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Marie Garambois, Amélie Barrio

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Title:

From peer economy to peer library, innovative French projects improving quality of life: common goods, creation, value

Authors:

Amélie Barrio, Library Curator student, École nationale supérieure des sciences de l'information et des bibliothèques (French national LIS school), Lyon, France, amelie.barrio@enssib.fr

Marie Garambois, Library Curator student, École nationale supérieure des sciences de l'information et des bibliothèques (French national LIS school), Lyon, France, marie.garambois@enssib.fr

Abstract:

The peer economy is based on sharing or exchanging goods, services, or knowledge between individuals, with or without money exchange, often via a digital matchmaking platform. This system aims at offering alternative models to attempt to answer to today's needs in a challenging economic environment. Current research on peer economy is mainly focused on its political and economic revolution induced in capitalist societies.

As a part of the non-market sector, it appears that libraries have not been studied yet through the prism of peer economy. Still, recent studies and advocacy work tend to show that libraries do have an economic impact on our societies. We make the hypothesis that libraries can be part of the peer economy and therefore want to demonstrate how they support P2P exchanges among patrons and librarians, improving quality of life on a daily basis. The emergence of the peer economy as a new business model has also raised the awareness of libraries interested in developing new services and uses. This tendency is currently resulting in the development of collaborative projects in different fields meeting three criteria: common goods, innovation and value.

We based our research on a literature review of French LIS and general articles presenting projects to question the emergence of peer libraries in France. This paper discusses the notions of common goods, innovation and value and how libraries can be studied through this economic prism.

Keywords:

Peer economy, peer library, Commons, P2P, collaborative projects, sharing

Paper:

In 2011, *Time Magazine* enlightened the peer economy among ten ideas that could actually change our world: "Don't own. Share" is now a motto for today's quality of life. The peer economy is based on sharing or exchanging goods, services, or knowledge between individuals, with or without money exchange, often *via* a digital matchmaking platform. This system aims at offering alternative models to attempt to answer to today's needs in a challenging economic environment. For Michel Bauwens, theorist and researcher on the field of P2P theory: "Peer production is highly dependent on the market for peer production produces use-value through mostly immaterial production, without directly providing an income for its producers."

Current research on peer economy is mainly focused on its political and economic revolution induced in capitalist societies. More than one in two French thus declared taking part of peer

economy transactions in everyday life in 2015: car sharing, objects lending, crowdfunding, etc. But we noticed that this figure did not include the participation in library activities, whereas patrons are having more and more P2P interactions, sometimes without even being aware of it (for instance in participating in a MOOC, exchanging books *via* a book box, etc.).

As a part of the non-market sector, it appears that libraries have not been studied yet through the prism of peer economy. Still, recent studies and advocacy work tend to show that libraries do have an economic impact on our societies. We make the hypothesis that libraries can be part of the peer economy and therefore want to demonstrate how they support P2P exchanges among patrons and librarians, improving the quality of life on a daily basis. The emergence of the peer economy as a new business model has also raised the awareness of libraries interested in developing new services and uses. This tendency is currently resulting in the development of collaborative projects in different fields meeting three criteria: common goods, innovation and value.

We based our research on a literature review of French LIS and general articles presenting projects to question the emergence of peer libraries in France meeting the criteria of the peer economy. In this perspective, we put forward an investigation of the way librarians and journalists are presenting the added value of these projects set in collaborative economy. This research is based on French examples and could be further extended by a broader picture of innovative European projects.

This paper discusses the notions of common goods, innovation and value and how libraries can be studied through this economic prism, in the following three sections. First, we approach the topic of information sharing, with the concept of the library as a common good. Then, we question the involvement of libraries in innovative projects, especially new ways of learning through workshops or MOOCs, as "human libraries". Finally, we present the idea of the library being a place of collaborative added value through the creation of information and data, for instance with 3D printing, seed libraries or the development of open software.

The idea of value is related to the notion of impact: "[...] to evaluate how the library changes its patrons' life, neighbourhoods or society by providing an access to knowledge and culture, digital training etc.: the impact gathers all these direct or indirect, immediate or longer-term efforts of the library on its environment."¹ (Touitou, 2016).

In the 21st century, library may be understood as a hub, connecting people and ideas.

