



Digital Strategies for Heritage (DISH) 2013

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Chefs' Table session

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Table Host: Jeroen de Boer and Bertus Douwes

Title: FryskLab: how makerspace and informationspace are connected

Introduction

Stop lending, start sharing! (David Lankes)

Why are libraries and makerspaces/FabLabs seeking to get inspired by each other? What are their shared values and what are results of their partnerships?

FryskLab is a mobile FabLab, developed by Bibliotheekservice Fryslân. To our knowledge it is the first library-powered FabLab in Europe. FryskLab creates an healthy interest in technology and maker skills, hereby stimulating digital literacy. Users of the lab will be able to use tools and skills to design and remix their personal environment and share these with others. With FryskLab being mobile it brings resources, possibilities and new ways to work to locations which need it the most (schools, small villages, companies etc.) With FryskLab we especially focus on a strong collaboration with education. In this session we will tell you about our project, but are also more than open for discussion about this new development.

Discussion

Second session of Frysk Lab, a mobile library fablab. More and more maker spaces/fab labs are set up.

This is a mobile fablab (about a year old). Difference between makers space and fab lab: there isn't any, only fab labs are certified. Hackers and librarians are on the same page, being the same kind of people but doing different things. Hackers can be read as "makers" If you want to build things you first need to be able to deconstruct something and know how things work. Being a hacker or a cracker? Is it really possible to compare a librarian with a hacker, people that break into systems. The term hacker should be used in a positive way, compared to crackers.

There are many fablabs in the Netherlands. For the Frysk Lab it was important to be connected to other makers spaces, so they choose to be an official fablab.

A lot of the hackers values are the same as library values. This include things like openness, freedom, sharing, collaboration etc. Information is a key element.

The library as fablab becomes a more and more interesting concept in thinking about libraries. Libraries should be platforms instead of physical spaces. Makers spaces can act as a platform. The library has to redefine itself. The shape of information is also changing and necessarily only available in books. DIY is also an important shape of information.

The Frysk Library started a fablab in an old library bus, traveling to the audience, instead of letting the public come to them. Its also connected to a LOD knowledge base, a database for fablabs. In this sense, the database has become a kind of library for fablabs. The Fablab is a maker space and an information space: a physical space to contextualize data. Information cannot exist without people working with this information.

The Frysk Lab is an example of how the library can play a vital role in the development of an area, especially in rural areas.

Age is an important factor for developing educational programmes. Frysk Lab has programs for children in the age of 10 to 15. This is a crucial age in the decision-making process of what kind of education children choose.

Regarding the business model: companies are asked for expertise and machines instead of money and schools pay an amount of money for hosting the fablab.