

Concluding Remarks (Konrad Kutt, Übersetzung Hariett Beckham)

Another kind of library is conceivable: state library, university library, school library, your personal home library. And now the 'sustainable, street library'.

The library is one of seven Sustainable Wonders of the World, according to Alan Durning. Konrad Kutt's essay 'From state libraries to street libraries' appeared in *Marginalien* (2017), shortly after he had developed the concept of 'Sustainable BookboXXes' built from converted telephone boxes. Two aspects underline the ecological, social and cultural sides of sustainability.

**First of all, trainees from many fields** work to repurpose the telephone boxes. Through an interdisciplinary educational project for sustainable development, they learn how to create a new library and how to refashion an old fashioned telephone box (which most students hardly know about) into a new place of communication through books. For the smartphone generation, a rather strange place. Repurposing, recycling, domestically cultivated wood for the shelves, solvent-free colours and a solar panel as signs of the energy revolution. Ultimately the suitable design should have something to do with the location of the box, with books and with sustainability.

An example is 'Memorial Platform 17', where we have built a sustainable library with books about this terrible part of history. 'Read and understand' is the motto written on it in German and Hebrew.

The Oder River alliance. The BookBoXX resulting from a German-Polish collaboration is decorated with wisdom about books, for instance: 'You open a book and it opens you', or 'In the beginning was the Word'. It can be seen as a German-Polish library which travels from its current location, Stettin, along the Oder River to Wrocław.

Europe example. The Europe BookBoXX promotes sustainability and literary diversity in Europe. Books bring Europe together. This BookboXX moves from one European School to the next.

**Secondly, usage of the BookBoXX is in demand from civil society.** The library on the street corner is sustainable in many respects. It follows the principle: Bring a book, take a book, read a book. The main criteria are simplicity, uncomplicated and easy access, taking responsibility and social participation because anyone, regardless of wealth, can here enjoy the pleasure of a book. A new economy of exchange and unconditional sharing and gifting has emerged and is being put into practice through books. Beyond its manufacturing, a book doesn't consume energy. The energy it contains within it is always being re-used.

When household libraries dissolve from old age, when city bookshops have to sort through their stock, it's not uncommon for books to end up as paper waste for burning. With the BookboXX on the street, a newer, more sustainable and self-selecting distribution list is emerging. But not with the usual order of a city bookshop, but rather through the principle of coincidence. In a reversal of 'He who seeks shall find' we must call this 'finding, without seeking'.

Twenty sustainable BookBoXXes in Berlin are a way of understanding sustainability better: the idea of thinking globally and trading locally. They set standards for a broader popularization of the nature of libraries and they make books a more visible part of the street, to remind us: 'we are far from disappearing'.