The collaborative library: a common good and a place of sharing

We need to refer to the notion of "Commons" to define the collaborative library. During the 13th century, agrarian private property knew a massive change due to the "enclosures" shift (some fences surrounding the fields appeared, leading the community-based management to private property). The common goods are collectively managed following definite rules regarding access and use. Commons can be natural, cultural or information assets² (Rothé, 2015).

¹ Touitou, C. (2016). *Évaluer la bibliothèque par les mesures d'impacts*. Villeurbanne: Presses de l'Enssib. p. 19.

² Rothé, B. (2015, December 20). Les communs, la vraie idée révolutionnaire [Text]. Retrieved 7 January 2017, from <http://www.marianne.net/les-communs-vraie-idee-revolutionnaire-100238861.html>

The collaborative library meets the criteria of this definition³ (Pagnet, 2015) : it collectively manages natural and cultural goods, and information assets to give access and use of them to a wide audience, while conserving and valuating them for future generations.

It pursues a general interest transforming the library into a common good useful to everyone, at the heart of the social and economic concerns of the 21st century. This characterization can be included in a wider movement driven by the development of "third places" as defined by the sociologist Ray Oldenburg in 1980. These third places are different from the first place (home) and the second place (the workplace) as neutral spaces, open to everyone, offering numerous services meeting the needs of a population⁴ (Rue89Lyon, 2014).

The collaborative library needs to be integrated in wider social movements, in order to advocate its missions and have the support of civil society. This implies a change in positioning as libraries fighting for cultural rights and knowledge Commons. Changing the discourse is also essential to position the libraries not only in cultural and heritage fields but also in education and social fields. Libraries host many conferences on the topic of Commons to raise public awareness, such as in the Bibliothèque publique d'information (Bpi)⁵ (Bpi, 2014) or during the latest Association des Bibliothécaires de France (ABF) congress⁶ (ActuaLitté, 2016).

A primary role of the libraries in collaborative economy is to fight against appropriation of the Commons by companies or private organizations. The installation of seed libraries⁷ (uMap, 2017), *via* the association "Graines de troc"⁸ (Graines de troc, 2017) or "Partageons les jardins"⁹ (Partageons les jardins, 2017) for instance, illustrates the struggle libraries are involved in. These associations are aiming for the exchange of free seeds in order to fight against living organisms' patenting by companies such as Monsanto. They can also aim at promoting social cohesion in an urban environment, for example by creating shared gardens in an indoor courtyard or outside the library, as the one Louise-Michel Library installed in Paris¹⁰ (Rivaz & Melot, 2015). More and more libraries are also accommodating cafés¹¹ (Lire au Havre, 2017) in their lobby as places of social interactions and meeting grounds.

A further example is the temporary library created by the Bpi on the topic of social revolt from the 22nd April to the 8th May 2016. Called "Occupy Beaubourg"¹² (Livres Hebdo, 2016),

³ Pagnet, B. (2015, January 1). Mais en quoi les biens communs concernent-ils les bibliothèques ? [Text]. Retrieved 7 January 2017, from http://bbf.enssib.fr/tour-d-horizon/mais-en-quoi-les-biens-communs-concernent-ils-les-bibliotheques_65490

⁴ Jeux vidéo, café-restau et ambiance cosy : la bibliothèque deviendra un 'troisième lieu' | Rue89Lyon. (n.d.). Retrieved 7 January 2017, from <http://www.rue89lyon.fr/2014/08/18/jeux-videos-cafe-restau-et-ambiance-cosy-la-bibliotheque-deviendra-un-troisieme-lieu/>

⁵ Pour en savoir plus sur les (biens) communs. (2014, October 29). [Bibliographie]. Retrieved 7 January 2017, from <http://balises.bpi.fr/economie/pour-en-savoir-plus-sur-les-biens-communs>

⁶ Les biens communs et leur impact sur les bibliothèques. ActuaLitté (n.d.). Retrieved 7 January 2017, from <https://www.actualitte.com/article/lives/les-biens-communs-et-leur-impact-sur-les-bibliotheques/65412>

⁷ Carte des Grainothèques - uMap. (n.d.). Retrieved 7 January 2017, from http://umap.openstreetmap.fr/fr/map/carte-des-grainotheques_5922#6/45.560/7.954

⁸ Les grainothèques, semences à partager. Graines de Troc (n.d.). Retrieved 7 January 2017, from <http://www.grainesdetroc.fr/got.php>

⁹ Bibliothèque, grainothèques et outillthèque | Partageons les jardins ! (n.d.). Retrieved 7 January 2017, from <http://partageonslesjardins.fr/animation-de-reseau/centre-de-ressources/bibliotheque-grainotheque-et-outilltheque-2/>

¹⁰ Rivaz, F. de, & Melot, M. (2015). *Bibliothèques et jardins : quelles alliances possibles ?* Enssib, Villeurbanne.

