The Reading Room, Oil and Cotton, and the Dallas Museum of Art. Created by Danette Dufilho, Anne Lawrence, & friends.



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7. *GlamROccuLibrarymentary Trailer Shoot*

A project presented 2012-04-14 – 28 as part of the *Fallas Dart Air*, in which members of the public were invited to be videotaped reading inspiring quotations from artists and other great thinkers, and also received a free ‘zine. Created by Carolyn Sortor & Lizzy Wetzel, with Sally Glass and George Quartz.



8. *OccuLibrary at CentralTrak*

In February, 2014, the books and materials of the OccuLibrary were placed with CentralTrak on indefinite loan for the purposes of an on-premises library. In addition, in connection with the *Co-Re- Creating Spaces* exhibition in 2012 and as part of Aram Bartholl's *Dead Drop* (2010 – ongoing) project, 2 gigs of OccuLibrary books and materials were made available in digital form on a flash drive embedded in the northwestern exterior wall of CentralTrak's building.

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