



Mission:

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

Most Occupy camps maintained a library tent. Shortly before the planned, nationwide demonstrations on Nov. 17, 2011, 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.

The OccuLibrary project proposes to reincarnate one or more aesthetically-informed versions of the Occupy camp library tents.

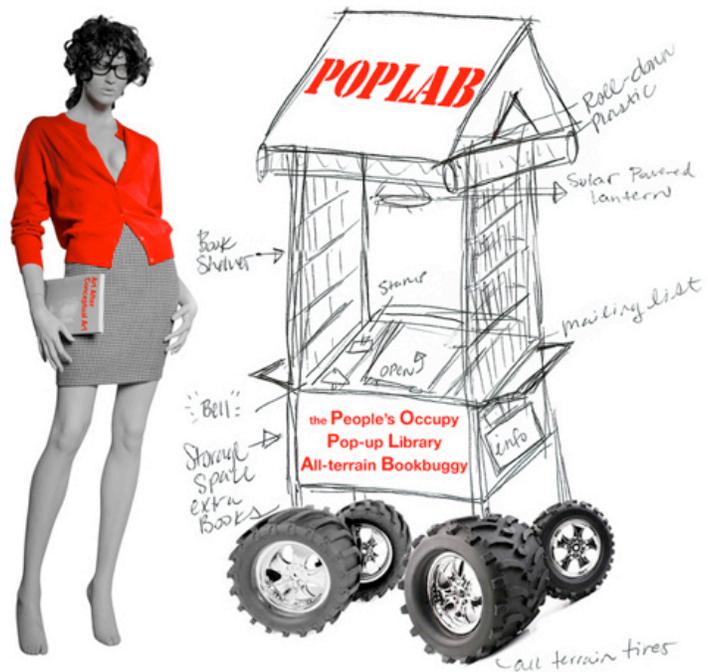
Our mission is:

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

A Few of Many Possible Project Components:

- A. One or more "bookmobile" carts,** possibly called the "People's Occupy Pop-up Library All-terrain Bookbuggy" ("POPLAB"), and possibly consisting of an all-terrain laundry cart or other mobile unit w/ excessive tires and an eye-catching sign, which could perambulate populated public areas in an amusing/alluring manner.
- B. A pop-up library installation** (tentatively, the "People's Occupy Pretty-big Top Education and Networking Tent" ("POPTENT")) that could temporarily live in a gallery, community center, or other space, and host events as well as books, videos, and other materials.
- C. A series of programs,** including performances of all possible varieties, art talks, screenings, readings, happenings, etc., including one or more events for kids.
- D. An exhibition of occupy-related art.**



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 our 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."

The infowar is not a war against or for any particular nation. Rather, it's a struggle between old and new power structures over who will control information. In such times, the dissemination of truth 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."

But 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):



More info about the project on the [OccuLibrary blog](#). To help co-create this project, email carolyn@c-cyte.com or m_alex_morris@yahoo.com.