¹¹ Bibliothèque Oscar Niemeyer | Lire au Havre. (n.d.). Retrieved 7 January 2017, from <http://lireauhavre.fr/fr/contenu-standard/bibliotheque-oscar-niemeyer>

¹² Occupy Beaubourg : déjà un millier de livres. Livres Hebdo (n.d.). Retrieved 7 January 2017, from <http://www.livreshebdo.fr/article/occupy-beaubourg-deja-un-millier-de-livres>

this library was collaboratively supplied. Its leitmotiv stated that "this constantly metamorphosing library will become a lively place for sharing and exchanging views, set in an organic and artistic process, following the model of collective and spontaneous libraries appearing within social protest movements *Occupy* all over the world in New York City, Hong Kong, Taiwan.¹³" (Bpi, 2016). This initiative enabled the gathering of a few thousand documents; it also gave pause for reflection to the citizens about the need for a resistance or struggle library to accompany social movements. These "resistance libraries" furthermore have several lives, setting them in the circular economy. For instance, when the French social movement "NuitDebout" stopped, the books gathered by the Parisian "BiblioDebout" have been shared between BiblioDebout Lyon and the Le Taslu Library¹⁴ (Zone A Défendre, 2016). This library, located at the heart of a "ZAD"¹⁵, is managed by a group of collective struggle against a future airport in Notre-Dame-des-Landes.

Libraries also promote the access to an open Internet: some of them even sign the Bib'lib' charter¹⁶ (ABF, 2015) initiated by the ABF, an Internet access being needed to undertake administrative formalities, guaranty access to knowledge and communicate all over the world. Libraries can also provide a "Bibliobox": derived from the "PirateBox", it allows users to download P2P-shared files for free without authenticating. To ensure the right to private copying, some libraries also organise "Copy Parties"¹⁷ (Libération, 2012), where participants can download library contents for personal use. The Library of the Institut National des Sciences Appliquées (INSA) in Rennes even organised a "Crypto Party" to teach participants how to protect their personal data and their e-reputation¹⁸ (Let it bib, 2016).

Naturally, books are also exchanged, thanks to "bookcrossing", book boxes and "Troc de presse"¹⁹ (Pratiques collaboratives, 2015). Those display stands installed in libraries' lobbies enable visitors to exchange magazines and newspapers for free. Many book boxes are installed in the French streets as in many other countries all over the world. This initiative is supported by the association Les Livres des rues²⁰ (Les Livres des rues, 2017), defining its goal as promoting street libraries and raise the awareness of citizens and institutions. Philippe Guichoux, President of the association, describes the organisation in Rennes: "Open access books 24/7: this is what street libraries installed across France achieve, on shelves or wooden boxes.²¹" (Le Parisien, 2014). The company RecycLivres²² (Recyclivres, 2017) launched a

¹³ La bibliothèque participative et citoyenne et les Anarchives de la révolte. (n.d.). Retrieved 7 January 2017, from <http://www.bpi.fr/en/sites/SiteInstitutionnel/contents/Contenus/agenda/evenements/la-bibliotheque-participative-et.html>

¹⁴ Bibliothèque Le Taslu - Zone A Défendre. (n.d.). Retrieved 7 January 2017, from <http://zad.nadir.org/spip.php?rubrique85&lang=fr>

¹⁵ ZAD: to the developers of the airport project, it means a "Zone d'Aménagement Différé", i.e. a differed development; to the struggle movement, it means a "Zone À Défendre": a zone to be defended.

¹⁶ ABF. (n.d.-a). Bib'lib - Bibliothèque pour l'accès libre à l'information et aux savoirs. Retrieved 7 January 2017, from <http://www.abf.asso.fr/1/22/530/ABF/bib-lib-bibliotheque-pour-l-acces-libre-a-l-information-et-aux-savoirs>

¹⁷ «Copy Party»: c'est la fête à la bibliothèque ! - Libération. (n.d.). Retrieved 7 January 2017, from http://www.liberation.fr/ecrans/2012/03/07/copy-party-c-est-la-fete-a-la-bibliotheque_952075

¹⁸ 1, 2, 3 chiffrez ! CryptoParty à la bibliothèque de l'INSA de Rennes | Let it bib. (n.d.). Retrieved 7 January 2017, from <https://letitbib.wordpress.com/2016/04/18/1-2-3-chiffrez-cryptoparty-a-la-bibliotheque-de-linsa-de-rennes/>

¹⁹ Silvae. Pratiques collaboratives (n.d.). Troc de presse à la bibliothèque de Toulouse. Retrieved 7 January 2017, from <http://www.pratiques-collaboratives.net/Troc-de-presse-a-la-bibliotheque-de-Toulouse.html>

²⁰ Les Livres des Rues | Association de promotion des bibliothèques de rues auprès du public et des institutions. (n.d.). Retrieved 7 January 2017, from <https://leslivresdesrues.wordpress.com/>

²¹ Les bibliothèques de rue, un best-seller français? - Le Parisien. (n.d.). Retrieved 7 January 2017, from <http://www.leparisien.fr/flash-actualite-culture/tendance-les-bibliotheques-de-rue-un-best-seller-francais-24-10-2014-4238805.php>

²² Vente et collecte de livres d'occasion - Recyclivre. (n.d.). Retrieved 7 January 2017, from <http://www.recyclivre.com/index.php>

collaborative directory to map all the book boxes²³ (Boîte à lire, 2017) in France. There are currently 600 identified boxes with their location and a picture if possible. They are installed by neighbourhood committees, associative libraries or cities thanks to their public libraries' network. Available for all, these book boxes can especially benefit the homeless who through no fault of their own are the public space's inhabitants, thus playing a key role in social and solidary inclusion.

The collaborative library: a place to learn all life long

For thirty years, libraries have been diversifying their offer, by lending other media along books. They expanded lending to tapes, games and vinyl records, then CDs, DVDs and video games. Today, many of them also lend readers, digital tablets, laptops and other electronic devices to patrons. Download of Open access music and text contents²⁴ (ACIM, 2015), individual and collective listening²⁵ (BM Lyon, 2015) and viewing rooms are also available. Some libraries even lend toolboxes²⁶ (Bricolib, 2013), music instruments, games consoles or sewing machines.

Mediation workshops are proposed along the availability of these spaces and collaborative tools. Collaborative libraries do not, indeed, consider that this is enough to lend those tools or cultural and everyday objects: they promote the development of training workshops, not necessarily conducted by the library staff. Libraries also develop partnerships, especially when they create "FabLabs"²⁷ (Labenbib, 2017) or "MakerSpaces": in the global Do It Yourself (DIY) trend, those collaborative creation spaces with 3D printers require special competences.

There is also a distance education offer thanks to Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) and Small Private Online Courses (SPOCs). Libraries can contribute to the conception, realisation and promotion of these media in their Training Catalogues. Collaborative economy tends to encourage the autodidacts movement; the collaborative library can play a role to foster self-directed language learning sessions, computer coding²⁸ (Voyageurs du code, 2017), video games creation²⁹ (Bpi, 2015) etc. One must pay attention not only to these projects but also to the commitment of the staff, which can be disoriented because of the change of view on the library; they must be reassured that these changes do not imply a loss of "core competences" or expertise but rather the opportunity of developing new competences.

²³ Boîte à lire. (n.d.). Retrieved 7 January 2017, from <http://boite-a-lire.com/>

²⁴ Quelques exemples... Ziklibenbib : la musique libre s'invite en bibliothèque. ACIM. (n.d.). Retrieved from <http://www.acim.asso.fr/ziklibenbib/quelques-exemples/>

²⁵ Du nouveau à la médiathèque : une borne d'écoute musicale à découvrir. (n.d.). Retrieved 7 January 2017, from <https://www.bm-lyon.fr/15-bibliotheques-et-un-bibliobus/mediatheque-de-vaise/zoom-sur/article/du-nouveau-a-la-mediatheque-une-borne-d-ecoute-musicale-a-decouvrir>

²⁶ Bricothèque : louer et emprunter des outils. Location d'outils entre particuliers. (2013, February 5). Retrieved 7 January 2017, from <http://www.bricolib.net/trouver-une-bricotheque/>

²⁷ Lab en Bib. (n.d.). Retrieved 7 January 2017, from <http://www.labenbib.fr/index.php?title=Accueil>

²⁸ Devenez acteur du numérique - Voyageurs du code. (n.d.). Retrieved 7 January 2017, from <http://voyageursducode.fr/>

²⁹ Atelier de création / développement d'un jeu vidéo. (n.d.). Retrieved 7 January 2017, from <http://www.bpi.fr/agenda/atelier-de-creation--developpement-dun-jeu-video>

The library in Languidic also offers a sharing skills service through the digital matchmaking platform Steeple³⁰ (Let it bib, 2015), built on the model of the "human library": librarians as well as users propose to share their skills in exchange for new ones. Library is thus positioning itself as a learning place to develop further information, communication and social competences.

In Valence, the public library organises cooking workshops for participants in French learning workshops. One Saturday a month, these sessions serve as a basis to French learning, creating bonds between participants and introducing the library³¹ (Médiathèque de Valence, 2014). It also offers the services of a public letter-writer to help patrons answer letters, write a request or a résumé and a cover letter.

The collaborative library is committed to being a fully-fledged resource for citizens. Co-working spaces are now being created in other places than libraries, providing tables, chairs, phone and any useful tool to conduct meetings. New needs quickly emerged among co-workers, especially regarding documentation. Developers and Web Designers created a "Webibli"³² (ActuaLitté, 2015), thus uniting a community of so-called "weblinautes" who lend their own books and borrow their neighbours' ones. The users' accounts are positive: Timothée explains that this library is "the best way to stay up-to-date without breaking the bank while meeting nice people sharing interests!". To Celia, "thanks to Webibli, I stopped spending too much at the bookshop and met new people!"

The NGO Bibliothèques sans frontières³³ also offers learning tools to improve citizens' the quality of life: the "Khan Academy", available to francophone learners, is governed by the rule of "providing a high-quality teaching to everyone, everywhere" with more than 2 200 mini-lessons on maths, computer science, history, finance, physics, chemistry, biology, astronomy, music, pictorial art or economics. Those video tutorials are available on YouTube.

The collaborative library: a place of creativity and innovation

This transition towards collaborative libraries requires a local rooting in the scientific, cultural, educational and social project of a town just as in Grenay, where policy for library services is at the heart of the action³⁴ (Médiathèque Estaminet, 2017). In small cities where up to 50% of the inhabitants are registered library users, such as in Saint-Aubin-du-Pavail³⁵ (Médiathèque Philéas Fogg, 2017), the library also serves as "single desk" for filling in any administrative formalities as well as getting a basket of vegetables purchased from a local farm or picking up a parcel. It also plays an important facilitative role by imagining new services, such as cultural car-sharing launched by the library in Vergongheon in 2015³⁶

³⁰ Les réseaux d'échanges de compétences en bibliothèque | Let it bib. (n.d.). Retrieved 7 January 2017, from <https://letitbib.wordpress.com/2015/11/25/les-reseaux-dechanges-de-competences-en-bibliotheque/>

³¹ Atelier Melting popotes. Médiathèque de Valence (n.d.). Retrieved 7 January 2017, from <http://www.bibliothequesdanslacite.org/content/atelier-melting-popotes>

³² Webibli : le partage de livres pour codeurs, graphistes et tous les autres. (n.d.). Retrieved 7 January 2017, from <https://www.actualitte.com/article/monde-edition/webibli-un-site-pour-le-partage-de-livres-lies-au-web/60983>

³³ "Library without borders"

³⁴ Projet Culturel. Médiathèque Estaminet de Grenay. (n.d.). Retrieved 7 January 2017, from <http://mediatheque-estaminet.fr/apropos/projet-culturel/>

³⁵ Médiathèque Philéas Fogg. Saint Aubin du Pavail. (n.d.). Retrieved 7 January 2017, from </content/m%C3%A9diath%C3%A8que-phil%C3%A9as-fogg-saint-aubin-du-pavail>

³⁶ Covoiturage culturel | Auzon Communauté. (n.d.). Retrieved 7 January 2017, from <http://www.cc-auzon.fr/covoiturage-culturel-0>

(Auzon Communauté, 2015). A start-up called Covoiturage-Art³⁷ (Covoiture-Art, 2017) then disseminated this practice by suggesting 1 500 cultural sites to users.

The Toulouse Public Library unveiled a "Music Box"³⁸ (Bibliothèque de Toulouse, 2016): this innovative service is dedicated to amateur musicians who can borrow music instruments, learn to play and record their creations in the recording studio. "A public library has never offered such a service to amateur musicians", declared Nicole Miguel-Belaud, city councillor in charge of public reading and libraries. These elements contribute to bringing collaborative libraries closer to citizens' concerns since one in four of them claimed playing a music instrument in 2010³⁹ (IRMA, 2010).

The collaborative services developed by the libraries generally serve well-defined communities. For instance, enhancing a video games-space is not necessarily aiming at all audiences but rather to gamers. It strongly supports the hypothesis that the collaborative library's actions are more effective if services are developed to answer expressed needs. Paradoxically, deviating from the core missions of the library – to promote books and reading – may be the best opportunity to supporting it with reading, writing and languages learning workshops.

In this perspective, some libraries are organising "Biblioremix" sessions, based on "Muséomix": these one- or several-days workshops aim at co-constructing the ideal library. As in Versailles⁴⁰ (Biblio Remix, 2016), half of the participants are patrons and the other half are librarians. "Hackatons"⁴¹ (BnF, 2016) and "hackerspaces" can also contribute to redesigning the library and its model by joining the free license and open software movement from the IT field. This approach consists in fostering the use of open source software⁴² (BibLibre, 2017), producing and distributing contents under Creative Commons licenses or actively contributing to the collaborative encyclopaedia Wikipédia⁴³ (Livres Hebdo, 2016).

The library as an editor and producer of contents can also back researchers in their studies, by supporting the Open data movement⁴⁴ (BnF, 2017), reusing public data or providing help to data and text mining. Liberating public services and library data is a transparency action that contributes to restoring citizens' confidence. Communicating on and *via* this data is an interesting track, improving the way patrons – whether they are users or not of the library – perceive its activities and potential. Furthermore, this data can be freely reused and adopted to

³⁷ Covoiture-Art.com | Le covoiturage pour les entreprises et les institutions. (n.d.). Retrieved from <http://www.covoiture-art.com/>

³⁸ Lancement de la Music Box. Bibliothèque municipale de Toulouse (n.d.). Retrieved 7 January 2017, from http://www.bibliotheque.toulouse.fr/music_box.html

³⁹ IRMA. (n.d.). Le marché des instruments de musique : une facture bien réglée / Actualités / Irma : centre d'information et de ressources pour les musiques actuelles. Retrieved 7 January 2017, from <http://www.irma.asso.fr/LE-MARCHE-DES-INSTRUMENTS-DE>

⁴⁰ Biblio Remix | Comment repenser, remixer la bibliothèque avec les habitants, des bidouilleurs, des designers... ? (n.d.). Retrieved 7 January 2017, from <https://biblioremix.wordpress.com/>

⁴¹ BnF. (n.d.). BnF - Premier hackathon de la BnF. Retrieved 7 January 2017, from http://www.bnf.fr/fr/la_bnf/anx_actu_bib/a.hackathon_2016.html

⁴² BibLibre. (n.d.). [Text]. Retrieved 7 January 2017, from <http://www.bibliibre.com/fr>

⁴³ Les bibliothécaires et Wikipédia, même combat ? | Livres Hebdo. (n.d.). Retrieved 7 January 2017, from <http://www.livreshebdo.fr/article/les-bibliothecaires-et-wikipedia-meme-combat>

⁴⁴ Accueil (data.bnf.fr). (n.d.). Retrieved 7 January 2017, from <http://data.bnf.fr/>

build new services. This is how the app Affluences⁴⁵ (Affluences, 2017) has been developed by the eponymous start-up before being deployed in 67 libraries in France⁴⁶.

Libraries are also committed to Open access⁴⁷ (Université d'Angers, 2013): they support the research results produced thanks to public funding, to oppose the "author pays" model promoted by scientific and scholarly publishers such as Elsevier⁴⁸ (Sciences et avenir, 2016).

Collaborative economy relies on principles of solidarity and mutual aid. For libraries, it implies to be able to develop new funding methods to back projects, for instance *via* crowdfunding⁴⁹ (Les Échos, 2015). This method is also an opportunity to involve the library users' community in projects and to contribute to their achievement.

Conclusion: the peer library, an innovative model to create and improve together

Through these different projects, peer libraries develop ability to act on their users' everyday life issues by going beyond their traditional scope. By doing so, they affect positively the quality of life, thus making library services indispensable. These evolutions fit in the post-capitalist revolution, placing the collaborative libraries in line with their era and their patrons' expectations. An advocacy action towards the citizens and authorities is necessary to help generalize this model by informing and highlighting its assets. This is the purpose of the Numok digital festival organised by Paris public libraries⁵⁰ (Paris Bibliothèques, 2016). For two weeks, forty libraries from the capital city of France proposed more than 200 free cultural events related to digital technology and knowledge Commons.

Notwithstanding this trend, the development of collaborative libraries in France is relatively late in comparison with Anglo-Saxon or Northern Europe countries, lacking a guide to developing this model and evaluation tools. To that end, the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA)⁵¹ (IFLA, 2016) and other professional associations⁵² (ABF, 2016) are developing impact assessment methods. These evaluation tools measuring the social impact of libraries also integrate "outcomes": employment, property prices, education, social inequality reduction.

Therefore, the French Standardization Association (AFNOR) published the ISO 16439 standard entitled "Methods and procedures to evaluate the impact of libraries". Lately, the Val d'Oise department lead the study⁵³ (Val d'Oise, 2016) "La bibliothèque vaut-elle le coût?"⁵⁴.

⁴⁵ Affluences - L'affluence en temps réel. (n.d.). Retrieved 7 January 2017, from <https://www.affluences.com/affluence>

⁴⁶ They are mainly academic libraries.

⁴⁷ A voté ! Pour une archive ouverte institutionnelle à l'UA | Projet AO. (n.d.). Retrieved 7 January 2017, from <http://blog.univ-angers.fr/projetao/2013/03/29/a-vote-pour-une-archive-ouverte-institutionnelle-a-lua/#.WHCv6rmwX5t>

⁴⁸ SCI-Hub, le site de téléchargement pirate de publications scientifique de nouveau disponible - Sciencesetavenir.fr. (n.d.). Retrieved 7 January 2017, from http://www.sciencesetavenir.fr/fondamental/sci-hub-le-site-de-telechargement-pirate-de-publications-scientifique-de-nouveau-disponible_23341

⁴⁹ La BnF souhaite acquérir un Trésor national. Les Echos. (n.d.). Retrieved 7 January 2017, from http://www.lesechos.fr/24/08/2015/lesechos.fr/021277460214_la-bnf-souhaite-acquerir-un-tresor-national.htm

⁵⁰ Festival Numok 2016 - Numok. (n.d.). Retrieved 7 January 2017, from <https://bibliotheques.paris.fr/Numok/>

⁵¹ IFLA -- Toolkit: Libraries and National Development Plans. (n.d.). Retrieved 7 January 2017, from <http://www.ifla.org/node/10156>

⁵² ABF. (n.d.-b). Commission Advocacy. Retrieved 7 January 2017, from <http://www.abf.asso.fr/4/155/582/ABF/commission-advocacy>

⁵³ Impact des bibliothèques – Val d'Oise. (n.d.). Retrieved 7 January 2017, from <http://www.valdoise.fr/793-impact-des-bibliotheques.htm>

⁵⁴ Literally: "Is the library worth it?"

The results show the positive effects of the libraries within the communities to convince decision-makers and funders to invest in public reading policy and libraries building. Professional literature is also versed in these issues as reflected in the manual *Évaluer la bibliothèque par les mesures d'impacts (Evaluating the library through impact measurement)*, coordinated by Cécile Touitou, and published in 2016 by the Presses de l'Enssib⁵⁵ (Touitou, 2015).

These tools will help collaborative libraries to assess their contribution to the improvement of citizens' quality of life, maybe leading a path to reinvent the overall French library model.

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